Assessment: The Han Dynasty

Mastering the Content

Circle the letter next to the best answer.

1. Compared with the Qin dynasty, the Han dynasty
   A. was much smaller.
   B. lasted much longer.
   C. had much worse rulers.
   D. had far fewer inventions.

2. How did the Han emperors gradually change the way China was ruled?
   A. They returned most power to local nobles.
   B. They put more emphasis on family connections.
   C. They moved from Legalism to Confucian ideals.
   D. They punished people who tried to spread Daoist beliefs.

3. What new technology most helped the Han in warfare?
   A. invention of the wheel
   B. advances in working iron
   C. steam-powered riverboats
   D. improvements in gunpowder

4. What Han invention did the Chinese use for these military purposes?
   - Send messages from one part of the army to another
   - Frighten the enemy with strange noises at night
   A. kite
   B. scroll
   C. crossbow
   D. fish-scale armor

5. Which shape best illustrates the structure of the Han bureaucracy?
   A. A
   B. B
   C. C
   D. D
6. Which of these men would most likely be hired for the Han bureaucracy?
   A. one who did well on an exam
   B. one who was born in the capital
   C. one who had an important family
   D. one who inherited a lot of money

7. How did the Han emperors keep civil servants from doing special favors for their friends?
   A. made them file a weekly report
   B. forbid them to make any decisions
   C. executed their friends and relations
   D. placed them away from their home districts

8. The chain pump increased harvests by helping farmers
   A. move heavy goods.
   B. plow the soil for planting.
   C. bring water up to their fields.
   D. store grain so it would not spoil.

9. What change made silk production more efficient?
   A. a kind of tree that was better for silkworms
   B. an invention that wound fibers onto a large reel
   C. a road on which trade goods could be carried safely
   D. a law that all farmers must weave for one month a year
10. What was one effect of the invention of the drill shown in this image?

A. better harvests  
B. more oil for heat  
C. more wealth from trade  
D. better earthquake prediction

11. Which tool did ancient Chinese scribes use for writing?
A. a reed  
B. a brush  
C. a stylus  
D. a feather

12. What did the Chinese write on before they invented paper?
A. silk and bamboo  
B. hides and leather  
C. seaweed and straw  
D. tree bark and leaves

13. Ancient Chinese healers used the technique of acupuncture to
A. satisfy the gods.  
B. achieve immortality.  
C. teach people to live with pain.  
D. rebalance the forces of yin and yang.

14. Which of these discoveries did the Chinese make, more than a thousand years before people in Europe did?
A. that blood circulates through the body  
B. that comets can be seen in the night sky  
C. that wheeled carts can be pulled by oxen  
D. that metal can be shaped into strong swords

15. The Chinese invented the magnetic compass to show which way was south. What was their earliest reason for wanting to know directions?
A. to know the best time to plant their crops  
B. to foretell what would happen in the future  
C. to navigate ships safely out of sight of land  
D. to position buildings correctly for good fortune
Applying Social Studies Skills

Use the timeline and your knowledge of history to answer the questions below. Write a word or phrase in the space provided.

16. List three events from the timeline that relate to thought, learning, and science:
   
   a. (event) _________________________________ (date) ______________

   b. (event) _________________________________ (date) ______________

   c. (event) _________________________________ (date) ______________

17. During the period when the Han dynasty was expanding its empire beyond the borders of present-day China, where was the Han capital and who was the ruler of the empire?

18. What event does the timeline suggest was most likely the cause of the relocation of the capital city?

19. Use information from the timeline to write a brief summary of Emperor Wudi’s rule.
Exploring the Essential Question: In what ways did the Han dynasty improve government and daily life in China?

20. Suppose that you work in the Han government. Your job is to hire civil servants to help govern China well. Write a “help wanted” ad to attract qualified people to apply for the job. Make sure your ad does the following:
• explains what government officials do
• explains how someone becomes a government official
• identifies one advantage of working for the government
• identifies one difficulty that job applicants should be aware of