



CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS ACTIVITY 7

Making Inferences

Social Studies Objective: Analyze information by making inferences.

Learning the Skill

An inference is an observation or conclusion that you can make based on known facts. The way you think about the facts or evidence available to you leads you to draw certain conclusions or to make an inference. For example, you know that your sister hates broccoli. You see your mother preparing broccoli for dinner. You can infer that your sister won't be happy at dinnertime.

To make an inference, follow these steps:

- Read (or listen) carefully for stated facts and ideas.
- Then review what you already know about the topic or situation.
- Put all your information together to see if you have enough evidence to draw an inference about a situation.

Practicing the Skill

Directions: Read the chart below. Then match the saying or belief listed below the chart on the left with the appropriate religion or philosophy on the right. Briefly support your answer.

Daoism	Confucianism	Legalism
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Dao is the force that flows through all life. • Daoists seek "the three jewels": compassion, moderation, and humility. • Daoists practice wu-wei, which is letting nature take its course without interfering. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People must find the right pattern to live life by. • Peace and order in life can be attained by following rituals and self-discipline. • Followers practice <i>jen</i>, which is loving others. Devotion to family is the highest form of <i>jen</i>. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People need laws and punishments to behave. • Society can only be maintained by a strong ruler. • People are naturally evil. Education cannot improve them, only punishments and rewards.
"Practice no-action; Attend to do-nothing; Taste the flavorless"	"Forget injuries, never forget kindnesses."	"People submit to power, and few of them can be influenced by doctrines of righteousness."

- A. "What you do not wish for yourself, do not do to others."
- B. The tiger makes the dog serve him by his claws and his teeth. If the tiger gave the dog his claws and teeth, the tiger would serve the dog.
- C. "Be still like a mountain and flow like a river."

1. Daoism _____
2. Confucianism _____
3. Legalism _____

Economics of History Activity**networks****Early China****Trade Along the Silk Road****Background Information**

The Silk Road gets its name from the fabric that passed through the hands of traders and merchants from eastern China to Rome and beyond. The Chinese sent silk to the West, while Western traders brought horses, cotton, gold, and silver to China. Chinese traders knew that in silk they had something of great value. Not only was it beautiful and strong; silk was cool in summer and warm in winter. Best of all, only the Chinese knew how to make silk. By keeping the art of silk production a secret, the Chinese created a monopoly in silk. In economics, a **monopoly** is a market in which there are many buyers but only one seller. Even though people across Europe and Asia wanted to buy silk, China had a monopoly because they were the only ones who knew how to produce silk. For many years, the Chinese had no competition in silk production. China was the world's only supplier of silk. As a result, the price of silk was very high.

How was China able to dominate the silk industry for so long? The answer lies in a tiny moth, the *Bombyx mori*. These moths, which are native to China, produce eggs. Silkworms emerge from the eggs and eat the leaves of mulberry trees. The silkworms produce fine threads. These are the threads that are woven into silk. To produce silk, you needed the moths to lay the eggs and the mulberry trees for the moths to eat, and the knowledge of how to weave the threads into silk. For many years, this combination existed only in China.

Chinese authorities tried to control silk production. It was illegal to take silkworm eggs outside of China. Despite the efforts of Chinese officials, the secret of silk production spread. Travelers hid silkworm eggs in their clothing and personal items and smuggled the insects out of the country. It would not be long before silk production spread from China, across Asia to the Middle East, and to Europe.

Directions: Answer the following questions on a separate piece of paper.

1. Defining What is a monopoly?

NAME _____

DATE _____

CLASS _____

Economics of History Activity Card

networks

Early China

Critical Thinking

3. Analyzing Why do monopolies often result in high prices?

4. Drawing Conclusions How did having a monopoly on the silk trade benefit China?

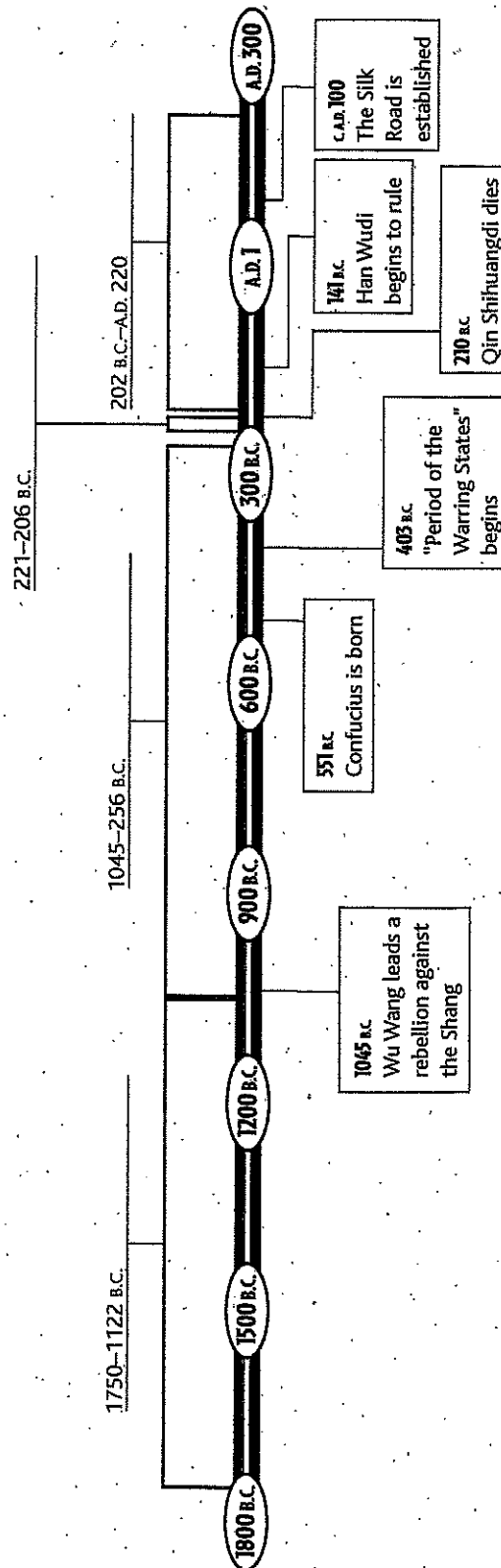
5. Drawing Conclusions What effect did the Chinese monopoly of the silk trade have on consumers?

6. Evaluating Today monopolies are illegal in the United States. Do you think it is fair for monopolies to exist? Why or why not?

TIME LINE ACTIVITY 7

China's Dynasties (1750 B.C.-A.D. 220)

Directions: Label the brackets below with the name of the correct dynasty (Han, Qin, Shang, or Zhou). Then use the time line to answer the questions in the spaces provided.



Background

From 1750 B.C. to A.D. 220, four different dynasties controlled China. During the rule of these dynasties, Confucius was born, the first Great Wall of China was built, and the Silk Road was established.

1. During which dynasty was Confucius born?
2. During which dynasty was the Silk Road established?
3. Which dynasty lasted the longest?
4. How many years did the Qin dynasty last after Qin Shihuangdi's death?

