

Inquiry Question: What has China hidden?

Key Vocabulary

Artisans	Bronze Age	Chariots	Jade	Oracle bones	Ocarina
Pagoda	Pictographs	Tombs	Yellow River	Fu Hao	Exploration
Cowrie Shell	Military	Peasant	Slave	Ancestors	Hierarchy
Bias	Prejudice	Rise and Fall	Continuity	Oppression	Retreat

In Year 4, you learnt:

Benin civilisation and Roman Britain

To compare two periods of history identifying similarities and differences between them

To use abstract terms (empire, civilisation, peasantry, parliament etc)

Place different periods of time on a timeline and remember key historical facts and some dates from a period studied.

In some ways....and....are alike. For instance....

However, they also differ in some ways. For example....

Given that...then....

My view is that....because....This is supported by the fact that....

It is my opinion that.... However, others might believe....

Key Facts

- Shang Society - Shang society was divided into different classes. At the top were the ruling class under the royal family, then came priests, an administrative class, warriors, craftsmen, traders, farmers and slaves. Most people were farmers who grew millet, wheat and barley but not much rice as this was grown further down south. It is thought that silkworms were used to produce silk. Noble warriors often paid tributes to the Emperor who granted them land in return for their loyalty.
- Houses - Farmers, craftsmen and peasants lived outside of the town walls in houses built of timber, over compacted earth floors. The walls were covered by wattle and daub and the roof was made of thatch. Inside the cities however, the King, nobles and priests lived in palaces made of wood and clay bricks. They had flower gardens, grew spices and had decorated painted tiles and artworks made of bronze, jade and pottery inside their homes.
- Importance of the Shang Dynasty - They left a legacy of Chinese culture that proved long lasting. The hereditary dynastic succession that they set in place endured for millennia. The role of the family and importance of ancestors remain central to Chinese culture today. Their artistry, with bronze in particular, continues to be admired for its beauty and grace.
- Religion and Oracle Bones - Family was very important to the Shang people and they worshipped their ancestors after they had died. Their supreme god was called Shang Di, whom they believed communicated only with the king through his royal ancestors. Priests, or the king himself, would write questions for the ancestors on oracle bones, which were then heated until they cracked. The king would interpret the cracks to work out the answers.
- Fu Hao's tomb - In 1976, archaeologists discovered the tomb of Fu Hao at the site of the ancient Shang capital, Yinxu. Because the tomb and its contents were intact, the discovery had a significant impact on our knowledge of the Shang dynasty and some of its people. The tomb consisted of a large pit with a wooden chamber inside containing the coffin. Evidence was found above ground of a building where memorial ceremonies and rituals were probably held in honour of Fu Hao.

1675BC	1646BC	1600BC	1400-1200BC	1500BC	1300BC	1200BC	1046BC
Tang overthrows Xia and begins to rule in Yellow River area	Tang rules his people well for 29 years and his son succeeds him	Oracle bones are carved	Earliest forms of Chinese writing	Large scale bronze production occurs	Capital of the dynasty moved to Yin (modern day Anyang)	Death of Lady Fu Hao/Dynasty begins to decline	End of the Shang dynasty and start of the Zhou dynasty