

Expository Essay



Level 10

Least Ancient of Ancients

Ancient Chinese culture, for its day and age, was the most advanced. Its breathtaking works of art, amazing scientific achievements, and brilliant philosophers and thinkers surpass all of its contemporaries.

The ancient Chinese were skilled craftsmen. The oldest known Chinese dynasty, the Shang, produced bronze objects unlike any others of its time. Though mostly vessels, pots, and other useful items, these were obviously created with beauty in mind, as evidenced by the complex designs. The Chinese developed a method for casting large pieces of bronze far in advance of any other culture, as well, and some of the works reach gargantuan proportions. Another find from the Shang era are numerous examples of jade work unmatched in intricacy and charm. Later in their civilization the Chinese became experts in working with porcelain, and produced some fine examples of cups and small figurines that are still prized today.

On a different tack, the Chinese proved themselves to be the most innovative people of their age as well. When long journeys or voyages took them out of their normal environment, they used the earliest known compass to find their way. Fireworks constructed using gunpowder, another Chinese discovery, made parties more exciting. Later, they would use this substance in the first guns. Many years before Johan Gutenberg made his more famous set of moveable type in Germany, Chinese printers were already equipped with the device. The earliest kites were invented by the Chinese and used both for an amusement and for reconnaissance in wartime. They would strap a soldier to a large kite and fly him over the battlefield to search for weak spots and other information. Lastly, the Chinese

The thesis clearly and concisely tells the reader what the writer is trying to prove.

Using facts to support the thesis is a mark of a good Expository Essay.



Level ??

discovered how to breed silkworms to create a beautiful strong fabric that quickly became fashionable.

Philosophy was another area in which the Chinese excelled. Some of the greatest thinkers of all time hail from China, the most famous being Confucius. His doctrine, Confucianism, still influences much of Chinese and Japanese thought today. Confucianism stresses filial relationships and obedience to others, values that exist in China to this day. Many great works of philosophy were penned in China, including a compilation of Confucius' teachings known as The Analects. These, together with four others, make up the Four Books.

The last part of this paragraph is a little repetitive, making it weaker.

In terms of culture, one must admit that the ancient Chinese were the most advanced of their time. Their artwork overshadowed any of the works done in Mesopotamia or India during that time. Their technological advances were amazing for their era, and their philosophers and philosophy went unmatched until the times of the Greeks and Romans.