

Section 3
Qin and Han Dynasties

Guide to Reading

Focusing on the Main Ideas

- Qin Shihuangdi used harsh methods to unify and defend China. (page 295)
- Developments during the Han dynasty improved life for all Chinese. (page 298)
- The Silk Road carried Chinese goods as far as Greece and Rome. (page 300)
- Unrest in China helped Buddhism to spread. (page 303)



Guide to Reading

Locating Places

Guangzhou

Silk Road

Luoyang

Meeting People

Qin Shihuangdi

Liu Bang

Han Wudi

Content Vocabulary

acupuncture

Academic Vocabulary

currency

civil

found

secure



The Great Wall of China stretches about 1,500 miles across northern China.

Today, sections of the Great Wall are deteriorating from natural erosion.



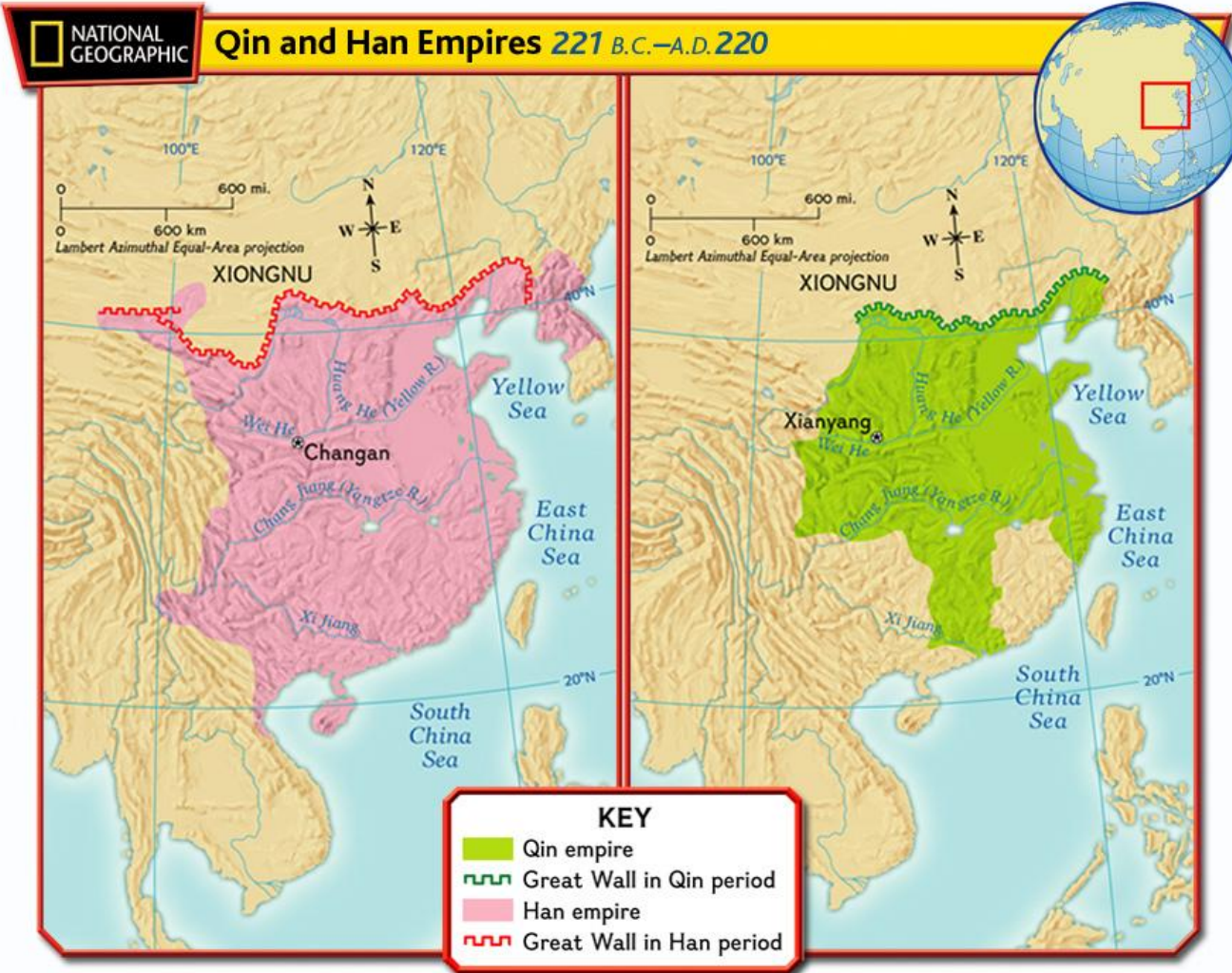
I. Emperor Qin Shihuangdi (pages 295–296)

