The Dynastic Cycle and the Mandate of Heaven

Read the description and study the chart below, then turn the paper over and answer the questions. When the questions are finished, complete the challenge activity.

Mandate of Heaven:

The Chinese believed that heaven gave the leader the mandate, or right, to rule. The people must respect that mandate, and they owed complete loyalty and obedience to the leader. In exchange for this loyalty, the people had the right to expect good leadership. If there were problems in the dynasty (war, famine, floods, drought) this was a sign that the ruler had lost the Mandate of Heaven or the right to rule. The Mandate of Heaven helped explain the Dynastic cycle. The Dynastic cycle shows how a leader gains power and can lose power.

DYNASTIC CYCLE

Dynasty is founded by a powerful leader

Period of Rebellion, dynasty overthrown

Leader loses Mandate of Heaven

Period of Decline
- higher taxes
- social services decline
- natural disasters

Period of great power and prosperity
- restores peace
- restores glory to country
- builds roads, irrigation systems, improves everyday life of people in dynasty

New leader gains Mandate of Heaven

1. What is the Dynastic Cycle?

_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________

2. How does a ruler maintain the Mandate of Heaven?

_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________
3. How long could a dynasty rule under the Mandate of Heaven?

_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________

4. How does a leader lose the Mandate of Heaven?

_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________

Challenge Activity:

Dynastic Cycle

Think about the dynastic cycle in regard to some other aspect of your life. Would you be able to see the cycle at school? At work? In our government? In technology? In your friendships? Using the paper provided, sketch out and explain your own modern-day dynastic cycle.