



**Topic: The Shang Dynasty**

**Year: 6**

**Strand:**

### What should I already know?

China is a large country in Asia.  
Other dynasties and kingdoms ruled around the world alongside familiar historical times.  
The Shang ruled in China when the Bronze age was happening in Britain.

### TIMELINE

1766 BC	Shang Tang overthrows the existing Xia family leader, setting up his capital in Bo
1737 BC	Tang's son succeeds him after 29 years of rule
1700 - 1500 BC	The Shang Dynasty usher in the use of bronze – weapons, tools and even chariots are made
1700 – 1000 BC	Oracle bones are carved with characters to ask a question of the gods – China's earliest form of writing
1700 – 1000 BC	The Shang Dynasty create looms to make silk cloth, build palaces and have walled towns
1300 BC	Emperor Pan Geng rules – Because of many enemies, he moves the capital city to Yin
1200 BC	Emperor Wuding brings the dynasty to its peak – He is the 22 <sup>nd</sup> ruler
1200 BC	Lady Hao, a wife of Emperor Wuding, dies
1200 – 1046 BC	The rulers after Wuding can't hold the people together and the dynasty begins to decline
1046 BC	Cruelty and high taxes cause the slaves to revolt and join forces with Chou people of West China
1046 BC	Di Xin, the last Shang ruler, is overthrown by Wu-Wang of the Chou family
1046	The Chou dynasty begins – The Shang Dynasty is remembered for cultural advancement but a failure to rule wisely

### Vocabulary

AD (Anno Domini)	refers to time after Jesus was born
archaeologist	someone who studies the past by exploring old remains
artefact	an object from the past that shows evidence of what life was like
Artisans	Talented group including potters, stone-masons and workers with bronze and jade. Lower than nobles but higher than farmers
BC (before Christ)	refers to the period of time before Jesus was born
civilisation	a human society with its own culture
Emperor	The ruler of a country.
extinct	means there are no living members
Dynasty	A sequence of rulers from the same family.
invade	To try and take over a place with force
Nobles	Under the ruling family; the highest ranking social class.
Warlords	Often ruled areas of land but owed allegiance to the Emperor.
migrate	To move from one place to another and settle there
Pagoda	A religious temple that is built as a tower with many tiers and roofs.
Oracle Bone	This was heated and cracked by holy men
settlement	Where people who have migrated to a new place, start a new community

### Important Facts that I will learn

- The **Shang Dynasty** is the earliest ruling **dynasty** of China to be established in recorded history, though other **dynasties** predated it.
- The **Shang** ruled from 1600 to 1046 B.C. and heralded the Bronze Age in China.
- They were known for their advances in math, astronomy, artwork and military technology.
- The Shang dynasty emerged in the 17th century B.C.E. as the first true Chinese dynasty.
- To guard against flooding by the **Yangtze** and **Yellow Rivers**, the ancient Shang developed complex forms of irrigation and flood control.
- Artisans and craftsmen comprised the middle class of **Shang** society. Their **largest** contribution was their work with bronze, which the Chinese developed as early as 1500 BCE. Their work with bronze was a very **important aspect** of society.

### Historical skills and Enquiry

- The achievements of the earliest civilizations – an overview of where and when the first civilizations appeared and a depth study: Shang Dynasty.
- Develop a chronologically secure knowledge and understanding of world history .
- Understand how our knowledge of the past is constructed from a range of sources.

### Diagrams

