

Year 6
Shang Dynasty

Term – Spring 2

The Shang Dynasty is the first well-documented, through written texts and archaeology, dynasty in China though earlier ones are mentioned in Chinese legend. It was based around the Yellow River in central China and is sometimes called the cradle of Chinese civilisation. It was a Bronze Age culture, so they didn't have knowledge of iron working. Writing was first developed in China in this period and many written texts were incised onto bones found in archaeological excavations. The culture was ruled over by a king and his relatives were the government.

Archaeological excavations have revealed towns with palaces, tombs and craft working areas, such as Shang near modern-day Zhengzhou and Yin near modern-day Anyang.

**This term we will
be learning...**

All about the life and times of the Shang Dynasty.



The majority of the people who lived under the Shang Dynasty were farmers. They grew millet, wheat and barley but not so much rice, which was farmed further south. A large irrigation scheme was constructed to bring the water from the Yellow River to the crops.

They also kept sheep, pigs and oxen. It seems as if, even at this time, the silkworm may have been domesticated to produce silk. The farmers probably lived outside the big cities.

There were also craftsmen who worked in workshops just outside the city walls. Remains of jade, bone, pottery, and bronze-working have been found by archaeologists in these areas. Most of what they made would have been for use by the king and his nobles.

The king and the nobles lived inside the walled cities.

The palaces had rammed earth floors and pillars to keep up the roof, whereas lower ranking people lived in wooden houses. There were temples where animal and human sacrifices were made to the Shang Di, the supreme god who ruled over the lesser gods of the wind, sun and moon, among others. Bronze vessels were used to collect blood from these offerings.

English

This half term, children will be flexing their nonfiction writing muscles by creating an information text in regards to a make believe character, in regards to its habitat, diet and appearance. Children will use the inspiration of The Jabberwocky by Lewis Carroll to inform their work. In regards to reading, children will practise a range of comprehension skills whilst learning all about the magical world of the Jabberwock. In the build up to SATs, children will revise a range of grammar foci and apply them in their writing.

Science

This half term, we will be learning all about light. Children will learn about how light travels and how this enables us to see, Year 6 will then continue the exploration of the properties of light through the building of periscopes. We will conclude the topic through the investigation of shadows in regards to the position of the light source.

Mathematics

Algebra will take centre stage this half term! Children will learn the basic principles of substituting letters for numbers and applying their skills in reasoning and problem solving scenarios. Angles, shape and measurement and data will also be areas of focus during this half term. Children will apply their knowledge in a range of ways to show demonstrate their understanding. Children will continue to revise all areas of arithmetic for their journey towards secondary school.

Computing

Pupils will look at different mediums to promote products. They will analyse current methods of advertisement and create their own adverts for a range of products.

You might like to join in with our learning at home by:

Reading

- The home readers daily for 20 minutes. Please ask your child about what they have read, ensuring that your child has read a range of text types.

Watching

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=k3jXyXhIR9s>

Doing

- Practising their quick recall of timestables facts on TT Rockstars.

Visiting

<https://www.britishmuseum.org/>