

Key Vocabulary

Archaeologists	People who study historical people and cultures
Artefact	A handmade object, used in the past, found by archaeologists
Evidence	Something that helps prove or disprove facts
Dynasty	A sequence of rulers from the same family or group
Bronze	A metallic brown colour that can also be a metal made work of art.
Loom	A hand-operated apparatus used for weaving.
Oracle Bone	A group of inscribed shells or bones discovered in China and used by the ancient Chinese.
Inscription	Historical or religious writing cut, painted or impressed into stone or metal.
Great Wall of China	A system of fortified walls with a roadway on the top constructed as a defence for China.
Yellow River/ Huang Ho.	The second largest river in China which flows over 4,380 km (3000 miles)

Key People

Fu Hao	A female leader and role-model
Tai Wu	The longest ruler of the Dynasty
Cheng Tang	First King of the Dynasty

What remains of the Shang Dynasty?

Children will explore the ancient civilisation and will then be able to compare this to their own lives and to life in China now.

Background Knowledge

Children will link the learning to other ancient civilisations. They will understand that artefacts help us to know about the past.

Other information

China today – Yellow River is the second largest river in China
Great Wall of China is a national monument built in 220 – 206 BC, still visible from Space
Chinese lifestyles based on city life in Beijing –Eg Summer Olympics 2008

Key Dates

1766 BC	Cheng Tang takes control
1700 – 1500 BC	Shang Dynasty ushers use of bronze
1200 BC	King Wu Ding brings the Dynasty to it's peak
1200 BC	Fu Hao dies
1046 BC	Dynasty overthrown as last leader dies



A bronze statue

Key Facts

A popular leader began the Dynasty on a settlement around the Yellow River

Weapons, religious artefacts and tools were made of bronze

Looms were created and many items were made of fabrics including silk

A vast tomb was discovered as recently as 1976 which teaches about ancient life

Chinese writing and inscriptions have been discovered