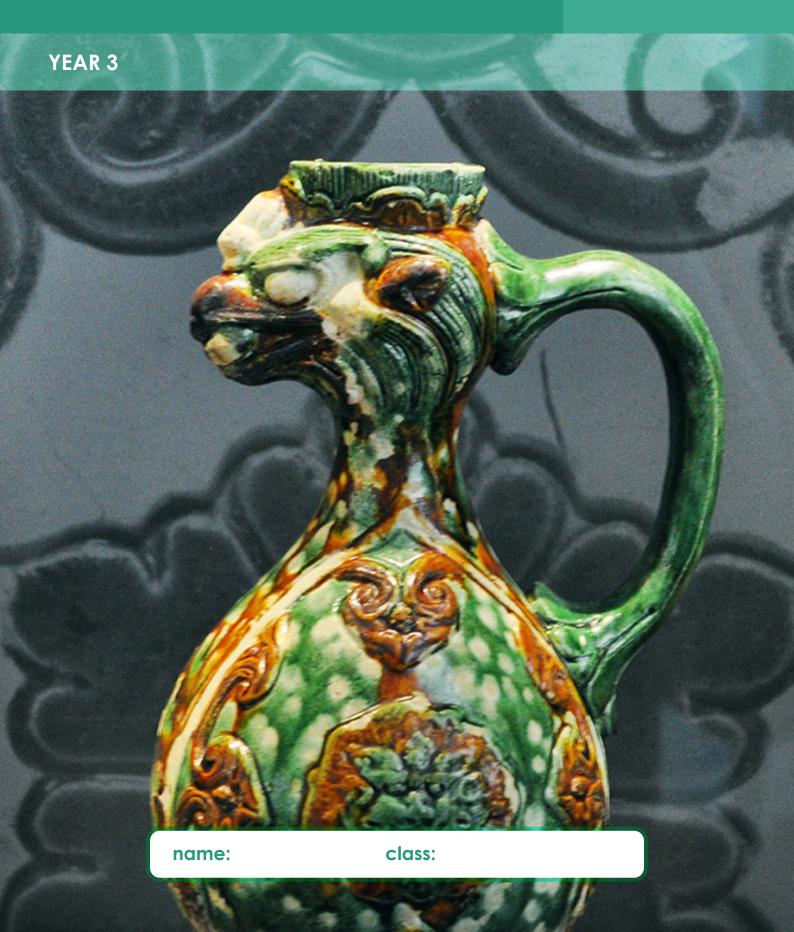
SHANG DYNASTY





Knowledge Organiser • Shang Dinasty • Year 3

	Vocabulary
Archaeologist	Someone who finds and studies buried objects to find out about the past.
Artefacts	An object created by a human, usually found much later after it was made.
Bronze	The first metal widely used by humans, made by melting and mixing copper and tin.
Cowrie shells	Small sea shells which were used by the Shang when trading as a kind of money.
Dynasty	A family that rule a country or state for many generations.
Emperor	A king or ruler of an empire or country.
General	The leader of an army.
Jade	A mineral (rock) that is green in colour. Used in lots of Asian art.
Oracle bones	Animal bones or turtle shells with Chinese writing, used to try and predict the future.
Yellow River	A major river running across the north east of China.

Important People					
Tang	First emperor of Shang. Very popular and successful.				
Fu Hao	A great military leader and warrior. Also, wife of Wu Ding.				
Wu Ding	A very successful emperor, who ruled for 58 years.				
Zhou	The last emperor of the Shang Dynasty. A tyrant. Born 'Xin'.				
Daji	The cruel wife of Zhou, who made up awful punishments.				

Timeline of Events						
2400 BCE	The Bronze Age begins in China.					
1600 BCE	King Tang overthrows the last emperor of the Xia dynasty. The Shang Dynasty begins.					
1300 BCE	The capital of the Shang Dynasty moves to Yin					
1250 BCE - 1192 BCE	Emperor Wu Ding reigns over the Shang Dynasty					
	General Fu Hao leads lots of successful military campaigns.					
1250 BCE -1150 BCE	The 'I-Ching' (Book of Changes), a Chinese classic, is written.					
1046 BCE	The Shang Dynasty is defeated					
1898	Antique dealers notice Chinese writing on Oracle Bones.					
1928	Excavations begin in Anyang; many Shang artefacts are found.					
1976	The tomb of Fu Hao is discovered in.					



