

Name:	Date Issued: Date Due:	Period:	Assignment: Close Read Point Value =
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Instructions: Highlight and take notes on the text below and how it connects to the Compelling and Supporting Questions. Use the text to answer the question "How should a government treat its people?"

Background: Close reading is thoughtful, critical analysis of a text that focuses on significant details or patterns in order to develop a deep, precise understanding of the text's form, craft, meanings, etc. It is a key requirement of the Common Core State Standards and directs the reader's attention to the text itself.

Steps:

1. Read the entire document.	2. Underline the Supporting Details.	3. Place a STAR by the Main Idea.	4. Summarize any notes on the right-side margin.
Things to Consider...	A: What is the author's purpose?	B: What text features were used?	C: What is the tone?

Article Title: "Background Information on Confucianism"

Notes/Vocabulary:

- Confucianism is a system of beliefs based on the teachings of Kong Fuzi (called Confucius by Europeans), a man who lived in China from 551 to 479 B.C.E. Confucius was born into a family of low-ranking nobles. After completing his education, he worked as an accountant for the ruling Zhou (pronounced JOE) dynasty. As the Zhou empire weakened and various Chinese states began battling for power, Confucius became sad. He recalled the virtues of past rulers who had maintained a peaceful and stable society. Gradually he gathered followers and taught them what he believed was the proper way to live. After his death, Confucius's followers compiled many of his sayings into a book called *Analects*, or "Selected Sayings," which became the most important source of his teachings.
- Confucianism is a philosophy that defines proper conduct for people and governments. According to Confucius, people are naturally good and should concentrate on improving their behavior and doing what they know is right. He called this proper behavior *li* (pronounced LEE). Confucius believed that if everyone followed *li*, society would be ordered and peaceful. He taught that a harmonious society had to be built upon Five Key Relationships: (1) ruler and subject, (2) parent and child, (3) husband and wife, (4) elder sibling (brother or sister) and younger sibling, and (5) friend and friend. The first four are hierarchical relationships in which one person is viewed as the superior and worthy of respect and obedience. In turn, this superior person is expected to be benevolent and to set a good example of moral behavior. The fifth relationship is the only one in which the persons are considered equal. In addition to each person behaving properly, Confucius believed that for society to be strong, rulers must be models of virtue.

3. Few rulers during Confucius's time accepted his ideas. However, long after his death, his teachings spread throughout China. Beginning with the Han dynasty, which ruled from 206 B.C.E to 220 C.E., Confucianism became the official state belief system. Because of their emphasis on loyalty, Confucian teachings allowed the Han government to have a more stable leadership. Under Han emperors and later rulers, government officials were chosen based on their education in Confucian teachings and performance on examinations intended to reveal who were "worthy Confucian" individuals. Successful candidates served as officials all across China.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Who was Confucius?

2. What conditions in ancient China made Confucius sad?

3. What is li?

4. What were the responsibilities of individuals in each of the five basic relationships?

a)

b)

c)

d)

e)

5. During which dynasty did Confucian ideas become widely accepted in China?

6. What did candidates have to show they knew to be chosen as government officials?