

HISTORY & CIVICS
CLASS VI
TOPIC - THE CHINESE CIVILIZATION

Synopsis

- Around 1800 BCE a Civilization rules in China along the river **Hwang-Ho**.
- The river provided water for cultivation of **crops** and **irrigation** canals.
- **Hwang-Ho** is also called the '**Sorrow of China**'.
- The **Shang Dynasty** united the major part of China under one ruler.
- The **Chou dynasty** is succeeded the Shangs in the twelfth century BCE.

SOCIETY

- The king has the highest position in the society.
- Then can the nobles who assisted the king.
- People live in small clans.
- The head of the family was highly respected.

RELIGION

- People worshipped the forces of nature.
- Ancestor worship was common.
- Oracles and priest were highly respected.
- Later, many people accepted Confucianism and Taoism as their religion.

OCCUPATIONS

- **Agriculture** - A majority of the people practised agriculture.
- Rice, wheat, Barley, sorghum, millets, soyabean and tea were the main crops.
- China was the only source of **tea** for the rest of the world.
- **Sericulture** - The Chinese were the first to make Silk.
- They reared silkworm on Mulberry trees.
- The Chinese craftsmen specialized in metalwork.
- Bronze casting was highly developed.
- The Chinese made beautiful glazed pottery from porcelain.
- They crafted a lot of items such as vases, jars, cups, saucers and bowls.
- China was rich in Timber which was used to construct buildings.

TRADE

- China had trade relations with Egypt, Mesopotamia, Persia, (modern Iran) and India.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- Architecture - The Great Wall of China is the greatest architectural feat of the Chinese.
- **The Great Wall of China** is about 8850 kilometre long.
- The Chinese contribute to almost all branches of science.
- They used both solar and lunar calendar.

- They could predict eclipse and the appearance of comets.
- They also invented the seismograph to record earthquakes.
- Some other Chinese inventions were the magnetic compass, gunpowder, wheelbarrow, umbrella, and kite.

SCRIPT

- The Chinese script is in the form of pictures, each picture represents a word or an idea.
- The Chinese wrote on bamboo plates, animal bones and on silk cloth with a brush made of camel hair.
- The Civilization that developed in China was very advanced. It contribute to the progress of humankind

WORKSHEET

1. Fill in the blanks :

- The ____ dynasty succeeded the Shangs in the twelfth century BCE.
- The head of the family was highly ____ .
- The ____ were the first to make silk.
- China was the only source of ____ for the rest of the world.
- The Chinese also built many ____ .

2. Answer the following questions :

- What are pagodas ?
- Why is the Hwang-Hio called the 'Sorrow of China' ?
- What were the main crops of the Chinese ?
- What is Confucianism and Taoism ?
- Write a short note on Chinese script.

3. Do the following exercise is in your textbook on page no.38.

- Exercise A
- Exercise B
- Exercise C