Chinese Dynasties

ţ	姒 Xia	>子 Shang	〉姬 Zhou	〉嬴 Qin	〉劉 Han	Six	〉楊 Sui	>李 Tang	Five)趙 Song	Yuan)朱 Ming	Qing
		1600 BCE - 1046 BCE			202 BCE - 220 CE	220 - 589	581 - 618	618 - 907	907 - 960	960 - 1279	1271 - 1368	1368 - 1644	1636 - 1912

Lesson Question	You will learn	Learning Review
How do we know about the Shang Dynasty?	When the Shang Dynasty existed.Where the Shang Dynasty was.The different things people left behind	
How did the Shang Dynasty begin?	 Who the first leader of the Shang was. How the Shang civilisation was so successful. 	
What was life like for people in the Shang Dynasty?	What people ate.What people did for work,How life was different for rich and poor people.	
What did the Shang people believe	 The religions of the Shang people. The importance of ancestors to the Shang people. What the 'Mandate of Heaven' was. 	
Who was Fu Hao?	The role that Fu Hao played in the Shang Dynasty.What we can learn from a tomb.	
How did the Shang Dynasty end?	 The achievements of the Shang Dynasty. The role of King Zhou in the end of the Shang Dynasty. 	

Lesson 01

How do we know about the Shang Dynasty?





2. Write down everything that you already know about the Shang Dynasty.

Term	Definition
Bronze	A metal made by melting and mixing tin and copper.
Civilisation	When a big group of people live and work together in an organised way.
Archaeologist	Someone who finds and studies buried objects to find out about the past.
Artefact	An object created by a human, usually found much later after it was made.
Source	A source of information that tells you about the time you are studying.
Oracle bones	Bones with Chinese questions written on, used to try and predict the future.

A Bronze Age Civilisation

The Stone Age came to an end when humans discovered metal. The first metal widely used by humans was called bronze. You can make bronze by melting and mixing two other meals: copper and tin. Melting and mixing metals is called smelting. It is difficult to do because you have to get the metal very, very hot. In Britain, we started to use bronze about 4000 years ago, in the year 2000 BCE.



Some civilisations learnt how to make bronze before us. In China, for example, they learnt how to make bronze in 2400 BCE, about 400 years before us!



4. Why didn't the people in Ancient China tell the people in England how to make bronze?

So, the Shang dynasty was a Bronze Age civilisation and was very skilled at bronze craft. Like other metals, bronze doesn't rot away or break down very easily. That means that archaeologists can dig up bronze items and learn more about how people in the Shang Dynasty lived. These different objects that we find are sometimes called artefacts.

This isn't the only evidence that historians have about the Shang Dynasty. They were also the first people to use Chinese writing, which was sketched onto bones! Archaeologists also found these bones which tell us about what the Shang people might have believed.

Amazingly, we have found most of the artefacts from the Shang dynasty in the last hundred years. Archaeologists are still finding more and more artefacts every day, and each time they learn a bit more about the Shang Dynasty.



These artefacts are sources of information. They give us clues and act as evidence, so historians can try and work out what life was like in the past, and what events took place. Artefacts from the Shang dynasty also gave historians the first examples of Chinese writing.



The invention of writing in China.

Although the Shang were the first people in China to invent writing, the Chinese weren't the first civilisation to start writing.

We have evidence that in Mesopotamia the ancient Sumerians started writing around 3,500 BCE. That's two thousand years before the Chinese! The ancient Egyptians started writing sentences using hieroglyphics in 2,800 BCE. We don't know when people in Britain first started writing because nobody has found any written records from before the time that the Romans were here.

