

CONFUCIUS

➤ LIVED DURING THE _____ PERIOD

➤ NEED FOR STABILITY / PEACE / HARMONY

ANALECTS

FIVE RELATIONSHIPS

_____ TO RULED
_____ TO SON
OLDEST BROTHER TO _____
HUSBAND TO _____
_____ TO FRIEND

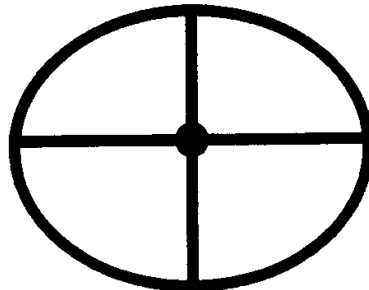
THE SUPERIOR ONE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INFERIOR ONE

➤ IMPORTANCE OF THE FAMILY

FILIAL PIETY

➤ IMPORTANCE OF THE NATION

➤ AT THE EXPENSE OF THE _____



Confucius (551-479 B.C.)

Hold faithfulness and sincerity as first principles.—Confucius

Confucius, the great Chinese sage, never recorded his philosophy in a book. Rather, his ideas, sayings, and wisdom were collected by his followers. They recorded his words in the *Analects*. Many legends have arisen about Confucius in the centuries since his death, but much of what is known about his life has been learned or inferred from the *Analects*. From the first to the twentieth century, the ideas of Confucius have had more influence on the people of China than those of any other individual.

Confucius's real name was Kongzi, which is variously translated as "Kong the Philosopher" or "Great Master Kong" or "Reverend Master Kong." The westernized version of his name is Confucius. Confucius was born 2,500 years ago in the small state of Lu in northeastern China. Today the region is part of Shandong Province. His father died when he was only three years old, and he lived with his mother in poverty. Despite these difficulties, he



managed to receive a good education and began teaching by the age of 22. As a young man, Confucius also served as a minor government official in several different posts in Lu. Some historians hold that Confucius's strong opinions and outspoken manner kept him from achieving a more influential position.

Throughout his life, Confucius was better known as a teacher than as a government official. For decades he expounded his ideas and attracted a considerable following. Between the ages of about 55 and 65, Confucius journeyed among the several small states of the region, unsuccessfully

seeking an influential position that would let him put his ideas about government into practice. He died in 479 B.C. at the age of 72, without achieving the widespread impact he had hoped to have. Nevertheless, during his life he had taught 3,000 disciples, and his teachings would reach and influence the lives of hundreds of millions of people in the following centuries.

ANALYZING A DOCUMENT -

1. USE A DICTIONARY AND DEFINE THE TERM (SAGE) _____
2. WHO RECORDED THE IDEAS OF CONFUCIUS? _____
3. WHAT IS THE NAME OF THE BOOK CONTAINING THE IDEAS OF CONFUCIUS?

4. WHAT HELPED CONFUCIUS ATTAIN UPWARD SOCIAL MOBILITY?

5. LIST TWO TYPES OF WORK CONFUCIUS ENGAGED IN DURING HIS LIFETIME.

6. WAS CONFUCIUS AS SUCCESSFUL AS HE WANTED TO BE DURING HIS LIFETIME?
_____ DISCUSS YOUR ANSWER _____
