China Jigsaw Activity Notes

The Chinese Language

* Modern Chinese is very complex
* Made of **pictographs** (characters that stand for objects) and **ideographs** (characters that join two or more pictographs to represent an idea)
* Not based off of an alphabet. Most characters represent whole words

New Tools and Trade

* Early farmers depended on rain to water crops, later irrigation and flood control
* Chinese first to use iron plow to break up harder land
* Invented crossbow, saddle for horses, and stirrup

Life in Ancient China/Classes in Chinese Society

* **Social classes** (people that share a similar position in society
  + Aristocrats: Very rich, fine houses, large fields
  + Peasant farmers: 9/10 people farmers. In order to work land, gave percentage of crop to aristocrats
  + Merchants: ranked lower than farmers, were shopkeepers, traders and bankers
  + From worksheet: scholars, artisans,

Family Life in a Chinese Family

* Believed in **filial piety** (children respect parents and older relatives)
* Needs and desires of head of family placed above your own (oldest male)
* Women raised children and managed the household

An Era of Inventions

* Waterwheels to grind grain
* Miners used drill bits to mine more salt
* Steel was invented
* Paper used by govt. officials to record info.
* Medical practices: doctors found certain foods and herbs prevented diseases, acupuncture (thin needles in to skin to ease pain)
* Invented the rudder to sail ships as far away as India and the Mediterranean Sea