

Holy Souls RC Primary School – Knowledge Organiser



History

Year 6

Strand: Shang Dynasty

What should I already know?

- The Shang Dynasty is associated with Ancient China.
- The word ancient suggests this time period was thousands of years ago. This isn't a more recent period of history.
- China is located in the continent of Asia.
- China has many differences in their culture, religion and way of life in comparison to us.

Diagrams



Important facts

The Shang Dynasty were a civilisation who ruled the Yellow River Valley in the second millennium BC (approximately 1675-1046BC).

The word 'Dynasty' means that the civilisation had a ruler or a leader that pass on their kingdom to be ruled other family members.

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

It was the first Chinese Dynasty that has written and archaeological evidence to give historians information about such an early time period.

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

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

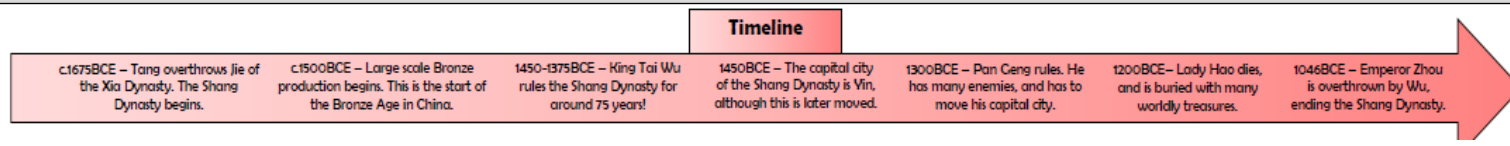
5 Interesting facts:

- 1) The Shang Dynasty is sometimes referred to as the Yin Dynasty.
- 2) The last capital of the Shang Dynasty was called Yin Xu - many oracle bones have been found there.
- 3) The people of the Shang Dynasty worshipped their dead ancestors.
- 4) The Shang Dynasty were the first Chinese civilisation to develop writing through pictures/pictographs.
- 5) They performed human sacrifices as an offering to the Gods.

Vocabulary

Afterlife	In some religions, the afterlife is life after death. Life after the body has died.
Ancestors	The line of generations of people in your family who have died.
Bronze	An orange/brown alloy of copper used to make dishes, pottery and other equipment.
Civilisation	A group of people or society that is the most current, organised or advanced group for that time period.
Diviners	Something described as divine is very pleasing or god-like (very powerful). A diviner is a person described as this.
Dynasty	A line of rulers of a country or a group of people that is passed on to other family members.
Jade	A hard, green-coloured stone used for ornaments.
Legend	A traditional story linked to an area that has been passed down from generations.
Oracle Bones	A type of bone used for the rulers to communicate with the gods to predict the future.
Pictographs	A symbol for a word or phrase that was drawn onto an oracle bone to help with the leader's predictions.
Sacrifice	An act of slaughtering an animal or a human being as an offering to a god or deity.
Shijing	A collection of about three hundred poems that was created from the Shang Dynasty.
Tombs	A large stone structure or an underground vault used to bury the dead. Sometimes, important objects were placed in them with the body.

Timeline



Capital Culture

- A visitor to present a talk and show artefacts related to the Shang Dynasty.

Historical enquiry and skills