

Aldermoor Farm Primary School – Theme Knowledge Organiser

Topic: **Dynamic Dynasties**

Year: **5 – Autumn 1**

History

Big Question: **What was the Shang Dynasty?**

What should I already know?

- Historical terms to describe periods of time include decade, century, millennia, era, CE and BCE.
- Significant archaeological digs help us to find out important information about the way people lived in the past.
- **Primary sources** include documents or artefacts created by a witness to a historical event at the time it happened.
- That there was a Bronze Age in Britain and that Bronze had an impact on the way people lived at the time.

What will I know by the end of the unit?

Lesson 1 - What is a civilisation?



A civilisation is a developed society. Civilisations share common features, including cities, inventions, language, writing, hierarchy, leadership, infrastructure, arts and culture, trade and religion.

Lesson 2 - Who were the Chinese Dynasties and when did they live?



The Shang Dynasty is the earliest ruling dynasty in the recorded history of China. The Shang Dynasty reigned during China's Bronze Age, from **c1600 to c1046 BC**, and were known for their advances in bronze work, silk manufacture, jade carving and military technology.

Lesson 3 - Why was the dig at Yinxu significant?



The Shang Dynasty capital of Yin was discovered in Anyang in **1928**. Excavations at the site, known as 'Yinxu', or 'Yin ruins', uncovered the remains of palaces, temples and tombs. Archaeologists also found many bronze and jade objects, as well as thousands of **oracle bones**.

Lesson 4 - What is an Oracle Bone?



Oracle bones are pieces of sheep or cow bone, or turtle shell. Shamans or kings wrote questions on these bones to ask for guidance from the deities.

Vocabulary

archaeologist	Someone who studies artefacts from the past. (recap from Y3)
dynasty	A dynasty is a system of rule where the throne passes from one member of a ruling family to another.
deity	God or Goddess
oracle bone	Bones used to communicate with ancestors and gods.
shaman	A priest who is believed to communicate with spirits.

5. What was religion like in the Shang dynasty? People in the Shang Dynasty worshipped the king of the gods, Shangdi. They also prayed to lesser gods who controlled aspects of the world, such as the sun, wind, rain and moon



6. Why was bronze significant in the Shang dynasty? Bronzeworking skills were a major advance during the Shang Dynasty. People learned to smelt copper, tin and lead to make bronze.



7. What was the importance of jade and silk in the Shang dynasty? Jade is a hard and rare stone, made from the mineral nephrite, which is difficult to shape and carve. Silk was a popular and highly desirable fabric. It was made from threads produced by silkworms.



Where will my learning go next?

Autumn 2

Hierarchy of Shang Dynasty
Significant people who lived during the time of the Shang Dynasty.



History Concepts

 Hierarchy	 Chronology	 Everyday Life	 Significance	 Invasion	 Local History
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Oracle Bone



Jade plaque

