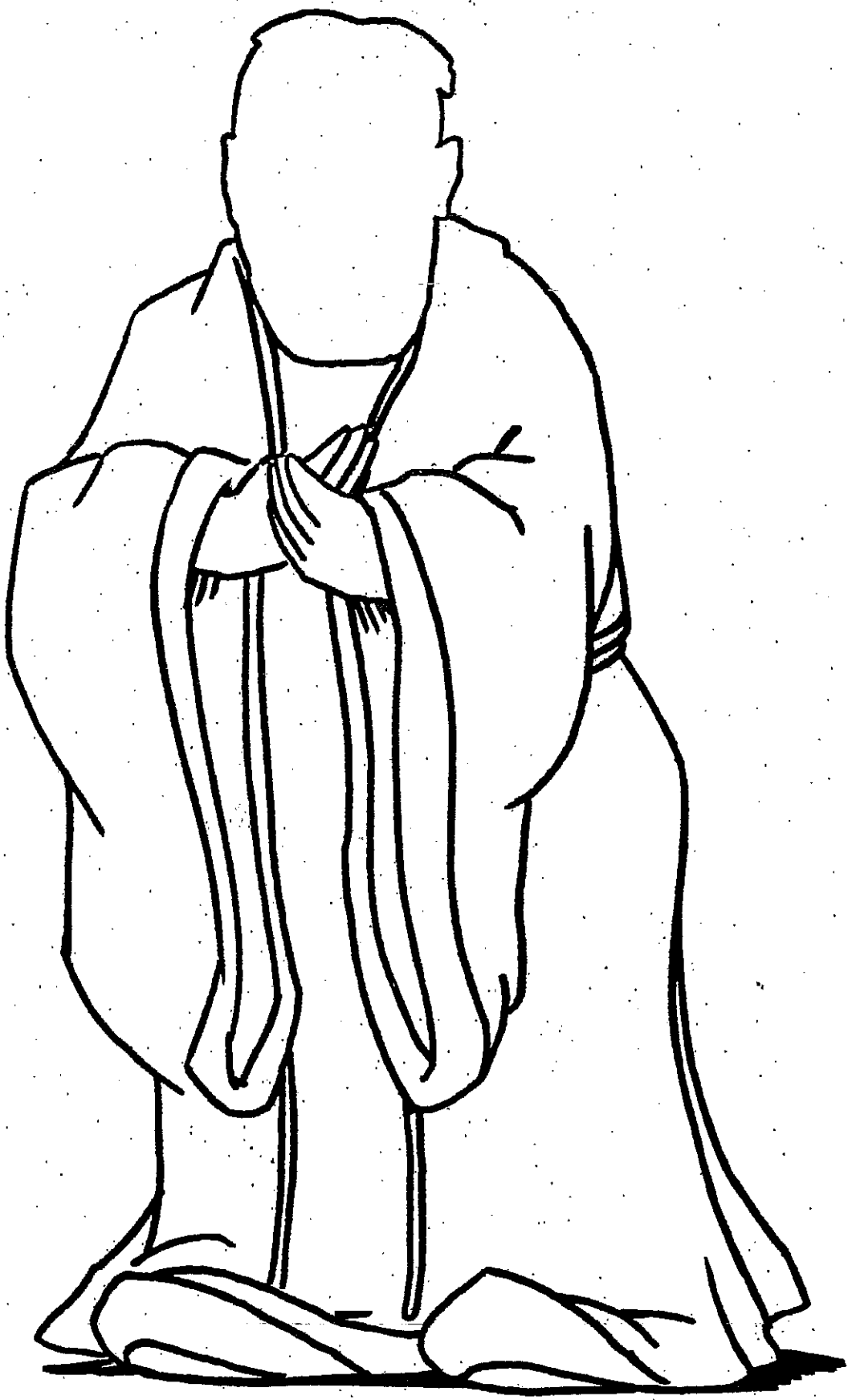


Face of Confucius



# Outline of Confucius





## Background Information on Confucianism

**Directions:** This information will help your group create a character collage of Confucius. Take turns reading sections of the handout aloud and leading a discussion of the questions after that section.

