Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Life and Times of Confucius**

Confucius, who probably lived from 551 BCE-479 BCE, was most likely born in the state of Lu, now part of Shandong province, in China. According to legend, Confucius became a teacher and moral exemplar. Confucius lived during a critical time in Chinese history called the Warring States period during the Zhou dynasty (475–221 BCE), during which several states fought against each other in an attempt to expand their influence over what is now China. It was out of this period that the China known today emerged in the third century BCE under the unification of the Qin Empire. While several important schools of thought emerged at this time, the ideas developed by Confucius had lasting impact for China, especially during the Han dynasty and modern-day China.

1. According to the text, did Confucius live and teach before or after China was unified by Qin?

After his death, varying successors and adherents contributed to the spread of the Confucian tradition. It is believed that his ideas were documented by his disciples in the **Analects.** As with many great schools of thought, continued debate and discussion about Confucius’ ideas have kept his teachings alive.

5 Relationships:

1. Ruler and Subject
2. Father and Son
3. Husband and Wife
4. Older brother and younger brother
5. Friend and friend
6. What are the Analects?

**Confucius and the Five Relationships-** Confucius focused his teachings on respect and honor for your elders. He believed there were five key relationships that controlled life and that you should always obey.

**Confucius Quotes Activity**

Directions: Read each quote. Decide which relationship the quote is describing and what the quote means

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Quote** | **Relationship Described (From the 5 Relationships)** | **Meaning of Quote** |
| “To govern is to correct. If you set an example by being correct, who would dare to remain incorrect?” |  |  |
| “…Being good as a son and obedient as a young man is, perhaps, the root of a man’s character.” |  |  |
| “In one’s household, it is the women and the small men that are difficult to deal with. If you let them get too close, they become insolent (disrespectful). If you keep them at a distance, they complain.” |  |  |
| “Have no friends not equal to yourself.” |  |  |
| “In serving your father and mother you ought to dissuade them from doing wrong in the gentlest way. If you see your advice being ignored, you should not become disobedient but remain reverent. You should not complain even if in so doing you wear yourself out.” |  |  |

1. Analyze the quotes above, what can you assume Confucius valued based on the quotes? What principles would he live by
2. Confucius lived a very long time ago. Did Confucius leave out any key relationships that are important today? Create your own Confucius quote that describes how you think people should interact today.