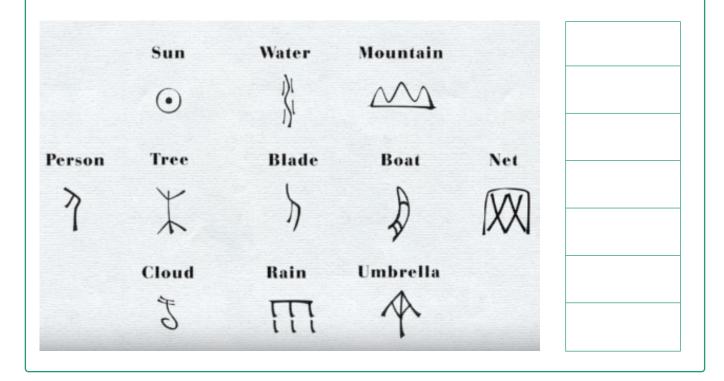
In England today, we have an alphabet, and we combine the letters to make words. Chinese writing isn't like that, they use a picture to represent a word. These pictures are called characters, and many of the characters used by the Shang are the same as those used in China today.

The Shang would write down all sorts of things on animal bones and turtle shells, called dragon bones or oracle bones. They would write about the emperors and wars, as well as how different people lived. This gives historians lots of useful information.



5. Look at these Shang characters. Can you make up your own story using these characters?

Remember, Chinese writing goes from top to bottom, not left to right like our writing. Oracle bones weren't the only artefacts archaeologists found from the Shang Dynasty.





6. Analyse (look very closely and carefully at) each artefact and see if you can guess what they are. Write the correct answer on the second line.

















Lesson 02

How did the Shang Dynasty begin?



Retrieval Practice

- 1. What kind of civilisation was the Shang Dynasty?
 - a. A stone age civilisation.
 - b. A bronze age civilisation.
 - c. An iron age civilisation.
 - d. A medieval civilisation.
- 2. What is this and why is it important?



3. The Shang Dynasty were the first people in the world to invent writing.

True / False

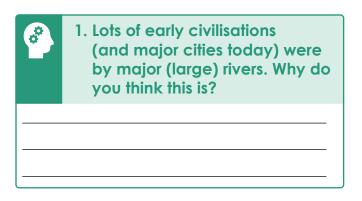
- 4. What is the technical term for any object which was made in the past?
 - a. A clue
 - b. A dagger
 - c. An artefact
 - d. An exhibit
- 5. Archaeologists have already discovered all of the different objects made during the Shang Dynasty.

True / False

Term	Definition
Population	The number of people who live in a country or particular area.
Dynasty	A family of rulers, where power is handed down from generation to generation.
Emperor	A ruler in charge of an empire, or lots of different states/countries.
Drought	A very dry period, where there is little or no rainfall for a long time.
Sacrifice	The act of killing an animal or person, or giving up a possession to a God.
Tribe	A small community or group of people who live together and work together.

Where was the Shang Dynasty?

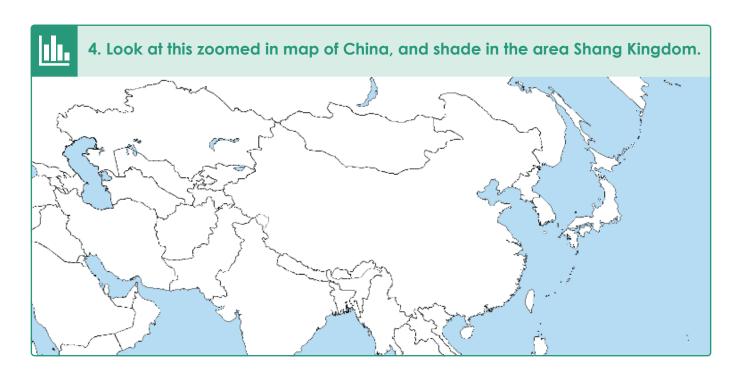
Before we learn about how the Shang Dynasty began, let's have a look at where it was. The country of China today is huge. It is the third biggest country in the world, and has the largest population of any country: 1.4 billion people live there (that's 1,415,045,928 people!). However, there were lots of civilisations in ancient China, and the Shang Dynasty covered a much smaller area than the country of China today. Most of the main cities in the Shang civilisation were near the Yellow River.







