

THE SHANG DYNASTY

YEAR THREE

SPRING I



游繪殿誅王振煙上圖

哥川豐春画

永壽堂
西村屋印

LESSON THREE

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?*



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?

1600 BCE

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?

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5. What is the name of someone who learns about the past by digging up and studying artefacts?

archaeologist



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.



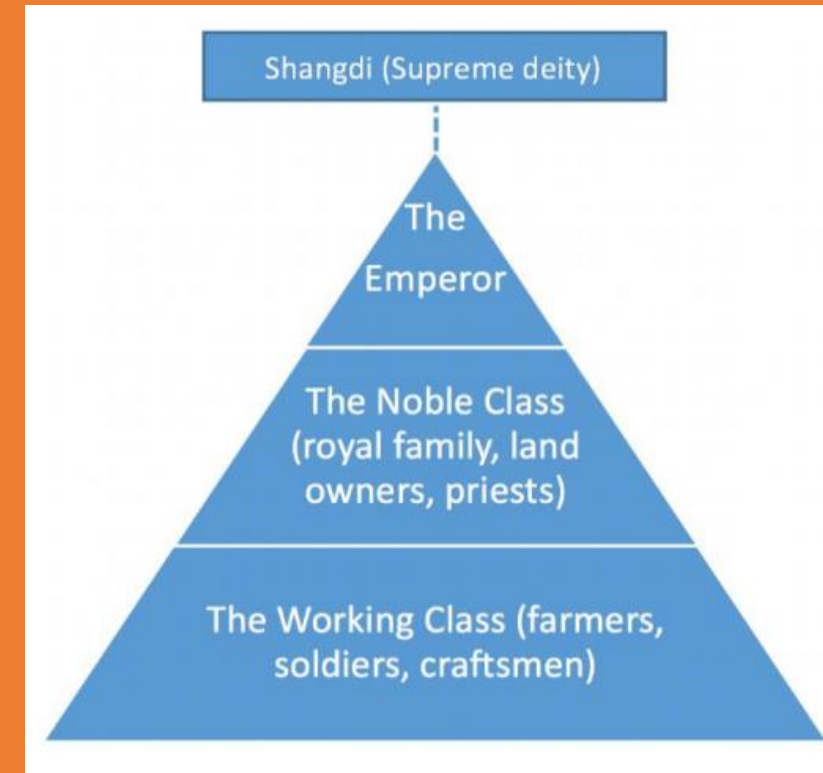
1. Complete these sentences:

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 _____

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. 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.

Life was not the same for everyone in the Shang Dynasty.

Working Class	Noble Class

How was life different for different groups of people in the Shang Dynasty?

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

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