Unit 4.2.1: Lesson 1
Belief Systems in China: Confucianism, Daoism, and Buddhism
581 BCE - 1368 CE
Unit Objectives:
1. Explain the meaning of “belief systems” and give examples.
2. Trace the spread of the three main belief systems in China over time, and assess their impact on politics, economy, society, and culture there.
3. Identify the similarities and differences between Buddhism, Daoism, and Confucianism.
4. Draw inferences about the effects of a particular belief system on a society residing in a geographic region.
5. Describe how and why Buddhism spread in China during the period of the Tang dynasty.

MTP:  1. Historical Context
     2. Question of the Day
     3. Belief System
     4. What’s due?
1. Historical Context

- Things to think about while reading the Historical Context:
  - What were the three main belief systems?
  - Who were the founders of these systems?
  - How did they forge a country’s cultural identity?
  - How are they similar and/or different?
- ...
2. Question of the Day

- Does everybody believe in the same thing? Why or why not?
- Are there some things that everybody believes in? Let’s create a list.
  - Where do you think these beliefs come from?
    - parents, guardians, grandparents, teachers, “it’s the law.”
    - These beliefs or ideas or values are part of our “belief system.”
- ...
3a. Belief System

- Now let’s complete Part A, SH_1.1.
  - A “belief system” is a way of organizing our beliefs. We all have belief systems. Belief systems are important because they help us understand the world around us, guide us on what is important, show us right from wrong, and lead us to behave properly and reasonably.
  - Some of the beliefs that everyone accepts are in the Ten Commandments. The Ten Commandments are from the ancient Hebrew Bible and are a foundation of the Judeo-Christian (Jewish and Christian) heritage. Therefore, one important part of a person’s belief system may come from religion.
- What is your definition of a religion?
  - It is a way of believing in- and worshipping or praying to a god or gods. This is a belief in the supernatural. Religion explains to some people why and how we are here and what happens to us after we die. Religion also shows us right from wrong and how to live a good life.
- Now, let’s complete Part B, SH_1.1.
  - Give examples of different religions.
    - There are other ways— besides religion—that contribute to people’s belief systems. One important other way is philosophy. That word comes from two Greek words: 1) philos meaning “friend” or “love/lover,” and 2) sophia, meaning “wisdom” or “knowledge.” Therefore, philosophy means “love of knowledge.” Philosophy is the search for wisdom or knowledge. A philosophy is a belief system accepted by a cultural or social group.
Now let’s complete Part C and D, SH_1.1.

- You need to know these concepts and terms in order to understand the three main belief systems of China.
- ...
4. What’s Due?

- Knowledge Assessment 1 - Feb. 6
- Knowledge Assessment 2 - Feb. 27
- GRAPES Research - Due every Friday
- Primary Source Analysis - Due every Friday
- Historical Figure Presentation - Due every Friday
- Historical Portfolio - March 2-4
Unit 4.2.1: Lesson 2
Confucianism, Daoism, and Buddhism
Unit Objectives:
1. Explain the meaning of “belief systems” and give examples.
2. Trace the spread of the three main belief systems in China over time, and assess their impact on politics, economy, society, and culture there.
3. Identify the similarities and differences between Buddhism, Daoism, and Confucianism.
4. Draw inferences about the effects of a particular belief system on a society residing in a geographic region.
5. Describe how and why Buddhism spread in China during the period of the Tang dynasty.

MTP: 1. Question of the Day
     2. The Vinegar Tasters
     3. You be the experts
     4. Sayings of the Three Belief Systems of China
     5. What’s due?

Jan/Feb, 2014 75 min.
2. Question of the Day

• How does a new religion or philosophy begin?
  • Remember, that religions and philosophies can both shape a society and be shaped by it.
  • Belief systems often try to provide answers to problems that exist within a society. Therefore, they may appear when times are difficult and people are looking for ways to deal with their problems.
  • Often there is a founder who “begins” the movement and for whom the belief system is later named (e.g., Christianity for Jesus Christ, Confucianism for Confucius, and Buddhism for the Buddha).

• ...
2. The Vinegar Tasters

- Let’s take a look at SH_2.1 The Vinegar Tasters.
- What do you think about this painting?
- ...
3. You Be the Experts

- In groups: one group is Confucius (SH_2.2), Laozi (SH_2.3), and Buddha (SH_2.4).
- Read your belief system and complete SH_2.5. You may also view SH_2.7-2.9.
- Now, complete SH_2.6. See overhead creation.
- ...
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Name of belief system</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Founder</td>
<td></td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>When it began/came to China</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Basic outlook on life</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Goals</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Relationship with others</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Summary/symbol</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
4. Sayings of the Three Belief Systems

- In groups: Read over SH_2.10 and fill out SH_2.11:
  - select at least two sayings from each of the belief systems and complete Student Handout 2.11 (Worksheet on Sayings of the Three Belief Systems of China) by:
    - identifying the correct belief system.
    - justifying their choice (why that saying is from that particular belief system).
    - writing in their own words what the saying means.
    - explaining why each saying is important.
- ...

Tuesday, February 24, 15
5. What’s Due?

- Knowledge Assessment 1 - Feb. 6
- Knowledge Assessment 2 - Feb. 27
- GRAPES Research - Due every Friday
- Primary Source Analysis - Due every Friday
- Historical Figure Presentation - Due every Friday
- Historical Portfolio - March 2-4
Unit 4.2.1: Lesson 3
The Spread of Buddhism
Unit Objectives:
1. Explain the meaning of “belief systems” and give examples.
2. Trace the spread of the three main belief systems in China over time, and assess their impact on politics, economy, society, and culture there.
3. Identify the similarities and differences between Buddhism, Daoism, and Confucianism.
4. Draw inferences about the effects of a particular belief system on a society residing in a geographic region.
5. Describe how and why Buddhism spread in China during the period of the Tang dynasty.

MTP: 1. Introduction
2. Question of the Day
3. Words You Need to Know
4. Reunification of China & the Spread of Buddhism
5. What’s due?

Jan/Feb, 2014

75 min.
1. Introduction

- Buddhism, one of the main belief systems in China, spread especially during the reunification of China.
- Since this is the main non-indigenous belief system in China, it can be seen as a case study of why belief systems spread outside of their region and society of origin.
- ...
2. Question of the Day

- If you ruled China, which belief system would you want your people to accept and why? Write your answers down on paper.
- Share with the class.
- Although Confucianism might seem to be the obvious choice because it encouraged respect for rulers, this has not always been the case.
- Rulers often want the people they rule to be content. If the people want to believe in something besides the ruler’s religion, that ruler might let them do it.
- In fact, as we will see, Confucianism was the choice belief system for the Han dynasty, which ruled for about 400 years (from 206 BCE to 220 CE).
- Confucianism became linked to that dynasty, however, and when it collapsed, many people turned toward Buddhism instead. We will learn more about why and how that happened.
- ...
3. Words You Need to Know

- Look up the meanings of all the words in SH_3.1
- ...

![1100 Words You Need to Know](image)
4. Reunification of China & the Spread of Buddhism

- Read over SH_3.2 The Reunification and complete SH_3.3
- ...

[Diagram showing the Reunification of China under Sui, Tang, and Song Dynasties]
5. What’s Due?

- Knowledge Assessment 1 - Feb. 6
- Knowledge Assessment 2 - Feb. 27
- GRAPES Research - Due every Friday
- Primary Source Analysis - Due every Friday
- Historical Figure Presentation - Due every Friday
- Historical Portfolio - March 2-4