

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 FOUR

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



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?

1046 BCE

3. What was the name of the river that the Shang civilisation was situated on?

The Yellow River

4. What was used as money during the Shang Dynasty?

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5. Which social class would a priest belong to?

a. The noble class

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

1. Christianity



HOW MANY DIFFERENT RELIGIONS DO YOU KNOW?



A portrait of Shangdi



Shang Di literally means the 'Heavenly Ruler'.

People would make sacrifices to Shang Di, by killing animals at the altar of a temple.

The ancient Chinese believed Shang Di created the universe.

SHANG DI WAS THE 'SUPREME DEITY'



Worshipping ancestors was important for the Shang people.

Tombs from the Shang dynasty include objects that they would need in the afterlife.

The ancient Chinese believed they could communicate with their ancestors' spirits.

THE TOMB OF FU HAO GIVES US CLUES ABOUT WHAT THE SHANG PEOPLE BELIEVED

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.

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?





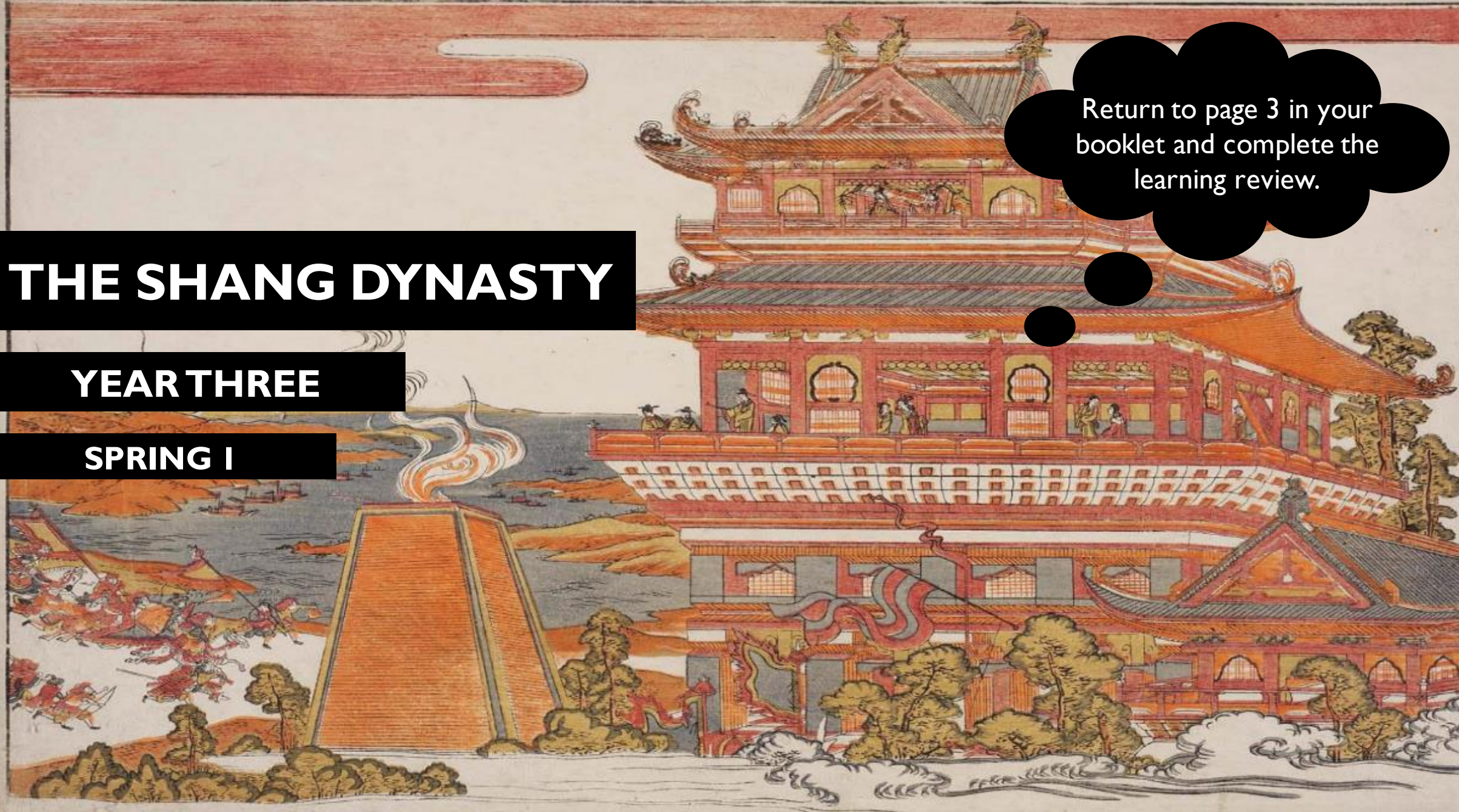
WHAT QUESTIONS WOULD YOU WRITE ON AN ORACLE BONE?

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



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