

China Under Mao

Trace how communist rule changed life and power in China.

SS7H3.d "Describe the impact of communism in China in terms of Mao Zedong, the Great Leap Forward, the Cultural Revolution, and Tiananmen Square."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline Mao Zedong, the Great Leap Forward, the Cultural Revolution, and Tiananmen Square. Number one sentence near each topic that explains an impact on China.

Communism and Change in China

- ① In 1949, Mao Zedong and the Chinese Communist Party won China's civil war and formed the People's Republic of China. The new government created a one-party communist state. It took control of much land and many businesses, and it limited political opposition. Mao urged people to put group goals ahead of private gain. Supporters hoped communism would end inequality and strengthen China. Yet the government also gained broad power over work, property, speech, and daily life.
- ② In 1958, Mao began the Great Leap Forward, a plan to make China quickly produce more food and steel. Rural families were placed in large communes, where they shared work and meals. Officials reported high harvests to meet pressure from above, even when claims were false. The state collected too much grain from some areas, while workers spent time on steel projects. Poor planning and bad weather worsened shortages. From 1959 to 1961, a famine caused the deaths of millions of people. The plan showed the cost of government policies that could not be questioned.
- ③ Mao launched the Cultural Revolution in 1966 to restore his influence and protect communist ideas. Young Red Guards attacked teachers, officials, and people accused of holding "old" ideas. Schools closed, historical objects were destroyed, and many people were humiliated, imprisoned, or killed. After Mao died in 1976, the campaign ended. In 1989, students and other citizens gathered in Beijing's Tiananmen Square to call for political reform. The government sent troops to clear the square and nearby streets, killing many people. The crackdown showed that the Communist Party would not allow organized challenges to its rule.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did Mao's new communist government change political power and ownership in China?

2 What two conditions or actions in the passage helped cause food shortages during the Great Leap Forward?

3 Describe two impacts of the Cultural Revolution on Chinese people or culture.

4 How did the Tiananmen Square crackdown show the Communist Party's response to political challenges?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write an 80 to 100 word museum label about two topics from the passage. Name both topics, explain one government action and one impact for each, and end with a sentence that compares their impacts.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline Mao Zedong, the Great Leap Forward, the Cultural Revolution, and Tiananmen Square. Number one sentence near each topic that explains an impact on China. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Mao's new communist government change political power and ownership in China?	It created a one-party state, took control of much land and many businesses, and limited political opposition.
2	What two conditions or actions in the passage helped cause food shortages during the Great Leap Forward?	Answers may include false harvest reports, the state collecting too much grain, workers spending time on steel projects, poor planning, and bad weather.
3	Describe two impacts of the Cultural Revolution on Chinese people or culture.	Answers may include attacks on teachers, officials, and others; school closings; destruction of historical objects; and people being humiliated, imprisoned, or killed.
4	How did the Tiananmen Square crackdown show the Communist Party's response to political challenges?	The government sent troops to clear the protest and killed many people, showing that the Communist Party would not allow organized challenges to its rule.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

During the Great Leap Forward, Mao's government put rural families into communes and pushed workers to make steel. False harvest reports and grain collection helped create shortages, and millions died in the famine. During the Cultural Revolution, Mao launched a campaign in which Red Guards attacked people accused of old ideas. Schools closed, and people were humiliated, imprisoned, or killed. Both events show that communist leaders could direct daily life, but the Great Leap Forward mainly damaged food supplies while the Cultural Revolution attacked people and culture.

Accept equivalent descriptions that accurately connect each communist policy or government action to its effects. For the museum label, check for two named topics, an action and impact for each, and a meaningful comparison in 80 to 100 words.