

FOCUS READING – DAOISM, A CHINESE RELIGION

DIRECTIONS While reading this information on Daoism, **BULLDOG** the text. **Box** the main idea of each paragraph. **Underline** key phrases and important details that tell about or support the main idea. **Locate** and circle any words you don't know. **Lift** out key words and phrases by writing them in the side column. **DO** Give a summary statement at the end; your summary should include the main idea from each paragraph. Paste these pages on left pages of your ISN. On the right, write your summary.

INTRODUCTION Daoism or 道教 (dào jiào) is one of China's major religions. The primary belief is in learning and practicing "The Way" (Dao) which is the ultimate truth to the universe. Also known as Taoism, Daoism traces its roots to 6th Century BCE Chinese philosopher Laozi, who wrote the iconic book *Dao De Jing*.

<p>conflicts: disagreements</p>	<p>CONFLICTS WITH BUDDHISM: Daoism grew quickly from 200–700 CE. During this period, Daoism faced competition from the growing spread of Buddhism, which came to China via traders and missionaries from India. Unlike Buddhism, Daoists do not believe that life is suffering. Daoism believes that life is generally happy but that it should be lived with balance and virtue. The two religions often butted heads when both vied to become the official religion of the Imperial Court. Under the Song and Ming dynasties, Confucianism borrowed some beliefs and influences from both Buddhism and Daoism to become a new philosophy, Neo-Confucianism. In this way, pieces of each are practiced in China, though none purely according to their original teachings.</p>
<p>vied: fought, struggled</p>	
<p>philosophy: ideas, viewpoints, thinking, way of life</p>	
<p>interdependence: rely on each other</p>	<p>BELIEFS: The Dao: The ultimate truth is the Dao or The Way. It is the basis of all living things, it governs nature, and it is a method to live by. Daoists do not believe in extremes, instead focusing on the interdependence of things. There is no total good or evil or negative and positive. The Yin–Yang symbol exemplifies this view. The black represents the Yin the white represents the Yang. Yin is also associated with weakness and passivity and Yang with strength and activity. All nature is the balance between the two.</p>
<p>exemplifies: is a good example of</p>	
<p>immortality: alive forever</p>	<p>Immortality: Historically, the highest achievement of a Daoist is to achieve immortality through breathing, meditation, helping others and the use of elixirs. In early Daoist practices, priests experimented with minerals to find an elixir for immortality, laying the groundwork for ancient Chinese chemistry. One of these inventions was gunpowder, which was discovered while searching for an elixir.</p>
<p>elixirs: liquid medicine</p>	

On the right, write a summary statement using the main idea from each paragraph. Also, draw and color a processing illustration showing the mixing of Confucianism, Buddhism, and Daoism to make Neo-Confucianism.