

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# DECLINE OF THE ZHOU DYNASTY

**Directions:** In 221 BCE, the Qin Dynasty replaced the Zhou Dynasty which had ruled China for 800 years. Read the passage below and look for causes and effects to complete the cause-and-effect diagram below.

The Zhou Dynasty set up a feudal state. Local areas were ruled by nobles who pledged their loyalty to the king and raised armies to keep order and protect the kingdom. For the first 300 years, the Zhou Empire remained peaceful and stable.

Beginning in 771 BCE, China expanded into the Chang Jiang basin. As a result of expansion, strong nobles began to use their armies to take over the lands of weaker nobles and consolidate their power. As their power grew, the warlords claimed to be kings in their own territory. Without the loyalty and protection of their feudal nobles, the Zhou Dynasty weakened.

Around 456 BCE feudal states were at constant war with one another. The number of feudal states decreased, but those that survived became more powerful. During this “warring states” period, traditional Chinese values collapsed. Chaos, disobedience, and bloody warfare replaced love of order, harmony, and respect for authority. Powerless to end the fighting and restore order, the Zhou Dynasty finally collapsed in 256 B.C. A power struggle followed between the kings of the remaining feudal states. In 221 B.C., the ruler of Qin conquered his rivals, seized control of China, and started a new dynasty.

**1. Cause:** Period of peace ends; China expands into Chang Jiang basin.



**2. Effect/Cause:**



**3. Effect/Cause:** Powerful warlords gain power and set themselves up as kings of their territories.



**4. Effect:**



**5. Cause:** Feudal states continue to war against each other.



**6. Effect/Cause:**



**7. Effect/Cause:** Unable to restore order, the Zhou Dynasty collapses.



**8. Effect:**

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1. **Cause:** Period of peace ends; China expands into Chang Jiang basin.



2. **Effect/Cause:** Nobles begin using their armies to fight each other over land



3. **Effect/Cause:** Powerful warlords gain power and set themselves up as kings of their territories.



4. **Effect:** Without loyalty and protection of nobles, Zhou Dynasty weakens



5. **Cause:** Feudal states continue to war against each other.



6. **Effect/Cause:** Surviving feudal states become powerful. Chaos and social disorder replace traditional Chinese values.



7. **Effect/Cause:** Unable to restore order, the Zhou Dynasty collapses.



8. **Effect:** A power struggle follows and the ruler of Qin seizes control of China.