

THE SHANG DYNASTY KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER – YEAR 5

KEY VOCABULARY

Chronological	(Of a record of events) following the order in which they occurred.
Dynasty	A line of hereditary rulers of a country.
Civilisation	The stage of human social and cultural development and organization that is considered most advanced.
Archaeology	The study of human history and prehistory through the excavation of sites and the analysis of artefacts and other physical remains
Xiaotun	Site of a historic archaeological dig where over 4000 artefacts were discovered.
Social Hieracrchy	Social hierarchy refers to the arrangement of people in society, with some people having more power and others having less.
Ancestor	Any member of your family from long ago, for example, the grandparents of your grandparents.
Sacrifice	The act of giving up something that you want to keep especially in order to get or do something else or to help someone.



AMAZING FACTS

The Shang Dynasty was the first Chinese dynasty for which we have written and archaeological evidence.	The first ruler of the Shang was Tang Shang, a military leader. There were thirty Shang Emperors.
The Shang built their houses and public buildings out of wood and mud. They built mud banks to try and hold back flooding. Defensive walls and towers were also built of mud.	Shang society was divided into different classes. At the top were the ruling class under the royal family, then came priests, an administrative class, warriors, craftsmen, traders, farmers and slaves. Most people were farmers.
The Shang were specialists in bronze work and many beautiful artefacts have been recovered from their tombs.	The Shang were the first Chinese to develop writing. They used pictographs, characters which could convey more than one meaning.

ARTWORK

During the Shang Dynasty the Sham-ans (priests) wore face masks made from Bronze.



The Shang Dynasty produced many pieces of art made from Bronze.



They also made objects from Jade, a rare and precious stone. This figure was sold for \$275,000! It is only 4 cm long!



Many objects made by the craftsmen were used for rituals. Some weighted as much as 1900 pounds.

