



## Workbook Activity 13

### China's Early Dynasties

**DIRECTIONS: Drawing Conclusions** Read the paragraph and write **C** in the blank at the left of each of the statements that is a likely conclusion that can be drawn. Then answer the questions that follow.

In China, the Shang dynasty rose to power in the Huang He valley. From their capital of Anyang in northern China, Shang kings governed over many territories with the help of warlords. Many social classes existed in Shang China—aristocrats, traders, artisans, and farmers—but all the people worshiped the same gods and honored their ancestors. Shang kings believed that they received their power and wisdom directly from the gods. Before making important decisions, they asked for the gods' help using oracle bones. Priests scratched questions on the bones and then looked for answers in the bones' cracks. The Shang developed China's first writing system nearly 3,500 years ago using special characters called pictographs and ideographs.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ There was no writing in China before the Shang dynasty.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ The Chinese people worshiped their kings as if they were gods.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Traders held a high position in Shang society.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Religion played an important role in early Chinese civilization.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ The Shang dynasty had many levels in its society.
  
6. At what level do you think the warlords fit in the Shang social classes? Why?  
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7. How do you think children in Shang society treated their parents? Explain your answer. \_\_\_\_\_  
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 \_\_\_\_\_
8. How important were priests in the Shang religion? \_\_\_\_\_  
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