

1. Without trees to absorb rainfall and hold the loose soil in the place, flooding and erosion result.	2. More and more farmers find themselves unable to pay their taxes.	3. Palace intrigues involving the various court factions paralyze the government and prevent it from dealing with the many problems faced by the empire.	4. In retaliation, the northern Xiongnu faction attacks both the southern faction and the Han.
5. Wealthy landowners get richer because poor farmers are getting poorer. The gap between rich and poor grows.	6. As farms become smaller, they also become less profitable.	7. Han officials pay the Xiongnu confederation of nomadic tribes to not attack Chinese lands or interfere with trade along the Silk Road.	8. The rich trade along the Silk Road begins to bring unknown contagious diseases into China. Population drops from 60 million to 45 million.
9. Facing multiple raiders, the Chinese must either pay all of them to refrain from attacking, or pay some nomadic groups to attack the others.	10. Wealthy landowners and their vassals do not have to pay taxes.	11. Peasants lose faith in the Han government.	12. Han generals are becoming more independent and harder for the government to control.
13. The rapid growth of population in earlier Han times gradually results in the deforestation of large areas of land.	14. In 153CE a swarm of locusts strips fields of leaves and fruit.	15. Many poor farmers give over their small farms to wealthy landowners and become the landowner's vassals.	16. Other tribes earlier controlled by the Xiongnu are also no longer being paid their share of the Chinese payment.
17. The tradition of dividing land equally among all sons gradually reduces the average size of farms.	18. If the Xiongnu and others don't get paid, they attack.	19. Natural disasters plague the Han.	20. In the late 2 nd century CE, the Han imperial court becomes seriously divided into competing factions, all trying to gain power over the government. The Han emperors are unable to control these factions.
21. In 153CE the now silt-choked Yellow River floods and changes course, sending hundreds of thousands of people fleeing for their lives.	22. In 51CE, the Xiongnu Confederacy splits into two factions. The southern faction nearest the Chinese border takes the payment intended for the entire confederation.	23	24

25	26	27	28
----	----	----	----