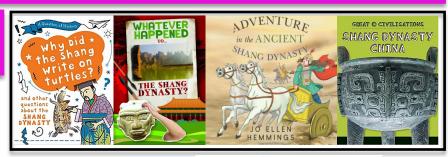
# Dynamic Dynasties — Year 6—Autumn 1

Interesting Books



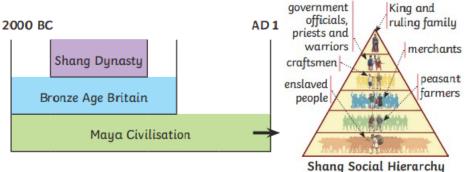






Model of a palace from the Han Dynasty





Subject Specific Vocabulary			
Dynasty	A line of hereditary rulers in a country. A dynasty starts when a ruler takes power; they then pass on their kingdom to their children when they die.		
Archaeologist	A person who finds and studies artefacts to discover how people lived in the past.		
Artefact	An object made or used by a human; usually of interest to historians.		
Oracle bone	A bone with writing in from the Shang Dynasty that were also used by kings to answer questions and tell the future. They are made from the shoulder blades of large animals such as oxen or turtle shells.		
Yellow River (Huang He)	The river which ran through the Shang Dynasty civilisations—villages & cities.		

## **Shang Society**

## 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

## Noble Warriors

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

#### 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

## Priests and Government Officials

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

# Craftsmen and Merchants

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

#### Slaves

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

## Religion

Family was very important to the Shang people and they worshipped their ancestors after they had died. They believed that the soul lived after death, so they buried objects, including ritual vessels containing food and drink, for the dead to use in the afterlife. 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. 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

Fu Hao was a wife of the Shang king, King Wu Ding. She became the Shang Dynasty's most influential military leader and commanded an army of 13,000 men. In 1976, archaeologists discovered her tomb 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. Thousands of items were found in Fu Hao's tomb, demonstrating how wealthy and powerful she was.

#### **Bronze**

Bronzeworking skills were a major advance during the Shang Dynasty. People learned to smelt copper, tin and lead to make bronze. Skilled craftspeople created vessels that were used for rituals and offerings to the gods. Bronze weapons, such as daggers and spearheads, also gave the Shang Dynasty warriors an advantage over their enemies.

# **Everyday life**

People in the Shang Dynasty lived in cities, towns and villages. Wealthy people lived in large houses made from wattle and daub, while poorer people lived in small houses made by digging into soft rock. The oldest man in each household was the head of his family. People had a wide variety of jobs, such as farmers, miners, bronzeworkers, craftspeople, soldiers and government officials. A person's social class determined the job that he or she was allowed to do. People ate rice, millet and fish and drank beer and yellow rice wine. Wealthy people ate a lot of meat.











## **English**

#### Key texts:

- The Lost Happy Endings **Reading:**
- Cogheart

#### Writing genres:

- Poetry
- Narrative
- Discussions



**SPaG:** word classification, relative clauses, speech punctuation

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Place Value	Addition, Subtraction, Multiplication and
Numbers to 10	Division
million	Add and subtract integers
Round any	Common factors and multiples
integer	Multiply up to a 4 digit by 2 digit numbers
Negative	Short and long division
numbers	Square, cube and prime numbers
	Order of operations

	Music	Computing
	Explore the main features and	Design a playable game with a
	structure of Jazz music, look at	timer and score, create and
	different styles of jazz, beginner	follow flowcharts to debug
	improvisation techniques.	programs, code programs that
		take text input from the user
		and use it in their program.
1	RF	Art
	IVE.	AIT
	Hinduism: What is the	2D drawings to 3D sculpture
		7
	Hinduism: What is the	2D drawings to 3D sculpture
	Hinduism: What is the significance of Karma and	2D drawings to 3D sculpture
	<b>Hinduism:</b> What is the significance of Karma and Moksha for a Hindu?	2D drawings to 3D sculpture