3. Look at the size of China compared to the UK. What do you notice?



What else was happening in the world?

Whilst the Shang Dynasty was happening in China, early civilisations were appearing all around the world. Some were more advanced than others, as all of these cultures independently learnt how to write, make things with metal and learn about the world. After hundreds of thousands of years in the stone age, human culture advanced extremely quickly.



- In Egypt the new Kingdom was beginning with famous pharaohs like Tutankhamen, Ramesses I and Ramesses II.
- Moses was born in Egypt about this time, before leading the Jews out of Egypt in the Exodus.
- The Olmec civilisation was thriving in Mexico.
- The temple at Delphi in Greece was being built, and the Kingdoms of Troy and Mycenaean-Greece fought the in trojan wars
- Meanwhile in Britain, the Celts had just learnt to make Bronze, and in 1600 BCE were finishing off Stonehenge.

The end of the Xia Dynasty

A dynasty means a kingdom made by one family, passed down from generation to generation. Before the Shang Dynasty, there was a powerful dynasty called the Xia. We don't know much about the Xia Dynasty. There final emperor of the Xia was called Jie, who did not rule the kingdoms well, and was unkind to his people.

In China, anyone could become emperor (or king) if they were popular and able. They believed that the stars and planet (the heavens) were spirits that shared information and could punish the people. An emperor needed the Mandate of Heaven to rule, which meant that they believed they were chosen to be in charge by the Gods.

In 1600, the ruler of the Shang people, Cheng Tang, rebelled against Emperor Jie. Tang was a brave warrior, and defeated Emperor Jie in the Battle of Mingtiao. The Xia Dynasty was over, and Tang was the new emperor of ancient China.

As well as being a great warrior, Tang believed that an emperor should look after his people. So, Tang lowered taxes, and reduced the number of people that had to become soldiers.

However, as soon as he became emperor there was a huge drought. Legend has it that Tang took himself to a temple, and offered to sacrifice himself to the supreme God if he made it rain. Soon after, the rains came, and Tang was celebrated by his people.

That wasn't the only heroic act that Tang is supposed to have done. He united the different tribes living around the Yellow River, and made special gold coins to give to poor families.

Many families had been forced to sell their children because of the drought, and they could use this gold coin to buy them back. Tang built a huge palace in Anyang, which became the capital of China.

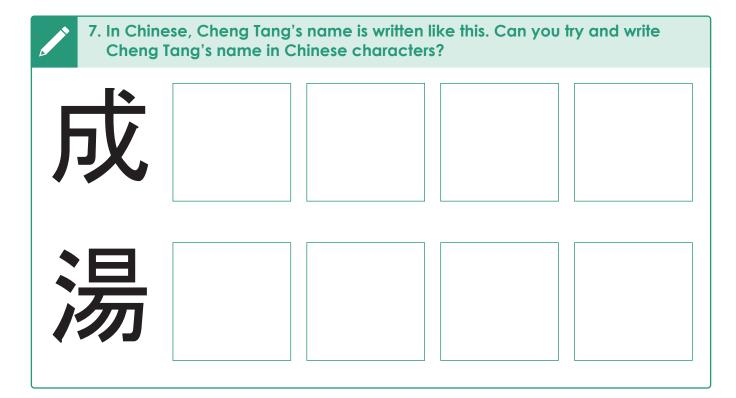


This portrait of Tang was painted during the Song Dynasty, two thousand years after the Shang Dynasty ended.

Q

5. Name two things that Tang was supposed have done which made him popular with the people of ancient China:

Q 6	. Place these events in order:
	Cheng Tang the leader of the Shang people, defeats the cruel emperor Jie.
1	The Xia Dynasty rules over the different areas and tribes of China.
	Tang offers himself as a sacrifice to the Gods.
	The Shang Dynasty is in charge of China.
	There is a huge drought.
	Tang lowers the taxes of the people.
	The drought ends as lots of rains falls on China. Crops can grow again.





What was life like for people in the Shang Dynasty?



