

Read the Chinese story and answer the following questions.

Yu the Great Tamed the Waters

1. Long, long ago, people suffered a lot from great floods. Sometimes they were so severe that even the houses collapsed, and crops and livestock were destroyed. Many people were left homeless and forced to flee to mountaintops. People's lives were hard at that time.
2. Emperor Yao, who had always been known for his benevolence, did not want the people to suffer, so he appointed a distant relative named Gun to tackle the floods. Gun did everything possible to stop the ruthless floods. He spent nine years building embankments to block the raging water. However, this traditional way didn't work well. Powerful floodwater breached the dike and brought disaster to the people. As the days passed, the floods continued. Therefore, the successor Emperor Shun appointed Gun's son Yu as the commander-in-chief of flood control. Yu was clever, witty, hard-working, serious and responsible. He was also cordial and amiable to others. Having faith in his words, he was deeply loved by the people.
3. Yu understood that apart from blocking the flood, he should also do a good job in diverting the rivers. He led the people to go over the mountains, erecting wooden pillars as markers to measure the location and characteristics of the mountains and rivers. He also dredged and widened the rivers so as to divert the floods to the sea in the east.
4. No matter how hard and tiring the work was, Yu did his best to control the water so that the people could have a stable life. He always reminded himself to be frugal, and would rather live in a shabby room, and spend all the savings on water control. After getting married for four days, he hurriedly left his beautiful wife and continued to fight side by side with his companions. During the years he was away from home, Yu had passed by his home three times, but he didn't allow himself to go inside and meet his family for fear of delaying his enormous task, even when he heard the wailings of his newborn son.
5. After years of hardship, Yu finally succeeded in opening roads to mountains and dredging big rivers. Not only were the floods stopped, but even the arid areas were also nourished by the rivers. The earth restored its prosperous scene, and the people finally enjoyed good years. Yu made selfless dedication to the people and became a hero highly admired and supported by them. They even called him Yu the Great to express their profound respect for him. Being impressed with the result of Yu's flood control techniques and his attitude towards work, Emperor Shun chose Yu to be the successor to the throne after him. Yu the Great then founded the first dynasty in Chinese history: the Xia*.

*The Xia Dynasty refers to a dynasty in ancient Chinese history that ruled from about 2070 BC to 1600 BC.

