

MAIN IDEAS

- 1 **Belief Systems** Legalists believed that the government must control people through strict laws.
- 2 **Belief Systems** Confucius taught that order would return to China if society was organized around five relationships.
- 3 **Belief Systems** The followers of Daoism taught that people could find virtue by living in harmony with nature.

TAKING NOTES

Reading Skill: Comparing

Comparing can help you see the similarities and differences among sets of things. In this lesson, look for details about the three Chinese philosophies. Identify points that all three philosophies consider important in a chart similar to the one below.

Legalism	Confucianism	Daoism

 Skillbuilder Handbook, page R4



▲ **Symbol: The Way** This Chinese symbol is called Dao. It means "the Way" or "the path." It is made up of two characters. The red one means "go forward," and the green one means "head." Taken together, they mean "the way to understanding."

Words to Know

Understanding the following words will help you read this lesson:

wicked mean, bad, or evil (page 259)

Some people believe that humans are naturally wicked.

relationship a connection or tie between people (page 260)

Social customs can have a significant effect on the kinds of relationships people have with one another.

conduct the way someone acts; behavior (page 260)

Their conduct violated rules laid down by the philosopher Confucius.

complement to work well with (page 263)

When two people or things complement each other, they are said to exist in harmony.

philosophy

Legalism

Confucianism

filial piety

Daoism

China's Ancient Philosophies

Build on What You Know In the last lesson, you learned about the Time of the Warring States in China. During this time, Chinese society experienced much disorder. Warlords and kings fought with each other to gain control of lands. Scholars wondered what it would take to bring peace to the land. They developed three ways of thinking: Legalism, Confucianism, and Daoism. Each was a **philosophy**, or a study of basic truths and ideas about the universe.

Legalism

1 ESSENTIAL QUESTION How did Legalism suggest that society be controlled?

One philosophy was **Legalism**, or a belief that rulers should use the legal system to force people to obey laws. Those who followed this belief system saw disorder in society. These people decided that a strong government was the answer to China's problems.

Strict Laws and Harsh Punishments Legalists believed that human nature is wicked and that people do good only if they are forced to do it. Legalists believed that the government must pass strict laws to control the way people behaved. They believed that harsh punishments were needed to make people afraid to do wrong.

School of Confucius
Confucius, second figure from the left, meets with his students. ▼



An Increase in Government Control Shang Yang, a supporter of Legalism, wanted to force people to report lawbreakers. In fact, he thought people who did not report lawbreakers should be cut in two. Legalists taught that rulers should reward people who do their duty.

Legalists did not want people to complain about the government or question what it did. They favored arresting people who questioned the government or taught different ideas. They also taught that rulers should burn books that contained different philosophies or ideas.

REVIEW Why did Legalists want a strong government?

Confucianism

2 ESSENTIAL QUESTION What actions did Confucius believe would bring order to China?

Confucius lived from 551 to 479 B.C., in a time of much conflict and unrest in China. He developed ideas to end conflict and have peace in all relationships. According to Confucius, respect for others was absolutely necessary for peace and harmony. Government leaders should set a good example so that people would see what was correct. Confucius' students collected his ideas and recorded them in a book called the *Analects*. The book tells of Confucius' teachings, which together form a belief system known as **Confucianism**.

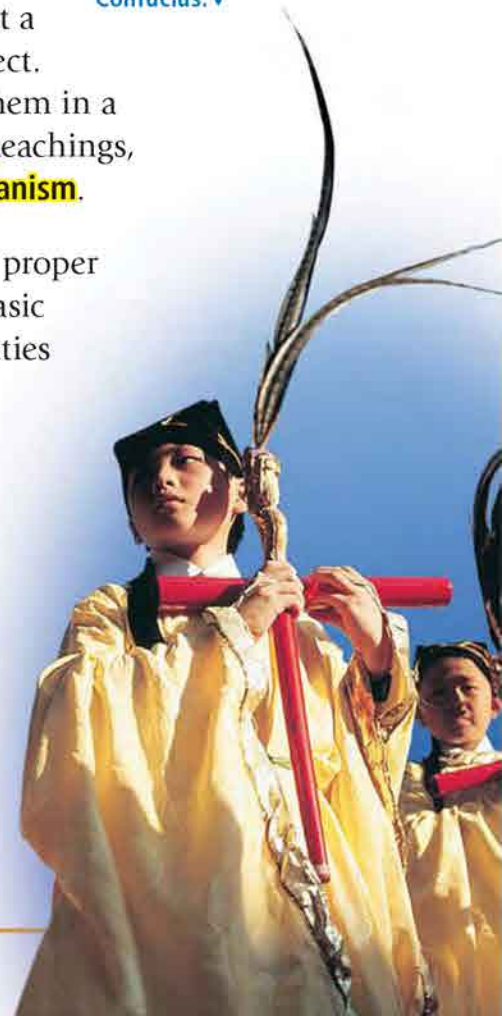
Connect to Today

Ceremony Children in Taiwan take part in a ceremony honoring Confucius.▼

The Five Relationships Confucius taught a code of proper conduct for people. In Confucianism there were five basic relationships. Each type of relationship had its own duties and its own code of proper conduct. Here are the five relationships.

