

Ways of the World: A Global History with Sources for the AP® Course
AP® Skills Workshop Activity Handout: Analyzing Primary Sources: Content
Chapter 15: Cultural Transformations

Name _____
Date _____ Class _____

1. Activity: Identifying Evidence in a Written Primary Source. Read the “Papal Decree Banning Chinese Rites” (Source 15.4A on page 678). Then, read the possible pieces of evidence below and circle the one you think is the best. Remember that your job is to use the content of the document, along with its sourcing—the historical situation in which it was created—to provide evidence to substantiate a claim. Here is the claim: *The Jesuits viewed ancestor reverence as compatible with Christianity and Confucian ceremonies as civil rites rather than religious observances, but many European opponents understood these Chinese practices as religious in nature and therefore incompatible with orthodox Christian teachings.*

- A. The pope, after hearing the debate between the Dominicans and the Jesuits, decreed that Chinese interpretations of Christianity generally and Catholicism specifically would no longer be allowed.
- B. The pope, after intervening in the argument between two Catholic sects, decided he needed to make clear what was and what was not considered acceptable in the Chinese version of Catholicism. Generally, anything that seemed to water down the important tenets of Catholic teaching was forbidden. Anything that did not seem to water down Catholicism did not matter.
- C. Pope Clement XI listed several specific words that were to be used by Chinese Christians, as well as specific items that could no longer be displayed in churches.

Looking at the two statements that you did not choose, do they contain any information that you think should be added to the statement you did choose? Would you add any evidence from the letter to the statement you chose? If so what?

2. Activity: Identifying Evidence in a Visual Primary Source. Look at the illustration of the Annunciation (Source 15.3 on page 677). Of the terms below, circle those that best describe what you see. Then, create a statement about Christian syncretism in China based on the words you chose. Make sure you source the evidence to help guide your inferences.

hierarchical	enlightenment	Gabriel	serene
education	simple	Chinese	contemplative
scholar-gentry	Mary	Buddhism	Holy Ghost

Annunciation

Statement: _____