A. Qin was a ruler of a local state during the Zhou dynasty. He gradually took over neighboring states and declared himself **Qin Shihuangdi**, or “First Qin Emperor.”

B. Qin’s rule was based on Legalism.



I. Emperor Qin Shihuangdi (pages 295–296)

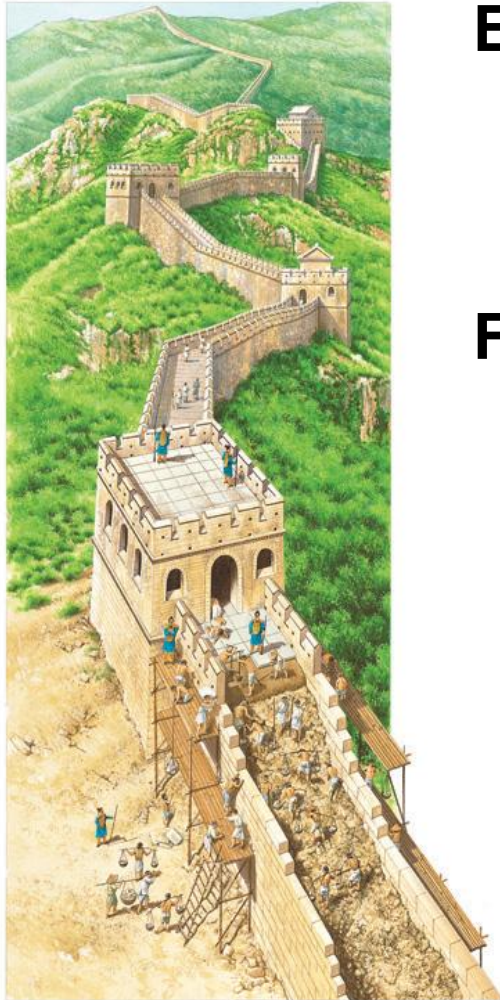


I. Emperor Qin Shihuangdi (pages 295–296)

C. Qin abolished the officials' authority to pass their posts on to their sons. He became the only person authorized to fill empty posts.

D. Qin united China, created one type of currency, or money; ordered the building of roads and buildings; and connected the Chang Jiang to **Guangzhou** by canal.

I. Emperor Qin Shihuangdi (pages 295–296)



- E. The Great Wall of China was built to protect the Chinese from the Xiongnu, a nomadic people living north of China.
- F. Chinese people believed Qin Shihuangdi was a harsh ruler, and they overthrew his dynasty after his death.



I. Emperor Qin Shihuangdi (pages 295–296)

Discussion Question

What are some examples of Qin Shihuangdi's cruelty in ruling his people?

Qin punished or killed anyone who opposed him. He forced farmers to leave their farms to build the Great Wall of China. He also burned scholars' writings.



II. The Han Dynasty (pages 298–300)



A. **Liu Bang** founded the Han dynasty in 202 B.C., which reached its peak during the rule of **Han Wudi**.



B. Civil service examinations began when Han Wudi started testing potential government employees. Students prepared for many years to take the exams.

