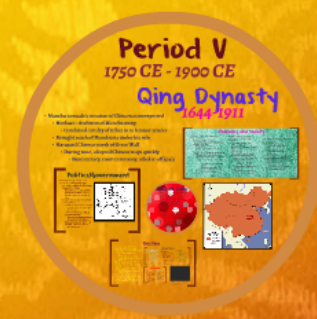
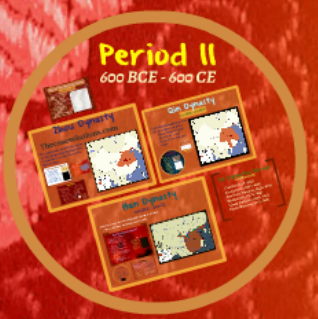




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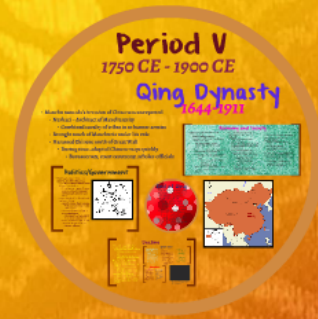
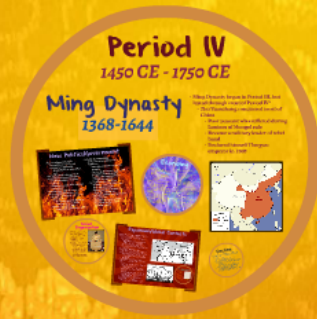
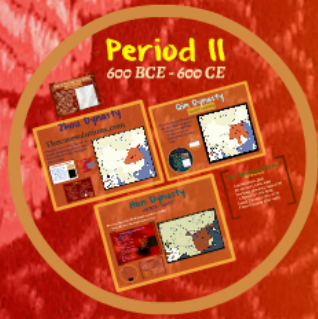
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Period I

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Shang Dynasty

Thecasesolutions.com Chinese River Valley Civilization

- Developed along Huanghe (Yellow) River in the North China plain
- Yungshao culture began in 4000 BCE
- Later superseded by Longshan culture
- Maintained considerable isolation
- Some trade contact made with India and the Middle East
- Huanghe civilization subject of many Chinese legends
- Praised godlike kings
- Ancestor of Chinese: P'an Ku
- Elaborate concept of their origins
- Recorded part-fact, part-fiction history of early kings
- Organized state with regulated irrigation
- Wheat, millet, and rice cultivation
- Advanced technology and intellectual life by 2000 BCE
- Horse riding, pottery, bronze and iron metalworking with coal
- Writing progressed
- Knotted ropes and scratches of lines on bone
- Ideographic symbols
- Science, particularly astronomy
- Art with delicate designs and music
- Simple houses made of mud



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- Line of Kings that ruled in Huanghe valley
- Founders seen as "philosopher-kings"; revered for thousands of years
- Irrigation, dike systems, millet and wheat cultivation
- Provided basis for innovations and expansion of subsequent dynasties
- Impressive tombs and palaces
- Fortified towns and villages
- Stamped earth walls
- Worship of heaven and veneration of ancestors

- Created many of humankind's basic machines and engineering principles; silk manufacturing
- Decline brought by invasions
- More open to invasions than most River Valley Civilizations
- Chinese forced to build military to defend against nomads
- Greater sense of identity because of contrasting cultures
- Shang decline less devastating than other river valley civilizations



Chinese Dynastic Cycle Thecasesolutions.com

A dynastic pattern was set in motion that would last until the early 20th century

A family of kings (dynasty) starts ruling with great vigor, strong political institutions and active economy

Dynasty grows weaker: tax revenues decline, social divisions increase

Internal rebellions and invasions bring further decline to ruling dynasty, which is replaced by family of successful general, invader, or peasant rebel

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Internal rebellions



Boundaries of Shang China



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- Shang oracles created writing system that would persist among elites of Chinese civilization
 - Developed by Shang scholar-bureaucrats
 - Emerged as dominant force in Chinese culture and society
 - Chinese characters provided basis for education system and bureaucracy for thousands of years

Shang Oracle Bone Script

- Shang artistic expression often included high level of metalworking ability
- Vessels were elaborately decorated and cast in bronze
- Ritual vessels often included mythical creatures



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Zhou Dynasty

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- Dynasty came into China from north, displacing Shang rulers
- Established on the Huanghe River Valley

Politics/Government

- Zhou claimed direct links to Shang rulers
- Asserted the Mandate of Heaven
- Ruled through alliance system with regional princes and noble families
- Rulers gave large regional estates to family members and other supporters
 - Relied on loyalties and obligations of landlord vassals
- Supporters provided troops and tax revenues for the central government
- Central rule complicated with empire's expansion to the Yangtze River valley
 - Communication/transport limited

The Mandate of Heaven was established by Zhou to justify overthrow of Shang. Emperors became known as the Sons of Heaven.



Economy

- Region from Huanghe River to Yangtze River called "Middle Kingdom"
- Rich agricultural lands
 - Wheat-growing north
 - Rice-growing south
- Encouraged population growth
- Hydraulic engineering used to regulate irrigation



Culture

- Provided greater cultural unity in empire
- Discouraged primitive religious practices like human sacrifice
 - Urged restrained ceremonies to worship gods
 - Believed in gods, but little attention given to nature of deities
- Leaders stressed the importance of a harmonious earthly life
 - Carefully constructed rituals that unified society and prevented individual excess
 - Ceremonies venerated ancestors and marked special meals
 - Use of chopsticks and tea began at end of Zhou dynasty
 - Encouraged politeness during meals

Confucianism