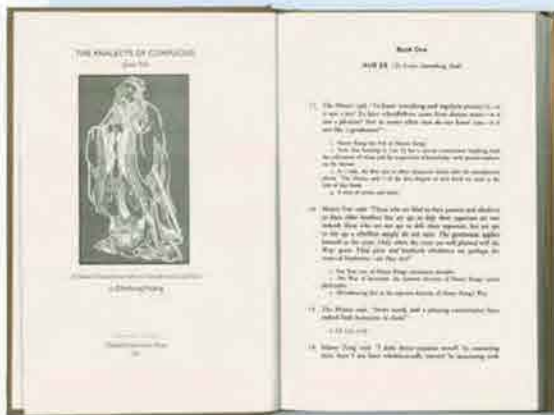
- father and son
- husband and wife
- elder brother and junior brother
- friend and friend
- ruler and subject

Notice that the relationships fall into two basic categories: proper conduct in the family and proper conduct in society.



Primary Source

Background: Confucius taught filial piety, or respect for one's parents and ancestors. In this selection, he discusses filial piety with his students. He focuses on propriety, or concern about what is proper or correct in society.



from the *Analects*

By Confucius

Translated by James Legge

"The filial piety of now-a-days means the support of one's parents. But dogs and horses likewise are able to do something in the way of support; — without reverence, what is there to distinguish the one support given from the other?" . . .

Mang I asked what filial piety was. The Master said, "It is not being disobedient." . . .

Fan Chih said, "What did you mean?" The Master replied, "That parents, when alive, should be served according to propriety; that, when dead, they should be buried according to propriety; and that they should be sacrificed to according to propriety."

DOCUMENT-BASED QUESTION

What can you infer from Confucius' teachings about the place of the family in society?

Proper Conduct Confucius believed good conduct and respect began at home. Husbands had to be good to their wives. Wives had to obey every decision of their husbands. Brothers had to be kind to brothers, but a younger brother always had to follow the wishes of his older brother. One of Confucius' most important teachings was about **filial piety**, or treating parents with respect. The Primary Source above is about filial piety.

Confucius was also concerned with people's behavior in society. Authority should be respected. The ruler's responsibility was to live correctly and treat his subjects with respect. If a ruler led in a right, moral way, a subject's duty was to obey. If these behaviors were followed, there would be peace in the society.

The Impact of Confucianism Confucianism set out clear family and social roles. By following these roles, the Chinese people found ways to avoid conflict and live peacefully. Many rulers tried to live up to Confucius' model for a good ruler. By encouraging education, Confucius laid the groundwork for fair and skilled government officials.

REVIEW How did Confucius think rulers should behave?

P Primary Source Handbook

See the excerpt from the *Analects* of Confucius, page R42.

Confucius (551–479 B.C.)

The name Confucius is a translation of the Chinese title *Kongfuzi*. It means “Master Kong.”

Confucius began his career at the age of 19 as supervisor of a noble family’s herds. He then spent years in study and acting as a tutor to children of rich families. He wanted to be a government official so that he could try out his ideas of ways to change society. One of the ideas he taught may sound familiar to you. He said, “What you do not want done to yourself, do not do to others.”

Finally, at the age of 51, Confucius was appointed the minister of justice in his home state of Lu. Legend says he was so successful that his town was free of crime and a model of correct behavior. Unfortunately, Confucius had to leave his post and felt he was a failure.



Daoism

3 ESSENTIAL QUESTION What did the Daoists believe about society?

The third philosophy is said to have begun with Laozi (low•dzuh). No one knows if he really existed, but some say he lived in the 500s B.C. The name Laozi means “Old Master.” The book of his teachings is the *Dao De Jing* (*The Book of the Way of Virtue*). The teachings of Laozi are called **Daoism** (DOW•IHZ•uhm). They contrast sharply with Legalism and Confucianism.

Primary Source Handbook

See the excerpt from the *Dao De Jing*, page R43.

The Way Daoists believed that a universal force called the Dao, or the Way, guides all things. All creatures, except humans, live in harmony with this force. To relate to nature and each other, each human being had to find an individual way, or Dao. The individual had to learn to live in harmony with nature and with inner feelings.

Following the Way Daoists did not argue about good and bad, and they did not try to change things. They accepted things as they were. They did not want to be involved with the government.

Daoists tried to understand nature and live in harmony with its rhythms. This included the idea of yin and yang, or two things that interact with each other. The yin (black) stands for all that is cold, dark, and mysterious. The yang (white) represents all

that is warm, bright, and light. The forces complement each other. The forces are always changing and evolving. Understanding yin and yang helped a person understand how he or she fits into the world.

In the next lesson you will learn how the three philosophies influenced the way in which the rulers of China controlled their lands.



▲ Yin and Yang Symbol The outer circle represents "everything". The inner shapes represent the interaction of the forces—Yin and Yang.

REVIEW Why did Daoism teach that each human had to find an individual way to follow in life?

