



Key Historical Vocabulary

settlement	fertile	civilisation
emperor	dynasty	trade
aristocracy	society	artisan
bronze	abundant	ore
tomb	artefact	warfare
archers	chariot	oracle bones
priest	jade	legacy
irrigation	significant	conquer
archaeologist	archaeology	archaeological

What do we know about the Shang dynasty of Ancient China?

- The Shang dynasty is the **earliest ruling dynasty** of China in recorded history.
- The Shang dynasty ruled Ancient China between **1600-1046 BCE**.
- They were a **powerful family** of Kings.
- The Shang dynasty ruled over the land **near the Yellow River**.
- We know about the Shang dynasty because of **evidence left behind**.
- **Archaeologists** have found **chariots** that would have been used in battle, **oracle bones**, which are an example of early Chinese **writing and tombs** filled with **artefacts** belonging to important members of Shang society.
- This **evidence** tells us what life would have been like during this time.

What was important to the Shang dynasty?

- The Shang dynasty existed at the height of **China's Bronze Age** when bronze was used to make items for many different purposes.
- The production of bronze objects became a **symbol of power and status**.
- The Shang dynasty invested in its **military**.
- Evidence of **chariot** remains found in burials across the Shang region tells us Shang armies commonly used them in battle during this time.



Who ruled Shang society?

- The rise of the Shang dynasty in around 1600 BCE saw roles in society change as the aristocracy claimed power over the lower classes.
- The Shang dynasty introduced **rules** to control what people were allowed to do and what they could own.
- Life was **very different** for the rich and poor in Shang society.
- Many people were **farmers**.



What is the Shang dynasty remembered for?

- Settling and continuing to grow their communities by the **Yellow River**.
- Introducing a **form of money** that could be used to buy and sell items.
- Investing in their **military** so they could protect their expanding lands.
- Creating the first example of Chinese writing on the **oracle bones**.

