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China

Purpose: Three major schools of philosophy developed during the Zhou Dynasty.

Essential questions:

- 1) How are a philosophy and a religion similar? Different?
- 2) What are the primary tenets of Daoism, Legalism & Confucianism?
- 3) Which of these philosophies became the dominant one in China?

Rationale: Exposure to Chinese philosophy.
All people in a society do not think alike.

Materials: "Three Philosophies" handouts for each student
Transparency of the "Three Philosophies" handout
PowerPoint slides of Laozi, Confucius, and Hanfeizi with projector/ monitor

- Activities: 1) Class discussion - Ask students "What is a philosophy?" Elicit examples. Ask students to share examples of their own personal philosophies on any topic. Ask if religions are philosophies. What makes a religion different from a philosophy?
- 2) Visual aids - Distribute the handouts. Display Laozi slide and the transparency, but use two pieces of paper to cover the transparency so that you can reveal only the Daoism column one section at a time. Do so, and ask the students to highlight or underline key elements on their own copies as you comment on each section and entertain student questions. Continue on through Confucianism and Legalism.

Assessment: After completing the activity, ask the following questions:

- 1) Find examples of how Daoism and Confucianism had opposing views.
- 2) Find examples of how Legalism and Confucianism had opposing views.
- 3) Which of these philosophies became the dominant one in China?
- 4) Which Philosophy could you support? Why?

Grade Adaptation: Target group = Grades 10-12.

Scale down by: highlighting the transparency in advance and having students copy it.

Listing questions on the back of the handout to be answered by students.