Lesson Summary

- Legalists believed humans are wicked and need strict laws with harsh punishments.
- Confucius taught a code of proper conduct, including respect, that humans could learn.
- Daoists held the view that each human must find an individual moral path to follow.

Why It Matters Now . . .

The teachings of Confucianism and Daoism remain influential in China and the world today.

2 Lesson Review

Terms & Names

1. Explain the importance of
- | | | |
|------------|--------------|--------|
| philosophy | Confucianism | Daoism |
| Legalism | filial piety | |

Using Your Notes

Comparing Use your completed graphic to answer the following question:

2. Which of the Chinese philosophies stressed the importance of family?

Legalism	Confucianism	Daoism



Main Ideas

3. How did Legalists believe governments should keep peace among people?
4. What was the purpose of Confucius' five relationships?
5. What did Daoists believe about nature?

Critical Thinking

6. **Comparing and Contrasting** How did the Legalists' views of human nature contrast with those of the Confucians?
7. **Making Inferences** How might a Daoist respond to Confucius' teachings?

Activity

Creating Classroom Rules Choose one of the three Chinese philosophies and create a set of classroom rules that reflect the basic ideas of that philosophy. Share your rules with others, and decide which rules you would like for your classroom.

Comparing and Contrasting

Goal: To analyze a passage to compare and contrast two Chinese philosophies

Learn the Skill

Comparing means looking at the similarities and differences between two or more things. **Contrasting** means examining only the differences between them. Historians compare and contrast events, personalities, beliefs, and situations in order to understand them.

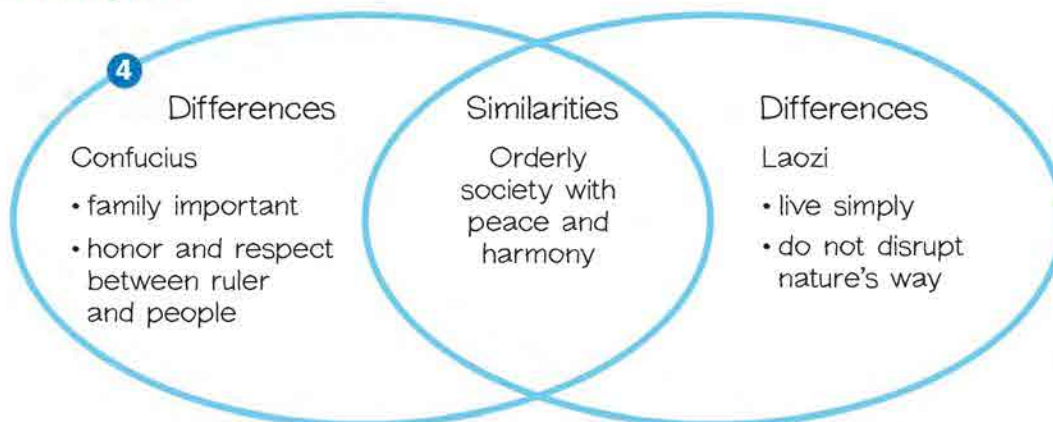


See the Skillbuilder Handbook, page R4.

Practice the Skill

- 1 Look for two views about a subject that may be compared and contrasted. The sample passage at the right compares two ways of achieving a perfect society.
- 2 To find similarities in the views, look for clue words suggesting that two things are alike. Clue words include *both*, *like*, *as*, and *similarly*.
- 3 To find differences, look for clue words that show how two things are different. Clue words include *by contrast*, *however*, *except*, *yet*, and *unlike*.
- 4 Make a Venn diagram like the one below to help you identify similarities and differences between two things. In the overlapping area, list characteristics shared by both subjects. In the separate ovals, list characteristics not shared by the other. The chart below compares and contrasts two Chinese philosophers, Confucius and Laozi.

Example:



SB Text *Secondary Source*

In this selection, the ideas of two Chinese philosophers, Confucius and Laozi, are discussed. The paragraphs focus on how Confucius and Laozi thought people should live to achieve a perfect society.

Two Chinese Philosophies

In China, two philosophers, Confucius and Laozi, looked for

1 a way to create a perfect society. **2** Both philosophers wanted people to live in peace and to have an orderly society.

3 However, the ideas of Confucius are quite different from those of Laozi. Confucius believed family was very important. He said that family members should respect each other. In the community and country, rulers should have respect for the people and the people should respect the ruler. If they do these things, the society will be stable and happy.

Laozi did not agree with the teachings of Confucius.

3 Unlike Confucius, he believed organizations and human-made systems were not the way to live in harmony. **3** Instead, Laozi taught that nature provides the best examples of living in harmony. He told his followers to observe the ways of nature and they would know how to live. He stressed living simply and not disrupting the ways of nature. If people did this, he said, there would be peace and harmony in the world.



▲ Confucius Confucius wanted to restore order and harmony to China by having all people show respect for one another.



▲ Laozi Laozi believed that the natural order of things was important. If people followed nature, they would have a good life.

Apply the Skill

Go back to Chapter 7, Lessons 2 and 3. (See pages 232–243.) Read the information on Hinduism and Buddhism. Make a Venn diagram like the one at the left to help you take notes on the two religions.