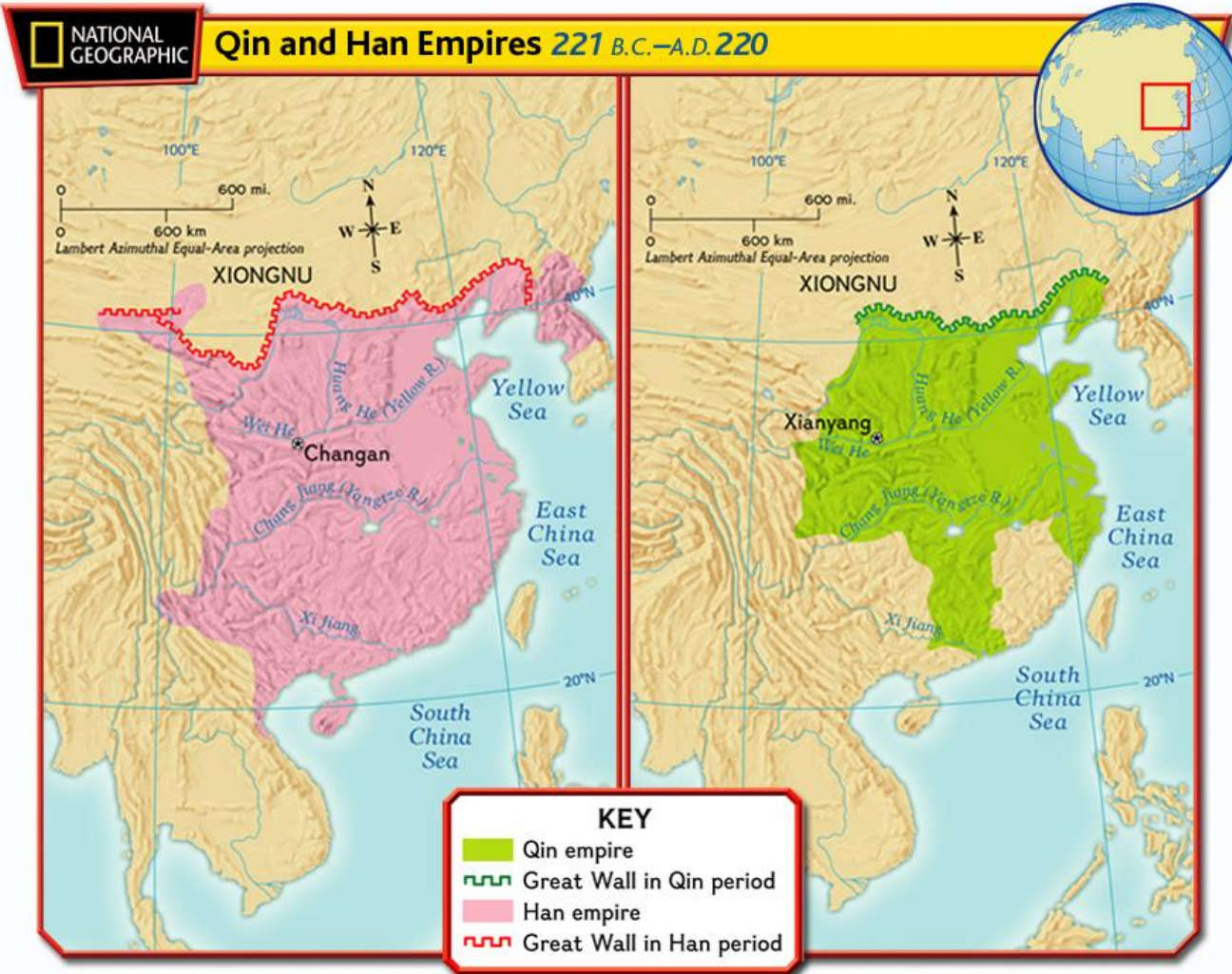


II. The Han Dynasty (pages 298–300)

- C. The population tripled during the Han dynasty. Farmers had to divide their land among more and more sons, which left them with very little land. Farmers sold their land to aristocrats and became tenant farmers to survive.
- D. New forms of literature and art appeared during the Han dynasty, and the idea of filial piety became very strong.



II. The Han Dynasty (pages 298–300)



II. The Han Dynasty (pages 298–300)




- E. The Chinese invented many new products during the Han dynasty, such as the waterwheel, the rudder, drill bits, steel, and paper.
- F. Chinese doctors began practicing **acupuncture**, the practice of easing pain by sticking needles into patients' skin.



