**General Zixu’s letter to Queen Victoria asking for her to stop the trade of opium.**

Madam,

Two centuries have elapsed since permission to trade in our nation has been granted to you and formerly your predecessors. You will observe with more than satisfaction the consequent financial compensation to much of which the wealth and power of your nation is owed.

It is therefore with the deepest deploration for us to note that our clemency has been repaid with viciousness. It has been brought to our attention that certain traders, predominantly of British nationality, have for some time been involved in the smuggling of opium into our nation. Recently the situation has escalated to alarming dimensions demanding the establishment of a special commission to investigate into and deal with the matter. As head of the commission, I have been directed to inform you that such on-goings are highly objectionable morally and legally and may eventually lead to the forfeit of your trading rights.

The well known detrimental effects of opium addiction to the individual, his family and society need no emphasis; this is obvious from your nation's strict ban of opium consumption. The administration of our nation agree with yours that no responsible government would not take great pains to ensure the health, whether physical, psychological or social, of its citizens. I would go further to voice that no moral government will take measures to wreck the health of any society, belonging to its nation or otherwise. Promoters of opium consumption, mindful merely of monetary gain, are heartlessly oblivious of their victims' well-being; they are considered highly immoral in our culture, a view we expect shared by your nation… We have received reports that the bulk of opium plantations, exclusively of British (ownership), is concentrated in regions of India which is under the direct control of your nation. I would eagerly move that you charge the immediate closure of these tillage and related factories of evil, to be replaced perpetually by farms of vegetations of nutrition and establishments to manufacture utilities of necessities and to enforce legislature to prevent and punish re-emergence of such evil structures.

From the legal standpoint, I wish to reiterate that as from today consumption, as well as smuggling and trafficking in opium, are felonies in our nation punishable with death penalty. An opium dealer is none other than a murderer, but on a much greater scale, as it is numerous human lives that he takes away while the ordinary murderer kills only one or a few.

I wish now to direct your attention to the trade situation of your nation. You will not argue that the balance is one of unilateral profit in favour of you. As for merchandise brought into China by traders from your nation, permit me to briefly point out that they are dispensable items of no practical (or even harmful, if we include, as we should, opium into our present conversation), functions. Justice is ministered with leniency in our nation. We have considered the petition of Elliott, Consular Officer of your nation to grant a period of grace and in view of the sincerity for remorse displayed by British traders in surrendering twenty thousand chests of opium, we are delighted to extend a grace period of one year and six months to cargo ships setting sail from England and India respectively, on condition that their contraband goods be surrendered upon disembarkation at a Chinese Port.

Looking forward to receiving your immediate reply regarding details of measures to be taken by you to interrupt further smuggling of opium into our nation,

Yours Faithfully,

*LIN* Zixu  (signed)

NAME: DATE: BLOCK:

1. According to this letter what steps were being taken by China to stop the trade of Opium?
2. How were drug dealers viewed during this time? Compare that with how we view them in the United States.
3. How did Opium affect the people of China? How is this similar to the video we watched at the start of class with Baltimore City?
4. What was the punishment of being an Opium Dealer in China? Why so harsh?
5. How did Lin view the British goods that were being traded in China?
6. Why do you think he wrote to Queen Victoria?