**Chapter 25: China**

**Section 2 Vocabulary**

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| **New Word** | **Definition** |
| Shi Huangdi | the first emperor to unify much of China |
| emperor | a ruler of an empire, which is a group of different territories or cultures led by a single all-powerful authority |
| dynasty | a line of rulers from the same family |
| North China Plain | the fertile region between the Huang He and Chang Jiang rivers |
| Middle Kingdom | an ancient Chinese name for China |
| dynastic cycle | the pattern of the rise and fall of dynasties |
| Great Wall | a huge and long wall built to keep nomads out of China |
| Confucianism | a belief system based on the teachings of Confucius, a Chinese scholar |
| scholar-official | an educated person who worked in China’s government |
| communism | a government and economic system in which the government holds nearly all political power and the means of production in the name of the people |
| Mao Zedong | Communist leader of China from 1949 to 1976 |