Retrieval Practice

- 1. Who was the last emperor of the Xia Dynasty?
 - a. Emperor Jie
 - b. Emperor Xie
 - c. Emperor Tang
 - d. Emperor Shang
- 2. In what year did the Shang Dynasty begin?
- 3. "The evidence suggests Cheng Tang was a popular leader who looked after his people."

True / False

- 4. How do we know about the Shang dynasty?
 - a. From bronze artefacts buried under ground.
 - b. From gold artefacts buried underground.
 - c. From writing found on animal bones.
 - d. From writing found on parchment.
- 5. What is the name of someone who learns about the past by digging up and studying artefacts?

Term	Definition
Silt	Very fine sand, clay or mud which is carried along by a river.
Fertile	Land which has lots of nutrients in it and so is good to grow things in.
Social class	The imaginary group that you are in based on how much money you have.
Noble class	The richest people in ancient Chinese society (priests, warriors & landowners).
Working class	The poorest people in ancient Chinese society (farmers and craftsmen).
Thatched roof	A roof made by layering straw or dried plants, to keep heat in and rain out.
Shangdi	The supreme deity, or the highest God. Shang = 'above'; Di = emperor.
Priest	A religious leader. In ancient China, people believed priests could predict the future.

What food did people eat?

The Shang civilisation had built up around the Yellow River, which is the second longest river in all of Asia. It is called the yellow river because it has lots of silt in it which makes it appear yellow in colour. The river often floods and overflows, which leaves people homeless and can even drown them. As a result of this, it is sometimes known as the River of Sorrow.

Although the Yellow River could be dangerous, it also allowed very fertile lands for growing crops. Most people living in the Shang Dynasty were farmers, and they would grow wheat, millet and barley on the banks of the river. They could turn this wheat into flour and make bread.



The Shang people ate lots of bread, then, not rice and tea as you might imagine. Only people in the south of China ate rice, because that's where all of the rice plants grow. So, a normal meal for people in the Shang Dynasty would include bread and beer, and maybe some cheese.





1. Complete these sentences:

The Yellow river was important to people in the Shang Dynasty, but ______

The Yellow river was important to people in the Shang Dynasty, because

The Yellow river was important to people in the Shang Dynasty, so



2. People in the Shang Dynasty ate lots of rice, because it was easy to grow.

True / False

Different social classes

In the Shang Dynasty, people were put into different groups called social classes. People don't get to choose their social class. If you are lucky, you would be born into the noble class.

People in the noble class had lots of money and owned lots of land. They might have important jobs like being a priest or being in charge of an army. They would have lived in big cities with walls built around them to keep others out.

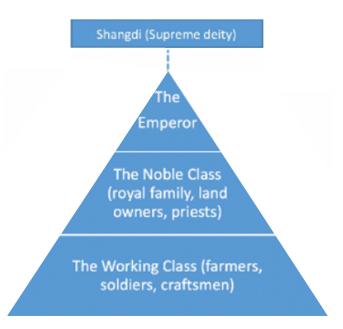


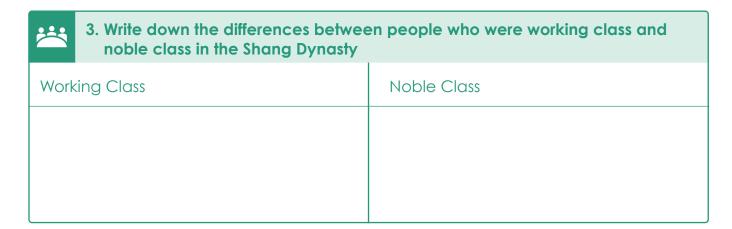
An example of what a Shang palace might have looked like.

Most people wouldn't be in the noble class, they would be in the working class. This included farmers, soldiers and craftsmen (people who made things like clothes and tools). People in the working classes wouldn't have much money, and life would have been hard, without much food to eat.

Most people in the working class lived in huts made out of wood and dried mud with a thatched roof. Life was much easier for people in the noble classes, who lived in grand palaces inside big cities with walls around them. They had lots of cowrie shells, which were used as money during most of the Shang period, and plenty of nice food, including meat.