Confucianism is a belief system based on the teachings of Kong Fu Zi, called Confucius by Europeans. Confucius lived in China from 551 to 479 B.C. He lived during troubled times in China. The Zhou (pronounced JOE) empire was weakening, and society was violent and unstable. As the empire grew weak, wars broke out among the nobles. Violence, poverty, and crime increased. This troubled Confucius. He believed that people should return to the customs of the past, so that society could be stable and peaceful again. To return to the past, Confucius suggested a set of rules for behaving based on strict moral ideas.

Confucius taught that people should practice proper behavior, or *li* (pronounced LEE). *Li* includes respect, loyalty, honesty, hard work, politeness, and generosity. Confucius also taught that a stable, peaceful society is built on five key relationships: (1) ruler and subject, (2) parent and child, (3) husband and wife, (4) elder sibling (brother or sister) and younger sibling, and (5) friend and friend. In each relationship, the two people have responsibilities and duties toward each other. In the fifth relationship, the two people are thought to be equals, and each one must respect and help the other. In the first four relationships, one person is thought to be superior. The superior person is expected to set a good example of moral behavior for the other person. In turn, the other person is supposed to treat the superior person with respect and obedience.

Stop Here  
& Discuss



- Who was Confucius?
- Why did Confucius want people to return to the past?
- What are the five key relationships?


Because the family was very important in Chinese society, Confucius emphasized family relationships. Above all, he emphasized devotion to or respect for one's elders, or *filial piety*. A child was supposed to be absolutely loyal, obedient, and respectful to his or her parents. In return, parents were supposed to give the child what he or she needed and teach him or her to respect others. Younger siblings were supposed to respect and obey their older siblings. A wife was supposed to love and obey her husband, and a husband was supposed to provide for and be good to his wife. According to Confucius, women were supposed to obey men. As a child, a girl was supposed to obey her father. As a wife, a woman was supposed to obey her husband. And when she was old and her children were grown, a mother was supposed to obey her sons.


 Stop Here  
& Discuss

- In your own words, explain *filial piety*.
- According to Confucius, what were the responsibilities of each family member?

Confucius believed that if everyone followed *li* in his or her relationships, the entire society would be peaceful and stable. He thought that the emperor must be a good leader and must set a good example for his subjects. If he was a wise and just ruler, his subjects would obey him, and there would be peace and stability in the government. In the same way, family life would be peaceful if children obeyed their parents, wives obeyed their husbands, and younger siblings obeyed older siblings. If everyone at every level of society behaved according to *li*, police, jails, and war would not be necessary. Everyone would naturally do what was best for the community.

Today, most Chinese families still follow the teachings of Confucius. Children are expected to be loyal to, and to obey, their parents. Young people treat old people with great respect. The government is still controlled by a few rulers at the top. There has never been a government by the common people, or *democracy*, in China. Throughout China—in every part of life—society is still governed by the five key relationships.


 Stop Here  
& Discuss

- According to Confucius, what would make society peaceful and stable?
- How does Confucianism influence Chinese society today?

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## Quotes from the Teachings of Confucius

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**Quote 1:** *Be respectful at home, serious at work, faithful in human relations. Even if you go to uncivilized areas (areas without rules), these virtues are not to be abandoned (you should still practice this kind of moral behavior).*

**Quote 2:** *Seeing that (Because) our body, with hair and skin, is derived from (comes from) our parents, we should not allow it to be injured in any way. This is the beginning of filial piety. We develop our own character and practice the Way (practice Confucianism) so as to perpetuate our name for future generations (so that our family will respect us in the future) and to bring honor to our parents.*

## Steps for Creating a Character Collage

### Roles

**Researcher** Underlines or highlights key ideas on **Student Handout 2B**. Finds additional information about belief system from textbooks, the library, or the teacher. Helps brainstorm ideas for the character collage. Makes sure the most important ideas are included. Assists in the production of the final collage.

