

Bishop Bronescombe C of E Primary School

The Shang Dynasty Year 5/6



Key Vocabulary

Word	Meaning
Oracle Bone	Usually the shoulder bones of animals or the belly shells of turtles. Dug up centuries later by farmers, they were thought to be dragon bones and were ground up to be used in traditional Chinese medicine. In 1889, Wang Yirong and his friend Liu E worked out that the 'dragon bones' had been used in ancient ceremonies.
Ruler	A person who exercises control or dominion over an area.
Emperor	A ruler of an empire.
Ancestors	A person from whom someone else has descended.
Ideograms	A character symbolising something rather than a group of letters.
Tomb	An underground area for burying the more wealthy when they've died.
Burial	The practise of burying a dead body.
Conflict	A serious disagreement or argument.
Artefact	an object made by a human being, typically one of cultural or historical interest

Background Information

During this half-term, we are going to be looking at The Shang Dynasty, a civilisation within Ancient China. In this, we will be focusing on what The Shang Dynasty was, what the settlements were like at this time as well as their livelihoods. As well as this, we will spend time looking at their writing style and we will make deductions about different Shang artefacts.

What your child should already know:

The children would have spent time within LKS2 looking at Ancient Egypt, as a study of an Ancient Civilisation. They would have worked to:

- continue to develop a chronological knowledge of British, local and world history.
- note connections, contrasts and trends over time and develop use of historical terms.
- construct informed responses that involved thoughtful selection and organisation of relevant historical information.
- understand how our knowledge of the past is constructed from a range of sources.

By the end of the unit your child should be able to:

- Explain the area of The Shang Dynasty, as well as how dynasties are changed and overturned.
- Explain the importance of farming at that time.
- Understand and explain that lots of our historical knowledge comes from archaeological studies of Primary Sources of information.



Timeline (Key events in chronological order for a history topic)

1600 BC	1400-1200 BC	1250 BC	1200 BC	1075 BC	1046 BC
The Shang dynasty is founded when Cheng Tang overthrows the Xia dynasty. He has the support of 40 other kingdoms and begins to rule the Yellow River area.	The earliest found examples of Chinese writing are dated to this period. Weapons, tools and religious vessels are also made.	King Wu Ding begins his reign.	Fu Hao, one of the wives of King Wu Ding, dies. Her tomb is the only intact Shang tomb that has been found to date and was found with over 2000 artefacts.	The last Shang king, Di Xin, begins his reign.	Cruelty and high taxes cause the slaves to revolt. Di Xin, the last Shang ruler is overthrown and replaced by the Chou dynasty.

