

Name: _____ Date: _____

Mandate of Heaven and the Dynastic Cycle

Directions: Read the information below. Then, complete the flow chart using page 329 in your textbook.

Introduction: The flow chart below illustrates the traditional Chinese belief known as the Mandate of Heaven. One **dynasty** (ruling family) could rule China for generations, claiming that its power came from a Mandate of Heaven. After generations had passed, if a dynasty failed to inspire peace and prosperity, the aging dynasty would lose the Mandate of Heaven and be overthrown. Study the chart below and answer the questions that follow.

The New Dynasty

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.



New Dynasty
Claims the Mandate
of Heaven.



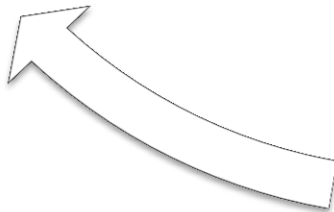
Problems

1.

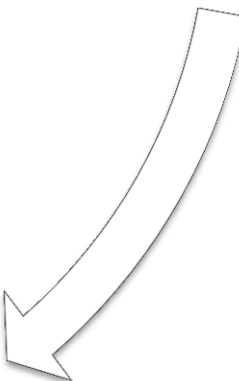
2.

3.

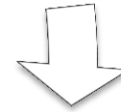
4.



Aging Dynasty loses
the Mandate of
Heaven.



After several
generations, the
new dynasty
becomes an aging
dynasty.



The Aging Dynasty

1.

2.

3.

4.

1. According to the chart, name two actions a new dynasty would do when it claimed the Mandate of Heaven.

2. How long could a dynasty rule under the Mandate of Heaven?

3. According to traditional beliefs, what were two reasons heaven would withdraw its mandate from an unworthy dynasty?

4. After a dynasty had lost the Mandate of Heaven, identify two disasters that would come about.

5. Define the Mandate of Heaven in your own words.
