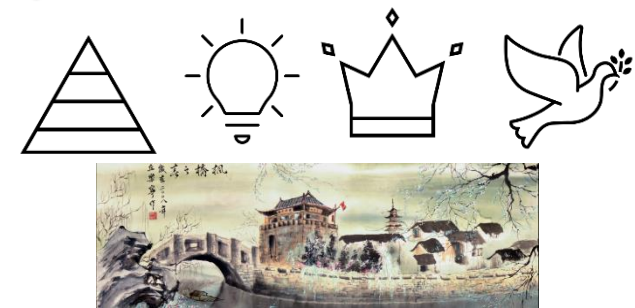


# Year 6

## Shang Dynasty



~Golden Thread of Reading~

History Reading Spine  
The Shang Dynasty



### Where am I in History?

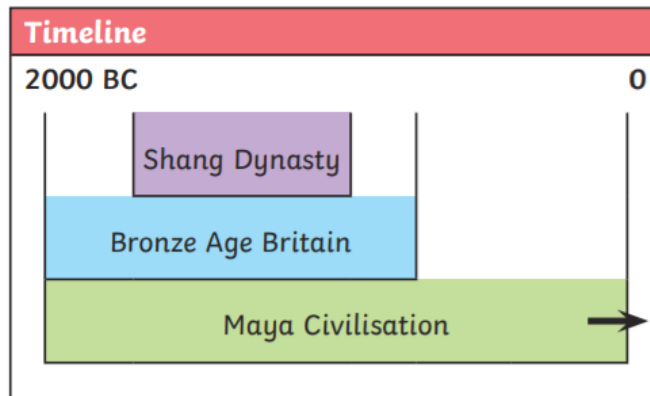
What came before?	What comes next?	

Expert vocabulary	



## Skills covered this half term:

- Continuing to develop a chronologically secure knowledge and understanding of world history.
- Constructing informed responses that involve thoughtful selection and organisation of relevant historical information.
- Address and devise historically valid questions about change, cause, similarity and difference and significance.
- Understand how our knowledge about the past is constructed from a range of sources and that different versions of the past may exist, giving some evidence for this.



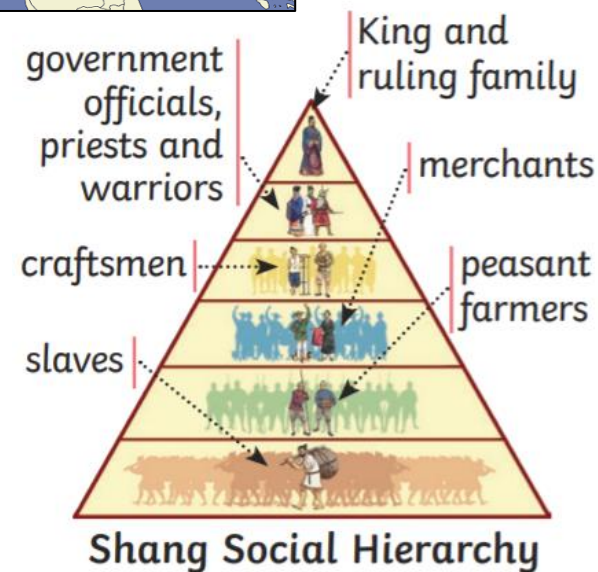
The Shang Dynasty, also known as the Yin Dynasty, ruled the Yellow River Valley in the second millennium BCE (approx 1675-1046 BCE).

The Shang Dynasty succeeded the Xia Dynasty and was followed by the Zhou Dynasty.

It was the first Chinese Dynasty for which there is written and archaeological evidence.

The Dynasty expanded its territory and moved its capital city on several occasions.

The Dynasty has become famous for the artistry of its bronze and jade work.



Key Events	
1600 BC	The Shang dynasty is founded when Cheng Tang overthrows the Xia dynasty. He has the support of 40 other kingdoms.
1400-1200 BC	The earliest found examples of Chinese writing are dated to this period.
1250 BC	King Wu Ding begins his reign.
1200 BC	<b>Fu Hao</b> , one of the wives of King Wu Ding, dies. Her tomb is the only <b>intact</b> Shang tomb that has been found to date.
1075 BC	The last Shang king, Di Xin, begins his reign.
1046 BC	Slaves revolt in protest against cruel treatment and increasing taxes. The Shang dynasty is overthrown and replaced by the Zhou dynasty.

Vocabulary

Oracle bones	Usually the shoulder bones of animals or the belly shells of turtles. Dug up centuries later by farmers, they were thought to be dragon bones and were ground up to be used in traditional Chinese medicine. In 1889, Wang Yirong and his friend Liu E worked out that the 'dragon bones' had been used in ancient ceremonies.
Fu Hao	Not only the first known female military leader, but also the most influential military leader of her time, either male or female, responsible for leading 13,000 soldiers into battle. She was also a high priestess, which was very unusual for a woman at the time.
Intact	Complete, not robbed by looters.
Jade	A hard mineral stone, usually green.
Bronze	A metal made from a mixture of copper and tin.
Cowrie shells	Small, flat, yellowish seashells, used like coins in trading.

## The King and Ruling Family

- lived in palaces in the capital city
- fine clothes and best food
- made all important decisions; owned all the land

## Priests and Government Officials

- comfortable lifestyle within city walls
- carved the oracle bones
- kept important records for the king

## Noble Warriors

- lived in palaces outside city walls
- skilled fighters
- rented land from the king and collected tax from farmers

## Craftsmen and Merchants

- lived in mud outside city walls
- used cowrie shells for currency
- paid in foods like grain and vegetables

## Peasant Farmers

- largest group
- lived in poor conditions - holes in the ground
- grew millet, wheat, barley and rice
- allowed only a small share of crops

## Slaves

- prisoners of war or convicted criminals
- treated harshly; forced into hard work, like building tombs
- sometimes sacrificed or buried alive