

DYNASTIC CYCLE

- 1 New ruler unites China, establishes a new dynasty, and gains the MANDATE OF HEAVEN.
- 2 Under a new dynasty, China achieves prosperity.
- 3 The population increases.
- 4 Corruption becomes rampant in the imperial court, and the empire begins to enter decline and instability.
- 5 A natural disaster wipes out farm land. The disaster normally would not have been a problem; however, together with the corruption and overpopulation it causes famine.
- 6 The famine causes the population to rebel and starts a civil war.
- 7 The ruler loses the Mandate of Heaven.
- 8 The population decreases because of the violence.
- 9 China goes through a warring states period.
- 10 One state emerges victorious.
- 11 The state starts a new empire.
- 12 The empire gains the Mandate of Heaven.