**Graphic Designer** Responsible for the overall look and organization of the character collage. Leads discussion, takes notes, and contributes ideas during the brainstorming session. Makes sure visuals accurately represent the ideas of the belief system. Leads in the production of the final collage.

**Illustrator** Traces the outline of the historical figure and attaches the face to it. Creates visuals for the character collage. Helps brainstorm ideas for the collage. Creates a rough sketch of the collage for the teacher to review. Assists in the production of the final collage.

**Paraphraser** Reads quotes on **Student Handout 2B** aloud to the group. Helps brainstorm ideas for the character collage. Leads discussion on how to paraphrase (restate in simple words) the historical figure's quotes so classmates can easily understand them. Assists in the production of the final collage.

### Steps

**Step 1: Read and discuss your belief system.** Take turns reading the information on **Student Handout 2B** aloud. As you read, have the Researcher underline or highlight key details. Talk about the "Stop Here and Discuss" questions.

\_\_\_\_ After your group has read the information on **Student Handout 2B**, highlighted key details, and discussed the "Stop Here and Discuss" questions, have your teacher initial here.

**Step 2: Brainstorm ideas for key words, phrases, and visuals to include in the character collage.** Your group must create a character collage—a life-size outline of a historical figure, within and around which are carefully arranged key ideas, symbols, and illustrations that represent the person's beliefs. Your classmates should be able to "read" your collage and understand the key ideas of the belief system. The Graphic Designer should make sure your collage includes

- *at least five key words or phrases that represent main ideas of the belief system*
- *at least five visuals—illustrations, symbols, pictures—that represent main ideas of the belief system*

\_\_\_\_ After your group has brainstormed words and visuals for your character collage, have your teacher initial here.

**Step 3: Paraphrase the quotes for your collage.** You must rewrite the quotes from your historical figure in simple words, or *paraphrase* them, for your character collage. The Paraphraser should lead the group in paraphrasing the quotes on **Student Handout 2B** so they are simple, memorable, and easily understood by a sixth grader.

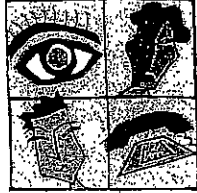
\_\_\_\_ After your group has paraphrased the quotes, have your teacher initial here.

**Step 4: Brainstorm ideas for how to lay out (arrange) the character collage and create a rough draft.** Talk about how to arrange the words, phrases, visuals, and paraphrases on the character collage. These can be placed within or outside of the outline of the character, but should be arranged in a way that helps the viewer understand the main ideas of the belief system. The format of your character collage should reflect the beliefs of your character. For example, if your character valued neatness, the contents of the collage would be arranged in a very orderly way. The Illustrator should quickly create a rough draft of the character collage on a standard-size piece of paper.

\_\_\_\_ After your group has created a rough draft of the character collage, have your teacher initial here.

**Step 5: Sketch the outline of your historical figure and create your final character collage.** After you have received feedback from your teacher on your character collage, the Illustrator should sketch the outline of your historical figure on a large piece of unlined paper. Tape or glue the drawing of the figure's face from **Student Handout 2C** to the outline. Then, work neatly and carefully to create the final version of your character collage. Use color and other creative touches to make the collage visually appealing.

# Character Collage Rubric



\_\_\_\_\_ **15pts:** at least 5 key words or phrases that represent main idea of the belief system

\_\_\_\_\_ **15pts:** at least 5 visuals- symbols, illustrations, pictures that represent the main ideas of the belief system

\_\_\_\_\_ **5pts:** quotes paraphrased correctly and made easy to understand

\_\_\_\_\_ **5pts:** use of color, or other creative touches to make the collage visually appealing

\_\_\_\_\_ **10pts:** Exhibits clearly higher level thinking and well thought out planning

