Discussion: Map of Asia
Figure 7: China's 23 provinces, autonomous regions, administrative municipalities and Special Administrative Regions (SAR).

http://www.uigarden.net/upload/Articles/elaineA/10myths_03.jpg
TRAD101
Languages & Cultures of East Asia

Historical Background & Confucius
Confucius

- Born in 551 B.C.
- died in 479 B.C.
Confucius

Family name = Kong (Kung)
Personal name = Qiu
Writing name = Zhong-ni
Kung Fu-Tzu (Kong Fu-zi) = “Master Kong”
“Confucius” = Latinization of “Kung Fu-zi”
In today’s China
China before Confucius

- The “Yellow Emperor”
- Xia and Shang Dynasties
  - 2070 B.C. ~ 1046 B.C.
- Zhou Dynasty
  - 1046 B.C. ~ 256 B.C.
- “Spring & Autumn” period
  - 770 B.C. ~ 476 B.C.
China During the Warring States Period & Life of Confucius

[Map of China during the Warring States Period and the life of Confucius around 500 BC.]

- CHINA
- DURING THE WARRING STATES PERIOD
- AND THE LIFE OF CON FU TZU
- CA. 500 B.C.

- TI TRIBES
- YEN
- CH'I
- LU
- SUNG
- CH'U
- CHIN
- CHEU
- KSU CHEN TS'AI
- WU
- JUNG TRIBES
- MAN TRIBES
- YUEH TRIBES

CH'AO HSIEN TRIBES
The ancient State of Lu

That’s where Confucius was born & spent most of his life.
Confucianism originated in China, but its influence spread to Korea & Japan over the centuries.
Life of Confucius

- Born in 551 BC in Lu State (Shandong Province now);
- His father died before he was three, and his mother raised him;
- “When young, I was without rank and in humble circumstances.” (吾少也賤);
- “On reaching the age of fifteen, I bent my mind to learning.” (吾十有五而志於學);
- He got married around 20 and had held several insignificant government posts;
Life of Confucius

- His knowledge and reputation attracted disciples to follow him;
- 3000 students, among whom 72 were famous;
- In his early fifties, his five-year outstanding administration made Lu become a model state;
- Because of the fear that Confucius will be a threat to his throne, Lu Duke fired Confucius.
Then Confucius started his thirteen-year journey around all other states of China. —“at fifty I perceived the divine mission.” （五十知天命）

Confucius was invited to return when the formal ruler of Lu died, yet he dedicated his rest of life to teach and edit the classics of China’s past, including *The Song, The Spring and Autumn Annals, The Appendix of the Book of Change*

He died in 479 BC, at the age of 72. He was praised by later generals as the the Primary Teacher & Highest Saint. (至聖先師).
The primary sources of Confucian philosophy

Confucius claimed to derive his teachings from “the Ancients,” whose wisdom is embodied in “The Five Classics” (Wu Jing)

- The *Yi Jing* ("Book of Changes")
- The *Shu Jing* ("Book of History")
- The *Shi Jing* ("Book of Odes" [poetry])
- The *Li Ji* ("Book of Rites")
- The *Chunqiu* ("Spring & Autumn Annals")
Four Basic Confucianism Classics through the Oriental History

- The Great Learning
- The Universal Order
- Mencius
- The Analects
The Analects

- Not written by Confucius, but a selection of conversations between Confucius & his disciples or between Confucius & rules of several feudal states
- 20 chapters
- Focus on practicalities of interpersonal relationships & personal cultivation

(Now let’s take a look at the handout …)