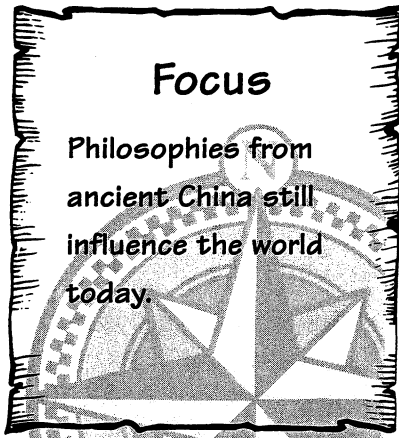


Ancient Chinese Thinkers

Brief #2



The ancient Chinese made important contributions to philosophy. Philosophy is a system of thought and belief that helps explain the world to people.

● Confucius

Confucius is probably the most famous Chinese philosopher. He was born in 551 B.C. He was a strong believer in the value of education and self-improvement. Confucius believed in honesty and in living a life of virtue. He believed that people should respect their leaders, but that leaders must be fair and just to the people. He also believed that people should lead by example.

Confucius is famous for his sayings which reveal his philosophy. These sayings are collected in a book called the *Analects*. They were written down by his many students. The advice that Confucius gave thousands of years ago can still be applied today. Here are some examples:

- Everything has its beauty, but not everyone sees it.
- Forget injuries, never forget kindness.
- Respect yourself and others will respect you.

● Taoism

Taoism is another influential ancient Chinese philosophy. **Taoism teaches that the world is made up of opposite forces: sun and moon, good and evil, hot and cold.** The opposing forces in the world are called *yin* and *yang*. Taoism teaches that all people should try to live in harmony with nature.

● Legacy

Confucius and Taoism have had a major influence on the development of ancient China. Even today, Confucius is revered in China and other parts of Asia. In many places his birthday or the anniversary of his death are celebrated as *Teacher's Day*, as many Chinese consider him to be the world's greatest teacher.

Vocabulary

1. Confucius
2. Analects
3. Taoism