The most powerful person in ancient Chinese society was, of course, the emperor. However, the Shang were religious people, and believed that the emperor was allowed to rule by the highest God (or 'supreme deity'), called Shangdi.







What did the Shang people believe?



Retrieval Practice

- 1. Who was the first emperor of the Shang Dynasty?
 - a. Cheng Tang
 - b. Jie
 - c. Shangdi
- 2. In what year did the Shang Dynasty end?
- 3. What was the name of the river that the Shang civilisation was situated on?
- 4. What was used as money during the Shang Dynasty?
 - a. oracle bones
 - b. cowrie shells
 - c. bronze
 - d. jade
- 5. Which social class would a priest belong to?
 - a. The noble class
 - b. The working class

Term	Definition
Polytheistic	The belief that there are many Gods.
Ancestors	The people in your family who have already died, like your great-great grandmother.
Deity	A god or goddess.
Sacrifice	The act of killing an animal or a person, or giving up a possession to a God.
Divination	Trying to predict the future by asking spirits or Gods.



- List all of the religions that you know about here.
 They first one is done for you:
- 1. Christianity



The Shang Dynasty existed before any of the major religions that we see in China today, which are Confucianism, Buddhism and Taoism. Confucius wasn't born until 551 BCE, the Buddha was born shortly after, while Jesus wouldn't be born for 1,600 years after the Shang Dynasty began.

However, the Shang were religious people. They were polytheistic, which means that they worshipped lots of different Gods. These Gods were all controlled by the supreme deity: Shangdi.

People made sacrifices to the Gods. This meant giving an object, killing an animal, or sometimes even a person, to try and please the Gods. Emperor Tang was supposed to have offered himself as a sacrifice to bring rains to the Shang people. Sacrifices would be made at an altar in a temple.



A portrait of Shangdi

	2. Complete these sentences:
Shai	ngdi was

The Shang people also worshipped their ancestors, and believed that their spirits lived on after death. They believed that they could communicate with the Gods through their ancestors' spirits, who had joined the Gods in the afterlife.

Tombs have been discovered with lots of possessions for the person to use in the afterlife, just like the pharaohs of ancient Egypt. Respect for elders and ancestors is still an important belief of many Chinese people today.



The tomb of Fu Hao, wife of Emperor Wu Ding.

Oracle bones

A lot of what we know about the Shang comes from the writing found on oracle bones. These are sometimes called 'dragon bones', but they were actually usually the shoulder blade of an ox (a type of large cow).

Some Chinese people believed that if you grind down the bones it can be used as medicine. In 1899, a university professor in Beijing was sick with malaria. Before grinding up the bones, he noticed ancient writing on them. Since then, over 50,000 oracle bone parts have been found and studied.



This pit in Anyang, the capital of the Shang Dynasty, was found with hundreds of Oracle bones

Priests in the Shang Dynasty, along with the emperor, would carve questions onto the bones using a sharp tool. Should they go to war with an enemy? How much rain will fall this year? Will the royal family be successful? Where should they plant their crops?



3. What questions would you carve into an oracle bone?

After they had written the question, the priests would take a very hot metal rod and place it into a hole in the bone. This would make it crack, and the priest would try and 'divine' (or work out) what the crack meant. This gave them an answer. Luckily for us, they would also write what really happened (for example, whether they won a battle, or got a new emperor). This is how we know so much about the Shang Dynasty.



4. When did people first realise that oracle bones contained ancient writing from the Shang Dynasty?

a.1600 c.1899 b.1046 d.1928

Lesson 05

Who was General Fu Hao?

