

Daily Writing

How can a culture's past
shape their perspective of
the world?



4000 Years of Chinese History

(In One Day)

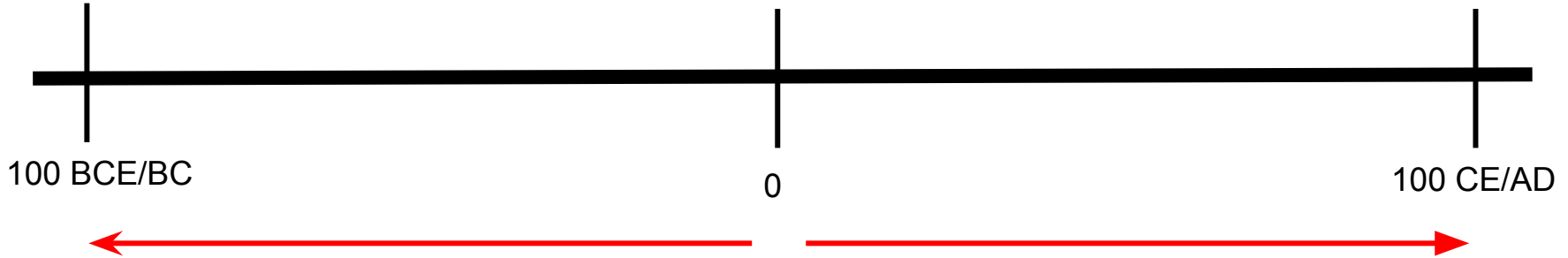


Chinese History...

Is a long and complex sequence of events. Many families and regions have fought for power and dominance over the country. Today we are going to cover as much ground as we can.



A quick review on timelines/vocabulary related to eras



A timeline works just like a number line. We start with Year 0 and work backwards or forwards in time from there.

BCE: Before Common Era (used to be just BC/Before Christ) - newer term for events that took place *before* Year 0.

CE: Common Era (used to be AD/anno Domini - In the Year of the Lord) - newer term for events that took place *after* year 0.

Help! I don't know how to say any of these words!

(Spoiler Alert: You're not alone. You won't look silly.)

First of All: A **dynasty** is a family of powerful leaders in Chinese history. Their family names are how we break ancient Chinese history down into eras.

Shang

Tang

Zhou

Song

Qin

Ming

Han

Qing

Sui



The Mandate of Heaven



The Mandate of Heaven was the belief that there could only be one legitimate ruler of China at a time, and that ruler had the blessings of the Gods to hold their position.

If a ruler or dynasty lost the Mandate of Heaven, their power and authority was no longer true, and China needed new leadership.

As you read about the changing rulers and dynasties of China, think about how the Mandate of Heaven works to shift power over time.

Your Assignment:

1. In groups, you are going to create a graphic organizer (could be a mind map or table) that includes the information on your handout.
2. Use the readings provided as well as the other packets and books around the room.
3. The goal is for you to create a concise summary that captures the “big ideas” of Chinese ancient history so we can begin to understand the Chinese worldview before forced opening by the Western powers in the 19th Century.



Go for it!

Post-Activity Discussion Questions

1. In what ways did Chinese culture stay the same or maintain similar characteristics over time?
2. In what ways did Chinese culture change or alter key parts of their beliefs or practices over time?
3. Summarize China's past in 5 words. Why did you choose those 5?
4. What kinds of choices do we have to make when we encounter historical topics like this one, where you have a great deal of information and only a brief period of time/space to communicate key information about it?



Exit Ticket Question:
How did China's dynastic past shape its people's perspective of the world?



DAILY WRITING:
How did China's dynastic
past shape its people's
perspective of the world?