Life in Ancient China

In Section 1, you learned about the Chinese government under the Zhou dynasty. This section describes what life was like during the Zhou dynasty.

Main Ideas:

- Chinese society had three main social classes: landowning _____________, farmers, and _______________. (page 285)
- Three Chinese philosophies—Confucianism, _______________, and Legalism—grew out of a need for order. (page 287)

People: Confucius, Laozi, and Hanfeizi  Content Vocabulary: social class, filial piety, Confucianism, Daoism, and Legalism  Academic Vocabulary: convince and promote

Daoists believe the only acceptable time to inflict ______________ on another living creature is in self-defense.

Life in Ancient China (pages 285–287)

A. A social class includes individuals who share a similar position in society. Chinese society had three main social classes: ______________, ______________, and _______________.

B. Aristocrats grew rich from ______________ who grew crops on the land the aristocrats owned.

C. Most Chinese people were farmers. Farmers paid aristocrats with part of their ______________.

D. Merchants were in the ______________ class. They grew rich but were still looked down on by aristocrats and farmers.

E. Chinese families were ______________, and children were expected to work on ______________.

F. Filial piety means children had to ______________ parents and elders.

G. Men’s jobs were considered ______________ important than women’s jobs in Chinese society. Men went to school, ran the government, and fought wars. Women could not hold government offices but could influence decisions of their ______________.

Discussion Question

How did aristocrats use farmers to grow rich?

Chinese Thinkers (pages 287–291)

A. Three major philosophies—Confucianism, Daoism, and ______________—were developed to reinstate peace after the Period of the Warring States.

B. ______________ was a great thinker and teacher who believed that people needed a sense of duty to be good. Duty meant that a person must put the needs of ______________ and community before his or her own needs.
C. Confucianism taught that all men with a ____________ for government should take part in government.

D. ________________ teaches that people should give up worldly desires and encourages the importance of nature. Daoism was created by the scholar and teacher Laozi.

E. ________________ is the belief that society needs a system of harsh laws and punishments. The scholar Hanfeizi developed Legalism.

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**Discussion Question**

Why did the aristocrats dislike Confucianism?

**Summary**

- Early Chinese society had three main social classes: aristocrats, farmers, and merchants. The family was the basis of Chinese _________________.
- During a time of disorder, three new ________________ developed in China: Confucianism, Daoism, and Legalism.