

# THE SHANG DYNASTY

YEAR THREE

SPRING I



游繪殿誅王振煙上圖

哥川豐春画

永壽堂  
西村屋

# **LESSON TWO**

HOW DID THE SHANG DYNASTY BEGIN?

# YEAR 3 | THE SHANG DYNASTY | SPRING ONE

Timeline			Important People		Vocabulary		
1	2400 BCE	The Bronze Age begins in China.	1	Tang	First emperor of Shang. Very popular and successful.		
2	1600 BCE	King Tang overthrows the last emperor of the Xia dynasty. The Shang Dynasty begins.					
					5	dynasty	A family that rule a country or state for many generations.
					6	Emperor	A king or ruler of an empire or country.
9	oracle bones	Animal bones or turtle shells with Chinese writing, used to try and predict the future.					
10	Yellow River	A major river running across the north east of China.					

  

The map shows the Shang Dynasty territory in central and eastern China, with major cities like Yin, Anyi, and the Yellow River. The text 'The Shang Dynasty ca. 1675-1046 BCE' is visible on the map.

  

姁 Xia	子 Shang	姬 Zhou	嬴 Qin	劉 Han	Six	楊 Sui	李 Tang	Five	趙 Song	Yuan	朱 Ming	Qing
2070 BCE – 1600 BCE	1600 BCE – 1046 BCE	1046 BCE – 256 BCE	221 BCE – 207 BCE	202 BCE – 220 CE	220 – 589	581 – 618	618 – 907	907 – 960	960 – 1279	1271 - 1368	1368 – 1644	1636 - 1912

Which facts from your knowledge organiser will we be exploring today?

Try these questions  
about last week's work



## 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*



## 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?

It is an oracle bone (or a dragon bone), and  
it includes writing from the Shang Dynasty.



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

Mark your own work.

How many did you get right?

Can you try self-quizzing with your knowledge organiser at home?

# WHERE WAS THE SHANG DYNASTY?

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.

World Map



Can you shade in China on  
your map?



**WHERE IS CHINA?  
WHERE WAS THE SHANG DYNASTY?**

# WHAT ELSE WAS HAPPENING AROUND 1600 BCE?

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.







Please read through all of the information on the Xia Dynasty on your sheet.

EMPEROR TANG

MANDATE OF  
HEAVEN

BATTLE OF  
MINGTIAO

ANYANG



**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.*

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7. In Chinese, Cheng Tang's name is written like this 成湯. Can you try and write Cheng Tang's name in Chinese characters?

成

湯

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Return to page 3 in your booklet and complete the learning review.

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