



What should I already know?

- I already know:
- ⇒ what a 'civilisation' is and be able to give examples of early civilisations e.g. the Ancient Maya, the Ancient Greeks.
 - ⇒ that history is divided into different time periods and how to place events in chronological order on a timeline.
 - ⇒ what the Bronze Age was and why bronze was important.
 - ⇒ how people used bronze for tools, weapons, and art.

Interesting Facts

- ⇒ The Shang Dynasty had powerful kings – some ruled for a very long time! One king, Tai Wu, ruled for 75 years.
- ⇒ The Shang Dynasty used turtle shells to predict the future. People carved questions onto oracle bones, then heated them until they cracked. The cracks were used to answer questions like "Will we win the battle?".
- ⇒ The Shang Dynasty loved bronze. The Shang were amazing at making bronze weapons, tools, and pots. Some of their bronze creations were decorated with dragons and mysterious symbols.
- ⇒ Slaves were buried with kings. When a king died, some of his servants and soldiers were buried with him to serve him in the afterlife.
- ⇒ The Shang Dynasty used shells as money. Instead of coins, cowrie shells were used to buy things. Imagine paying for sweets with seashells!

Diagrams/Timelines/Pictures



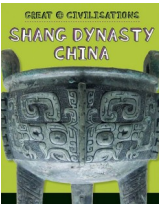
A map of the Shang Dynasty



Bronze artefacts from the Shang Dynasty

Recommended Books and Websites

[BBC Bitesize: The Shang Dynasty](#)
Great Civilisations: Shang Dynasty China
Author: Tracey Kelly



Key Vocabulary

civilisation	A way of life where people live together in organised communities.
Shang Dynasty	One of the first great civilisations in Ancient China, ruling from around 1600 BC to 1046 BC.
Emperor	The ruler of an empire—a group of countries or lands ruled by one person or family.
stone mason	A person who cuts, shapes, and builds things using stone.
warrior general	A leader in battle who commands an army and fights alongside soldiers.
nobleman	A person who belongs to a wealthy and important family in history.
legend	An old story that has been passed down through generations. It can be about heroes, mysterious creatures, or amazing events.
folktale	A story that has been told for many years, often passed down by people to teach a lesson or entertain.

What else could I do to help me learn?

- ⇒ Create your own 'oracle bones' using art materials. What questions will you write on them?
- ⇒ Design an artefact to represent the Shang Dynasty using foil, clay, or cardboard. Then, decorate it with patterns or symbols inspired by Shang designs.