Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Hour\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*The Art of War* Discovery Activity

HWL

Mrs. Luehrs

Sun Tzu, 孫子 (544-496 BC) was the author of The Art of War (孫子兵法), a greatly influential ancient Chinese book on military strategy. He was also one of the earliest realists in international relations theory.

The only surviving source on the life of Sun Tzu is the biography written by the historian Sima Qian in the 2nd century BC. Sun Tzu was said to live in the state of Wu in the 6th century BC, and therefore a contemporary of Confucius, one of the great Chinese thinkers of ancient times. According to tradition, Sun Tzu was a member of the shih or the landless Chinese aristocracy who had lost their dukedoms during the consolidation of the Spring and Autumn Period. Unlike most shih who were travelling academics, Sun Tzu worked as a mercenary. He was later employed by King Helu of Wu as a general approximately in 512 BC after finishing his military treatise, The Art of War.

Since then, the kingdom of Wu, previously considered a semi-barbaric state, has become the most powerful state by conquering Chu, one of the most powerful states in the Spring and Autumn Period. Sun Tzu suddenly vanished when King Helu finally occupied Chu. Therefore, his date of death remained unknown.

In order to understand the connection of this theory, you must relate it to the ideas of Language, Culture and Power. As you read each chapter and prepare your presentation, consider how this lens affects the message that Sun Tzu was sharing with his people.

Objective: To create a presentation about a specific section in *The Art of War* and lead a class discussion that will last one class period.

* I and II
* III and IV
* IX
* V and VI
* VII
* VIII and X
* XI
* XII and XIII

Make sure that you can actively and accurately connect this work to others that we have read this year, or those from previous years, or life in general. You must also defend how this text is appropriate for Honors World Literature.