The Han Dynasty

In what ways did the Han dynasty improve government and daily life in China?

For each question below, review the image your teacher projects. Then circle the answer you guess is correct.

**Warfare**
1. In addition to scaring away enemies, how else did the kite help the Han army?
   A. It was used to send messages.
   B. It was used to deliver supplies.
   C. It provided light during night attacks.

**Government**
2. Who did the Han dynasty choose as government officials?
   A. those who wrote the best poems
   B. those who were already teachers
   C. those who scored well on exams

**Agriculture**
3. How did wheelbarrows help Han farmers?
   A. They made watering crops easier.
   B. They let farmers plant more land.
   C. They helped farmers move products.

**Industry**
4. How did the deep-digging drill increase the Hans’ supply of salt?
   A. got salt water from deep in the ground
   B. dug pits to get salt from seawater
   C. made storage bins to keep salt dry

**Art**
5. Which of the following Han inventions helps artists and scholars?
   A. paper
   B. carpets
   C. paintbrushes

**Medicine**
6. Why would a Chinese doctor stick needles into a person’s body?
   A. to release evil spirits
   B. to punish bad people
   C. to balance yin and yang

**Science**
7. What could the Han learn from the earthquake device they invented?
   A. the depth of an earthquake
   B. the direction of an earthquake
   C. the damage caused by an earthquake
Social Studies Vocabulary
As you complete the Reading Notes, use these terms in your answers.
   Han dynasty  bureaucracy  industry

Sections 1 to 7
If your class is doing the activity for this lesson, complete all of the Reading Notes for each section. If your class is not doing the activity, skip the last part of each section.

Section 1
1. How were the Han able to expand their empire? How far did it extend?

2. Describe three new military weapons used by the Han army.

3. On the tomb brick, quickly sketch and label the weapon that you think most strengthened the Han army. Then explain why you think this weapon was the most helpful.

(Note: If your class is not doing the activity, skip the following.)

Follow the steps on Handout A to annotate the map below. Then answer the question below.
How did geography affect the expansion of the Han empire?

Map Title:

*Image of a map showing the Han Empire and neighboring regions.*
Section 2
1. How were Han dynasty rulers different from the Emperor of Qin?

2. Describe the Han government bureaucracy and tell how civil servants were hired and promoted.

3. On the tomb brick, quickly sketch and label the way you think the Han most improved Chinese government. Then explain why you chose this improvement.

(Note: If your class is not doing the activity, skip the following.)

Explain why an exam for a government job should or should not contain questions like the ones on the exam you just took.

Section 3
1. What tasks and problems did Han farmers face?

2. Describe three agricultural tools that were invented during the Han period.

3. On the tomb brick, quickly sketch and label the tool you think most improved agriculture during the Han dynasty. Then explain why you chose this tool.

(Note: If your class is not doing the activity, skip the following.)

If you were a Han farmer, how would your life be different because of these agricultural inventions?
**Section 4**

1. How was the production of silk made easier during the Han period?

2. Why was salt an important trade item in ancient times?

3. On the tomb brick, quickly sketch and label the invention that you think most improved industry during the Han period. Then explain why you chose this invention.

   (Note: If your class is not doing the activity, skip the following.)

   What parts of the Chinese drilling process do the glass of water, the straw, and the empty glass represent?

**Section 5**

1. Describe Chinese calligraphy writing.

2. Explain why paper was an improvement over earlier writing materials.

3. On the tomb brick, quickly sketch and label the use of paper you think was most important during the Han dynasty. Then explain why you chose this use.

   (Note: If your class is not doing the activity, skip the following.)

   Why did your written character turn out better on paper than if you had used silk or a strip of bamboo?
Section 6

1. What did the Han believe caused illness?

2. Fill in the matrix below to describe techniques used by traditional Chinese healers.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Technique</th>
<th>What Is It?</th>
<th>Why Is It Used?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acupuncture</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moxibustion</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3. List two discoveries made by Chinese doctors during the Han dynasty.

4. On the tomb brick, quickly sketch and label what you think was the most important achievement in the field of medicine during the Han period. Then explain why you chose this achievement.

(Note: If your class is not doing the activity, skip the following.)

According to Chinese medicine, how can the technique you just learned about help relieve stress?
Section 7
1. What did Chinese astronomers discover?

2. For what purposes did the Chinese use the compass and the seismograph?

3. On the tomb brick, quickly sketch and label what you think was the most important advancement in the field of science during the Han dynasty. Then explain why you chose this discovery.

(Note: If your class is not doing the activity, skip the following.)

Follow the steps on Handout G to complete the horizontal bar graph below.

Title:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1556</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1976</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Why would the Chinese want to invent the seismograph?

On a separate piece of paper, sketch these tomb bricks and headings. Make your sketches large enough to follow the directions below.

- In the first brick, draw and color an illustration of the achievement you think most contributed to the expansion of the Han empire. In a well-written paragraph under the brick, explain why you chose this achievement.

- In the second brick, draw and color an illustration of the achievement you think most improved the daily lives of people in China during the Han period. In a well-written paragraph under the brick, explain why you chose this achievement.

Han Government and Empire

People’s Daily Lives