

ANCIENT CHINA

Life as a Farmer

Most of the people in Ancient China were poor farmers. They were respected for the food they were giving for the rest of the Chinese people. The farmers lived tough and difficult lives. The typical farmer lived in small village of around 100 families. They worked small family farms. Sometimes they used animals (dogs, oxen) to do the work but most of the work was done by hand.



Life in the City

Life was different for those living in the city. People in the cities did jobs like teachers, builders, guards and traders. Many cities in Ancient China grew very large with some having populations totaling hundreds of thousands of people.

Life for the rich was nice. They lived in big houses that were decorated with carpets and art.

The cities in Ancient China were surrounded with walls made from packed dirt .



Food

The type of food that people ate depended on where they lived. Some of the food was vegetables (soybeans and cucumber), wine (rice and millet), meat (pork, beef, chicken), Tofu, Noodles and rice.



Family Life

The Chinese family was ruled by the father of the house like Greece or other countries. The life of women in Ancient China was difficult. They were considered much less valuable than

1^ο Γυμνάσιο Λαυρίου

men. Women had no choice to who they would marry. Marriage partners were decided by the parents and the preferences were children getting married often had little impact on the parent's choice. A big part of Chinese family was the respect of their elders. Grandparents and children all lived in the same house. Most homes in the city had a courtyard in the middle that was open to the sky.

The Chinese would often pray to their ancestors and offer sacrifices to them.



School

1^ο Γυμνάσιο Λαυρίου

Only wealthy boys attended school in Ancient China. They learned how to write using calligraphy. They also learned about the teachings of Confucius and studied poetry. These were important skills of government officials and the nobles.



One of the most important inventions of the Chinese Empire was paper and mathematics.