

Writing

So far, you've been writing simple paragraphs of four or five sentences. But what if you have more to say? Most paragraphs don't just list things; they inform you about those things or explain something about them. Today we're going to practice adding details to our paragraphs to make them more informative—and more interesting.

Refer back to pages 126-127 in *Chinese Myths*, and then complete the sentence stems in the graphic organizer below to expand your draft with more information about the main teaching of each of the Three Ways.

The Three Ways

Topic Sentence	The “Three Ways” are the three main religious and philosophical systems of ancient China.
Body Sentences	Taoism was founded by Laozi. Taoism emphasizes... <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> Confucianism was founded by Confucius. Confucius taught the importance of... <hr/> <hr/>

Lesson 4

Checklist

- Review “Chinese Beliefs” on pages 126-127 of the text.
- Complete the dictation.
- Complete the writing assignment.

Study Notes

None

Reading

Review the reading with your student and help them locate additional information in the text to complete the writing assignment.

Vocabulary

None

Dictation

Ancient Chinese people had huge respect for their elders and placed great value on ancestor worship.

Writing

Informational Paragraph: Expansion

This lesson asks students to expand their informational paragraph about Chinese beliefs by adding facts about each tradition. Your child may choose different details, but a completed graphic organizer should look like this (student work appears in **bold type**):

The Three Ways

Topic Sentence	The “Three Ways” are the three main religious and philosophical systems of ancient China.
Body Sentences	Taoism was founded by Laozi. Taoism emphasizes the connection of humans with nature and encourages the pursuit of inner peace. Confucianism was founded by Confucius. Confucius taught the importance of personal development, family values, good governing, and social harmony. Buddhism was founded by Shakyamuni Buddha. The goal of Buddhist practice is to achieve full enlightenment and to break free from the cycle of life, death, and rebirth.
Concluding Sentence	Along with ancestor worship, aspects of these three traditions appear in the myths of China.

At this stage, it is fine if your student borrows vocabulary and syntax—even whole sentences—directly from the text. They will practice providing citations later in this unit.