**Geography of China**

For thousands of years, the ancient Chinese thought they were pretty much alone on planet Earth. China referred to itself as the “Middle Kingdom”. They knew there were people to the north, the Mongols, but they did not know that other advanced civilizations existed anywhere else. This is because China’s natural barriers to the west, south, and east helped to protect these people from invasion. To the west and southeast are China, high mountain ranges—the Tien Shan and Himalaya Mountains. People call it “the roof of the world”. The tops of the mountains have snow, even in the summer time! In the winter, the whole area is very cold—it can be as cold as -40 degrees Fahrenheit. However, in the summer, it can get hot, up to about 100 degrees Fahrenheit. To the north lay the forbidding desert, the Gobi. The Gobi Desert does not have much water. Oases (a hub of water, often in the form of springs and wells) are rare. Some of it is grassland where you can graze cattle (mostly yaks), but you can’t farm. Mongolia is in this part of China. Here, too, it gets very cold in the winter and hot in the summer. The Taklimakan Desert, China’s other desert, is nicknamed the Sea of Death. It offers poisonous snakes, frequent sand storms, boiling days, freezing nights, and intense water shortages. The Sea of Death is not a small desert. In fact, it is the second largest desert in the world! These deserts ward off invaders, it also made it difficult **to travel, keep the empire unified, and spread ideas with other cultures.** To the southeast, thick jungles divided China from Southeast Asia. To the east, the vast Pacific Ocean rolled endlessly. Located in the Pacific Ocean are both the China Sea and Yellow Sea. China’s natural barriers include seas—the China Sea and the Yellow Sea, both located in the Pacific Ocean. These seas provide a huge coastline, which provided trade routes and easy access to food. As the Chinese became more powerful and began to invent new products, they began to increase their trade. During the Tang and Song Dynasties, the Chinese traded with people in countries, such as India, Japan, and Korea. There have been so many influences throughout the development of China. In Eastern China, there are long rivers running all through this part of China, running down to the Pacific Ocean. The two biggest rivers are the Yangtze and Yellow Rivers. The Yellow River gets its name because of the yellow windborne clay dust called loess that is blown across the north of China from the steppes of Central Asia. The loess is blown into the river and gives it a yellow appearance. The Yangtze River is the longest river in China and longest river in the world! The Yangzi River irrigates the rice growing regions in the south of China. Most of the people of China live around here, where they can get plenty of water for farming. In the northern part, they mostly grow wheat, and in the southern part, they mostly grow rice. **However, flooding, wiped out crops and killed many people. This made it difficult to live near rivers, where there was fertile soil.**

Although there were advantages and disadvantages, **adaptations that were necessary where the Han dynasty ruled. One advantage was bamboo.  Bamboo could be used for buildings and mining salt, which would help make the Han Dynasty wealthy. In addition, because crops would be wiped out in sudden heat waves, so farmers might lose crops and not be able to feed their families. But these challenges didn't stop the Han. They adapted to many of these challenges and found clever ways to overcome them. They created mines to utilize the areas iron deposits to make weapons. They also made dams to protect themselves against the rivers flooding. These dams also helped people grow more crops, even in times of drought, because they also created an irrigation system. They also adapted to the natural resources, raising animals instead of farming in areas where farming was difficult. These are just a few examples of how the Han dynasty overcame challenges, and used the natural geography’s advantages and disadvantages to help them.**

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Band:\_\_\_\_**

**How does the geographic context of the China affect the development of the Han Dynasty?**

The Han Dynasty was in Asia in the **country** now known as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. The geography of China is extremely diverse. As a result, the geographic context affected the Han Dynasty’s development **positively/negatively (circle appropriate answer)** because **(state reason 1 – geographic feature and reason why it positive/negative)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**The enduring issue this best associates with is (check all that apply)**

* **CULTURAL DIFFUSION**
* **HUMAN RIGHTS**
* **IMPACT OF ENVIRONMENT ON HUMANS**
* **POWER**
* **SCARCITY**
* **TECHNOLOGY**

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Band: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Using the reading above, how does the geographic context of Greece affect its development?**

**In your response, be sure to provide the following:**

1. **Topic sentence in the form of a thesis/claim**
2. **Evidence—a minimum of 2 pieces of evidence describing the geography of Greece**
3. **Analysis that connects to your claim and evidence (positive/negative impact)**

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