

# Confucius Worksheet

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Confucius was a Chinese philosopher or teacher whose ideas are still very important in China today. He was born in the Lu region (area) of China in 551 BCE. When he was born, his name was Kong Qui.

During the time that Confucius was growing up, the Chinese people were unhappy with their government. People were trying to find ways to be happy and were not being respectful to Chinese traditions and to each other. Confucius believed that he could help make China a wonderful place again.

Confucius began writing and teaching his ideas about how to be a good person and a good teacher. He believed in three things: *ren*, self-discipline, and integrity. He believed these were traditional Chinese values and that the Chinese people needed to remember to live by them once again.



“*Ren*” means loving others. Confucius believed that being kind to other people and thinking about what other people want and need was critical (important) to a happy society. A “society” is the group of people who live in the same town or country. The rest of Confucius’s ideas were based on the idea of *ren*.

The second important idea that Confucius taught was self-discipline. “Self-discipline” means controlling yourself and your emotions. This means not giving yourself everything you want. Being self-disciplined means understanding that there are things you need and things you want and they are often different. Confucius taught that it was best to be self-disciplined and only take things you need.

The third idea that was important in Confucius’s teachings was integrity. “Integrity” means honesty. It means telling the truth and doing what you say that you will do. It also means treating other people the way that you would like to be treated. Confucius taught that, “what you do not wish for yourself, do not do to others.”

Confucius believed that all people should live with these three principles or ideas. He believed that leaders or rulers should especially follow these principles and lead the people by example. If the ruler practiced *ren*, self-discipline, and integrity, then the people could look to him and say that

they wanted to live like that, too. If the leader did not follow these principles, it would be very difficult to make the people follow him.

Education was also very important to Confucius. He believed that a teacher's most important job was to teach his students to live with integrity. Confucius believed that there were six skills that students should learn: archery (shooting arrows), calligraphy (writing), math, music, chariot driving (driving a horse and cart), and ritual (performing traditions). He believed that knowing how to do these six things would help students live with integrity.



Confucius wrote many books but also edited classic Chinese books. His ideas became very well known and respected but only after his death. Confucius's teachings became the official (government recognized) philosophy of China. Today, the people of China think of Confucius as one of the most important teachers of all time.

## Confucius Worksheet – Exercises

### A. Answer the following questions.

1. What were the three ideas that Confucius taught?

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2. What was a teacher's most important job, according to Confucius?

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3. What are the six skills a student should learn?

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### B. Rewrite the following sentences as negative sentences, yes/no questions, WH-questions (using the underlined word) and tag questions.

**Examples for the sentence "He was born in the Lu region."**

**Negative:** He was not born in the Lu region.

**Yes/No Question:** Was he born in the Lu region?

**WH-Question:** Where was he born?

**Tag Question:** He was born in the Lu region, wasn't he?

1. *Ren* means loving others.

**Negative:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Yes/No Question:** \_\_\_\_\_

**WH-Question:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Tag Question:** \_\_\_\_\_

2. Confucius taught self-discipline.

**Negative:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Yes/No Question:** \_\_\_\_\_

**WH-Question:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Tag Question:** \_\_\_\_\_

3. He believed that leaders should lead by example.

**Negative:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Yes/No Question:** \_\_\_\_\_

**WH-Question:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Tag Question:** \_\_\_\_\_



## Confucius Worksheet – Answers

### A. Answer the following questions.

1. What were the three ideas that Confucius taught?

The three ideas Confucius taught were ren, self-discipline, and integrity.

2. What was a teacher's most important job, according to Confucius?

A teacher's most important job was to teach students to live with integrity.

3. What are the six skills a student should learn?

Students should learn archery, calligraphy, math, music, chariot driving, and ritual.

### B. Rewrite the following sentences as negative sentences, yes/no questions, WH-questions (using the underlined word) and tag questions.

**Examples for the sentence "He was born in the Lu region."**

**Negative:** He was not born in the Lu region.

**Yes/No Question:** Was he born in the Lu region?

**WH-Question:** Where was he born?

**Tag Question:** He was born in the Lu region, wasn't he?

1. *Ren* means loving others.

**Negative:** Ren does not mean loving others.

**Yes/No Question:** Does ren mean loving others?

**WH-Question:** What does ren mean?

**Tag Question:** Ren means loving others, doesn't it?

2. Confucius taught self-discipline.

**Negative:** Confucius didn't teach self-discipline.

**Yes/No Question:** Did Confucius teach self-discipline?

**WH-Question:** What did Confucius teach?

**Tag Question:** Confucius taught self-discipline, didn't he?

3. He believed that leaders should lead by example.

**Negative:** He didn't believe that leaders should lead by example.

**Yes/No Question:** Did he believe that leaders should lead by example?

**WH-Question:** Who did he believe should lead by example?

**Tag Question:** He believed that leaders should lead by example, didn't he?



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