Ancient China Geography Challenge

Name:
Class:
Date:
**Geography Skills**

Use your textbook, atlas, or online research to answer the following questions and fill out the map.

1. Locate the Huang He (Yellow River) and the Chang Jiang (Yangtze River) on your map. Label them in blue.

2. The Tibetan Plateau is located between what two mountain ranges? Label the mountain ranges and the plateau on your map in black.

3. Locate the Taklimakan and the Gobi deserts on your map. Label them in brown.

4. Locate the Yellow Sea, the East China Sea, and the South China Sea on your map. Label them in blue.

5. In what ways do you think these seas might have influenced China’s history?

6. Research online maps to compare the sizes of the Shang, Zhou, Qin, and Han empires. Which empire controlled the largest area?

7. Under which empire did ancient China control territories that are not part of present-day China?

8. What geographical features are shared by all four ancient Chinese empires?
Critical Thinking
Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

9. The majority ethnic group in China today calls itself the “Han people.” Why do you think this is so?

10. If you could choose anywhere in ancient China to build a new city, in which location do you think your city would have the greatest chance of success? Why?

11. Why do you think that the area controlled by earlier dynasties grew larger under the control of each new dynasty?