

WEEK 11 HISTORY

WB 6.7.20

The next few slides will give you a lot of new information about The Shang Dynasty. There is a lot of new vocabulary which is quite challenging. You may need an adult to read it with you and you may need to look up in an (online) dictionary or ask someone about in order to fully understand the facts about the life in China at the time of the Shang Dynasty.



THE SHANG DYNASTY

What was life like for ordinary people during the Shang Dynasty?

Most people who lived in the Shang Dynasty were ordinary peasants. They worked in fields growing millet, wheat and rice. Crops grew well, as the land was fertile and the climate was warm and wet, but life for the peasants was hard. Their homes were pits dug into the earth, which were covered by a simple roof. Skeletal remains reveal that the peasants were frequently malnourished. Shang artisans were wealthier and their lives were much more comfortable than the peasants. These artisans were skilled workers who made items out of stone, wood and metal.

What do artefacts tell us about the Shang Dynasty?

Shang artefacts have been discovered. These artefacts include 'dragon bones'. These animal bones were thought to be dragon bones and were thought to have medicinal properties. These 'dragon bones' have been found to be turtle's undershells and cattle shoulder blades. The bones are known as oracle bones and were used by Shang kings to predict important events, for example, who would win a war. Historians discovered questions inscribed on the bones. The king would ask his ancestors to answer these questions. We have found out a lot about the Shang Dynasty due to the discovery of these oracle bones.

What were the Shang armies and weapons like?

- The army was important to the Shang Dynasty and was a good indication of the empire's wealth and power. It helped them to rule for over 500 years.
- Shang armies could be made up of 3,000 to 5,000 troops. During the largest battles, the army could reach up to 13,000 soldiers!
- They used chariots which were faster than soldiers. As a result, their enemies would tire more quickly.
- They used bronze spears and arrowheads
- The Shang army took wealth, food, animals and prisoners from their enemies during war.

1,766 BC



Emperor Chang takes control.

1,700-1,500 BC



The Shang Dynasty ushers the use of bronze.

1,200 BC



Most oracle bones found during King Wu Ding's rule.

1,200 BC



Fu Hao, wife of King Wu Ding, dies.

1,046 BC



Cruelty and taxes cause the slaves to revolt.

1,046 BC



Shang Dynasty ends, Chou Dynasty begins.

Using what have learnt in History and your own further research, create a timeline with the above key events of The Shang Dynasty. Remember, your timeline needs to start with the BIGGEST number on the left hand side as it is the furthest away from 0 and then move across to the right as the numbers get smaller and closer to 0 as the dates are all BCE (Before the common era).

You can be as creative as you like with this. I look forward to seeing what you come up with 😊