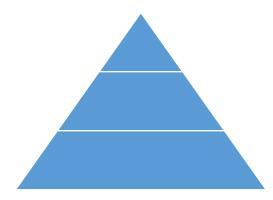


Retrieval Practice

1.	Which	metals	do y	ou melt	and	mix	together	to	make	bronze?	
----	-------	--------	------	---------	-----	-----	----------	----	------	---------	--

_____ + ____ = bronze

- 2. What did Chinese people do with oracle bones before they realised they had ancient writing on them?
 - a. Threw them away.
 - b. Crushed them and used them as medicine.
 - c. Sacrificed them to the Gods.
 - d. Used them to carve small sculptures.
- 3. Name three weapons the Shang people made:
 - a.____
 - b. _____
 - C.
- 4. Why is the Yellow River yellow?
 - a. Because of the way the sun hits it.
 - b. Because it is surrounded by yellow flowers.
 - c. Someone spilt some yellow paint in it by mistake
 - d. Because it contains lots of yellow silt.
- 5. Complete this diagram of the social class system in the Shang Dynasty:

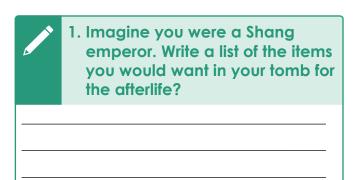


Term	Definition		
Tomb	A room used to bury someone after they have died with special possessions.		
Ritual	A special religious event with the same actions each time.		
Vessel	A container used for drink or liquid.		
United	When people are joined together under one leader.		
Politician	Someone who makes laws, represents the people, and runs a country.		

An amazing archaeological discovery

In 1976, archaeologist Zheng Zhenxiang was part of a team digging an area near Anyang, the Shang capital. They found some interesting artefacts and evidence of some ancient buildings. Zheng was convinced that buried deeper they would find a tomb. The other archaeologists disagreed with her, but Zheng carried on digging anyway.

After weeks of digging, their spades hit something hard. It was a special kind of red wood, and once they carefully dug further they discovered something incredible. It was an entire tomb from the Shang Dynasty. Many tombs were robbed by people, as they contained special items, but this tomb still had everything inside. They found amazing jade artefacts, precious stones and jewellery, bronze weapons, thousands of cowrie shells, six dog skeletons and seventeen human skeletons. It was the tomb of Fu Hao.





- 2. The items that people are buried with tell us about their lives. Look at the list of objects that were found in Fu Hao's tomb.
- 755 jade objects
- 564 bone objects (including 500 hairpins and 20 arrowheads)
- 468 bronze objects, including over 200 ritual bronze vessels, including:
 - 130 weapons,
 - 23 bells,
 - 27 knives.
 - 4 mirrors,
 - and 4 tiger statues.
- 63 stone objects
- 11 pottery objects
- 5 ivory objects
- 6,900 cowrie shells







60	4. What do you think they tell you about Fu Hao's life?

Who was Fu Hao?

One of the most successful emperors during the Shang Dynasty was called Wu Ding. He reigned for 58 years, and many oracle bones have information about his rule. Wu Ding united many of the tribes around the Shang, and would marry one woman from each of the tribes. He had over 60 wives!

One of Wu Ding's most important wives was called Fu Hao. She rose up in the army to the rank of general and went on to lead Shang warriors into battle. It would have been very unusual for a woman to be a military leader, but Fu Hao was extremely successful, fighting alongside her army. She defeated the Tu Fang, who the Shang had been at war with for hundreds of years.

Fu Hao was also a priestess, who would lead sacrifices to the Gods and read oracle stones. As well as this, she was also an important politician who would help with ruling the Shang civilisation. The many special items in Fu Hao's tomb show just how important she was. There were even 16 servants who were found buried alongside her, who would have been sacrificed so that they could serve her in the afterlife.





3. Unscramble these sentences about Lady Hao.

was discovered in 197	6 th	e tomb of Fu Ha	0
Fu Hao was a	military gener	al very	successful
Wu Ding married	from differe	ent tribes	over 60 women
were found in Fu Hao'	s tomb	almost 6,000	cowrie shells
as a military leader,	as well	a priestess	Fu Hao was
was found untouched	Fu Ha	o's tomb	everything in



How did the Shang Dynasty end?



Retrieval Practice

1.	What was the name of the emperor who married Fu Hao? W D
2.	Which tribe did Fu Hao defeat in battle?
	a.Tu Fang
	b.Fu Tang
	c.Fu Hang
	d.Fu Song

- 3. Write down all of the things that you can remember Fu Hao was buried with:
- The Song Dynasty followed the Shang Dynasty
 True / False
- 5. Who was Shangdi?

