

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



# Confucianism

Look into the past. If you just listen,  
You will understand Confucianism.  
Respect your elders, and do what's right.  
Now you're living the Confucian life.

In the late 6th century BCE,  
A great Chinese scholar said there needs to be  
A philosophy about Chinese status and class  
That teaches social harmony by learning from the past.  
Kong Fuzi is his name, and although  
You might think you don't know him, you probably do.  
His name was westernized. I promise that you just  
Know him by his Latin name—it's Confucius.  
He took his ideas from ancient texts  
That Chinese people followed. He just took them from the past,  
Brought them to the present, and he put them to the test.  
He believed the old ways are the best.  
According to him, a peaceful society  
Only works with filial piety,  
Which means that you must have respect for your elders,  
Obey every word that they tell us.  
And whether you're a peasant or a king,  
He believed that we're born to be  
Good people; we just have to act morally.  
He also believed that to be great, we need  
A hierarchy for how people relate, yeah.  
He named five relationships that folks should follow in their lives:

Parents lead children, and husbands lead wives.  
Rulers lead their nations, and older siblings,  
They use their patience to lead their younger siblings toward better living.  
But you must obey the person leading you,  
And in friendship mutual respect, well, that's the rule.  
Even though Confucius lived many years ago,  
Many people think his work is simply irreplaceable.  
Respect for your parents and the past is still important  
In Chinese culture, and in the West we have imported  
Lots of ideas from Confucius that we use today.  
And that's the Confucian way!