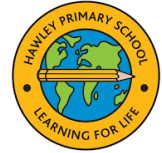


Year 5/6 Sensational Shang – The First Chinese Superpower



This family ruled over 1000 years ago, heralding the Bronze Age in China from c1600 to c1046 BC.

They made important discoveries in writing, maths, art, and warfare. These sophisticated leaders inspired the people of China to be successful and creative. Our history-centred topic learning will explore this innovative society.



Amazing Facts:

- The Shang Dynasty was the first dynasty for which we have written and archaeological evidence.
- The first ruler was a military leader called Cheng Tang.
- There were thirty Shang emperors.
- A Shang week lasted 10 days, a month 30 days and a year 360 days. It was based on the lunar month.
- Fu Hao's tomb contained 16 sacrificed slaves.

Religion

People in the Shang Dynasty worshipped the king of the gods: Shangdi. They also prayed to the lesser gods who controlled the sun, wind, rain, and moon. Offerings and sacrifices were made.

They believed that the soul lived after death, so they buried objects, including food and drink, for the dead to use in the afterlife.



Jade

Made from the mineral nephrite, Jade is a rare stone which is hard and difficult to carve. Jade was used for jewellery, ornaments, weapons, tools, and ritual objects.



Jade plaque c3500-c2000 BC

Oracle bones

Made from sheep or cow bone, Shamans or kings wrote questions on sheep or cow bones to ask for guidance from the deities. (Turtle shell was also used.)


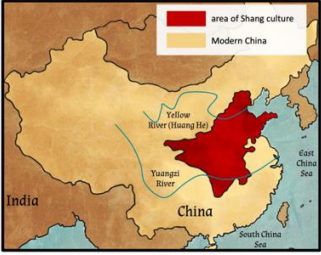
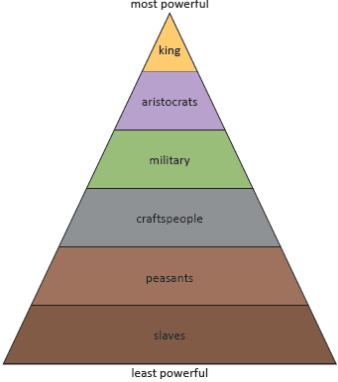


Bronze

The Bronze Age in Britain lasted from around 2500-700BC. In China the Bronze Age started slightly later than in other parts of the world, however the techniques used were different. Smelting copper, tin, and lead to make bronze, the people of the Shang Dynasty developed Bronzeworking skills from 2000 BC creating ritual vessels and weapons for warriors using piece-mold casting. This is where a model of the eventual bronze

Glossary

- Ancestor** – a person from whom someone is descended
- Archers** – a person who shoots with bow and arrows
- China** – a country in East Asia
- Deity** – a god or goddess
- Emperor** – the sovereign of an empire
- Empire** – states or countries ruled over by an emperor
- Legacy** - something left or handed down by a predecessor
- Millet** - a group of small-seeded grasses, wildly grown around the world as cereal crops or grains
- Oracle bones** – bones used to communicate with ancestors and gods
- Ritual** – a ceremony with actions performed in an order
- Sacrifice** – killing an animal or person and offering them to the gods
- Shaman** – a priest who is believed to communicate with spirits
- Smelt** – to melt metals at a high temperature
- Society** – people living together in a community
- Wattle and daub** – interwoven sticks and twigs covered in mud or clay
- Warfare** – engagement in conflict

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Archaeologists are still finding more and more artefacts every day, and each time they learn a bit more about the Shang Dynasty. 	<p>Silk Silk (made from threads produced by silkworms) was a highly desirable fabric in the Shang Dynasty.</p>	<p>piece is carved out of some other material then coated in clay.</p>  <p><i>Dagger Axe – Shang Dynasty</i></p>	 <p>Power There was a social hierarchy in the Shang Dynasty, with the king at the top and peasants and slaves at the bottom.</p> 
<p>Warfare Warfare was a way of life in the Shang Dynasty. The king led the army. Foot soldiers were armed with bronze daggers and axes, and archers used powerful bows made from layers of animal bone, tendons, and wood. Two-wheeled chariots, pulled by a pair of horses, carried an archer, a spearman, and a charioteer. The chariots allowed the soldiers to travel quickly over long distances. Soldiers wore protective armour and bronze helmets.</p>	<p>Fu Hao Fu Hao was a wife of the Shang king, King Wu Ding. She became the Shang Dynasty's most influential military leader and commanded an army of 13,000 men. She was in her own tomb, surrounded by important objects including ritual vessels and weapons.</p>	<p>Everyday life People in the Shang Dynasty lived in cities, towns and villages. Wealthy people lived in large houses made from wattle and daub, while poorer people lived in small houses made by digging into soft rock. The oldest man in each household was the head of his family. People had a wide variety of jobs, such as farmers, miners, bronzeworkers, craftspeople, soldiers, and government officials. People ate rice, millet and fish and drank beer and yellow rice wine. Wealthy people ate a lot of meat.</p>	
<p>End of the Dynasty The last Shang Dynasty king, Di Xin, was a cruel dictator. He was known as the 'tyrant.' Di Xin was very unpopular with his people. Finally, c1046 BC, an army from the neighbouring Zhou state invaded and defeated Di Xin. The Shang Dynasty was over, and the Zhou Dynasty had begun.</p>		<p>Legacy of Ancient China – How does this affect us today?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ancient Chinese beliefs, such as Confucianism, are still followed and the imperial system lasted for over 2000 years. Silk and jade objects are still luxury items. The characters used in Chinese writing are over 5000 years old. Chinese inventions, such as the magnetic compass and paper are used all over the world. 	