II. The Han Dynasty (pages 298–300)



Four Chinese Dynasties

	SHANG	ZHOU	QIN	HAN
When	1750–1045 B.C.	1045–256 B.C.	221–206 B.C.	202 B.C.–A.D. 220
Important Leaders	Numerous kings with large armies and control over the land; ruled from capital city of Anyang	 Wu	 Qin Shihuangdi	 Liu Bang
Main Ideas and Accomplishments	Developed social classes that included farmers, merchants, aristocrats, and royal family	Longest-lasting dynasty in Chinese history; established Mandate of Heaven	Strengthened central government; created single monetary system	Population and landmass grew under Han; opened China to trade and commerce by building Silk Road
Influences on Chinese Culture	Influenced Chinese religion and culture; created Chinese written language	Developed irrigation and flood-control systems to help farmers grow more crops	Introduced use of censors to check on government officials; Qin built the first Great Wall to keep out invaders	Created government's civil service examination; major inventions: steel, paper, acupuncture, advanced sea travel

II. The Han Dynasty (pages 298–300)

Discussion Question

How did the invention of the rudder change Chinese trade?

With the rudder, the Chinese could move ships' sails differently. Ships could now sail into the wind rather than with it. This meant Chinese ships could travel to the islands of Southeast Asia and the Indian Ocean.



III. The Silk Road (pages 300–302)

- A. Silk was the most valuable trade product.
- B. The **Silk Road** was an overland trade route extending from western China to southwest Asia.



III. The Silk Road (pages 300–302)

- C. Travel along the Silk Road was difficult, so many merchants stopped after part of the journey and sold their goods.
- D. The Silk Road brought Chinese merchants in contact with many different civilizations, which led to an exchange of good and ideas.



III. The Silk Road (pages 300–302)



KEY

Silk Road	Cloves	Grains	Pearls
Other trade routes	Copper	Horns/Tusks	Sandalwood
Black pepper	Cotton cloth	Leopard skins	Semiprecious stones
Cardamom	Frankincense/Myrrh	Nutmeg	Silk
Cinnamon	Gold	Oils	Teakwood
Ginger	Papyrus		

Click the map to view a dynamic version.

III. The Silk Road (pages 300–302)

Discussion Question

What empire had General Zhang Qian encountered during his 13-year trip west, and how did he describe it upon his return?

He described the Roman Empire and its large cities with people wearing embroidered clothes and driving chariots.



IV. Major Changes in China (page 303)

- A. Buddhism spread from India to China.
- B. The Han dynasty fell after wars, rebellions, and plots against the emperor. Civil war began, and nomads invaded the country before the government collapsed.
- C. Buddhism helped people cope with the chaotic times.



IV. Major Changes in China (page 303)

Discussion Question

How did Buddhism become popular in China?

First, merchants from India brought Buddhism to China. During the unrest of the fall of the Han dynasty, people found comfort in the teachings of Buddhism, and more people began practicing the Buddhist religion.



Reading Summary

Review the **Main Ideas**

- The short-lived Qin dynasty helped to unify China.
- During the Han dynasty, people began taking tests for government jobs. New inventions, such as the waterwheel and paper, were created.
- The Silk Road was an important trade route that linked China to the West.
- As the Han dynasty lost power, many Chinese became followers of Buddhism.



Section Review

1. Why did Qin Shihuangdi have the Great Wall built?

The Great Wall was built to keep out the Xiongnu.

2. What was the purpose of the civil service examinations?

The purpose of the civil service examinations was to find the best and most talented people to work in government.



Section Review

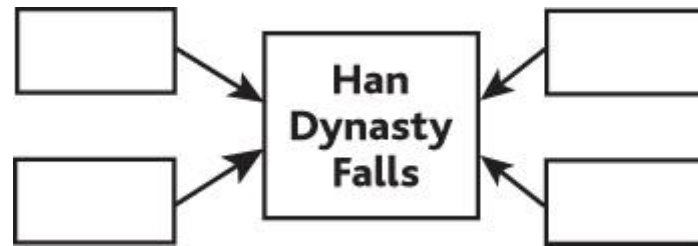
3. Geography Skills What geographic features made using the Silk Road difficult?

Mountains, deserts, rivers, and a harsh terrain made the Silk Road difficult to use.



Section Review

4. **Cause and Effect** Draw a diagram to show the causes of the Han dynasty's fall.



Your diagram may include: weak emperors; central government lost power; unrest among farmers; and civil war and invasion.

Section Review

5. The Big Ideas How did Qin Shihuangdi make China's society more stable?

He appointed censors who watched over government officials and appointed aristocrats who ran provinces rather than allowing their positions to be hereditary.