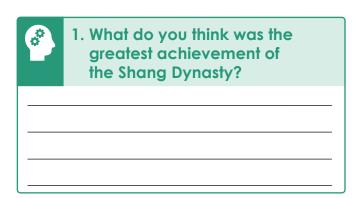
Term	Definition
Culture	The arts, beliefs, behaviour and other achievements of a society.
Tax	Money paid by people to their ruler or government to help run the country.
Vessels	A container used for drink or liquid.
Reign	The period of time a king, queen or ruler is in charge of their country.
Chariots	A special walled platform with wheels, pulled by a horse. Used in warfare.
State	A country or area of land that is ruled by one person or government.

The rise and fall of the Shang Dynasty

The Shang Dynasty was a hugely successful civilisation. It lasted for over 500 hundreds years and the position of emperor passed down through 17 generations.

During this time the Shang invented writing. They crafted amazing bronze vessels and weapons. They created beautiful jade and stone artwork objects and statues. They mapped the stars, the moon and the planets and learnt that a year is exactly 365 and 1/4 days long.

Although war was a normal part of life in China at this time, the Shang's military power (including their use of chariots) meant that was mostly a time of peace and safety for ordinary people. The Shang Dynasty created Chinese culture as we understand it today.



However, the Shang Dynasty did not last forever. Just as the Xia Dynasty ended with a cruel emperor, the Shang Dynasty also had a wicked final leader.

King Zhou of Shang

TIn 1075, Wu Deng became emperor. There were lots of different states in China during the time of the Shang, with lots of different tribes. Part of the emperor's job was to look after everyone in the country, and keep all of the states unified. Sometimes they would have to battle other states which were not a part of the Shang civilisation.

Wu Deng, also known as Di Xin or King Zhou, started his reign by fighting some of these battles and gaining new land for the Shang. He was said to be very clever and very strong.

However, later in his reign, King Zhou stopped looking after his people. He enjoyed lots of luxuries, and was even said to have made a lake out of alcohol, with a tree in the middle covered in roasted meat. To pay for this, Zhou taxed his people heavily.



2. Write the three names used for the last emperor of the Shang Dynasty.

Cruel and unusual punishments

Legends often blame King Zhou's wife for his worst deeds. Her name was Daji, and she was supposed to have enjoyed dreaming up awful punishments to entertain the King. For example, Daji was said to have dug a huge pit and filled it with very poisonous spiders and venomous snakes, before throwing people who had upset her in.

Worse still was the 'cannon burning punishment'. A metal cylinder would be covered in oil, and then rolled onto red hot coals. The prisoner would then have to stand on the slippery cannon as it got hotter and hotter. Eventually, they would fall into the burning coals and burn to death, with Zhou and Daji watching.

When the emperor's uncle tried to stop him acting so terribly, Zhou had his heart cut out. He had become a tyrant.



A change in Dynasty

One of the states ruled by the Shang was called Zhou. In English this state is written as the same as the emperor's name, but it is actually a different word, pronounced differently in Chinese. (Like "row your boat" and "we had a row" in English).

The leaders of the Zhou were fed up with King Zhou of Shang's behaviour. One night, they looked up at the sky and saw an incredible sight: five planets were all in a single line. This only happens every 516 years. They decided that this was a sign from the Gods, and that they had a mandate of heaven to overthrow Emperor Zhou.

The King of the Zhou people, Wu, sent an army led by the military commander Jiang Ziya to the Shang capital. Many of the Shang people surrendered straight away because they did not want to fight for their cruel Emperor. Some even rebelled and joined forces with Wu.

3. Complete these sentences:

Emperor Zhou realised that he was going to lose the battle, and that the dynasty would come to an end. He is said to have collected all of his jewellery and treasures in his palace, before setting the whole thing on fire whilst still inside! Daji was executed by Jiang Ziya. The Shang Dynasty was over.

Emperor Zhou was considered a terrible King because		
	Redraft your answer to question 3	
Emperor Zhou was considered a terrible King because		

