

# Shang Dynasty



**Bronze** - A strong metal alloy made from copper

**Oracle Bone** - This was heated and cracked by holy men to seek advice from king's ancestors

**Nobles** - Under the ruling family; the highest ranking social class

**Artisans** - Talented group including potters, stonemasons and workers with bronze and jade - Lower than nobles but higher than farmers

**Dynasty** - A sequence of rulers from the same family

**Warlords** - Often ruled areas of land but owed allegiance to the Emperor

**Emperor** - The ruler of a country

**Pagoda** - A religious temple that is built as a tower with many tiers and roofs

## Assessment

	Working Towards	At Expected	Above Expected
Can you describe the purpose and function of a Shang hierarchy?			
Can you locate where the Shang Dynasty existed on a map?			
Can you name some key leaders that ruled through the Shang period?			

1766 BC	Shang Tang overthrows the existing Xia family leader, setting up his capital in Bo
1737 BC	Tang's son succeeds him after 29 years of rule
1700 - 1500 BC	The Shang Dynasty usher in the use of bronze - weapons, tools and even chariots are made
1700 - 1000 BC	Oracle bones are carved with characters to ask a question of the gods - China's earliest form of writing
1700 - 1000 BC	The Shang Dynasty create looms to make silk cloth, build palaces and have walled towns
1300 BC	Emperor Pan Geng rules - Because of many enemies, he moves the capital city to Yin
1200 BC	Emperor Wuding brings the dynasty to its peak - He is the 22 <sup>nd</sup> ruler
1200 BC	Lady Hao, a wife of Emperor Wuding, dies
1200 - 1046 BC	The rulers after Wuding can't hold the people together and the dynasty begins to decline
1046 BC	Cruelty and high taxes cause the slaves to revolt and join forces with Chou people of West China
1046 BC	Di Xin, the last Shang ruler, is overthrown by WuWang of the Chou family
1046	The Chou dynasty begins - The Shang Dynasty is remembered for cultural advancement but a failure to rule wisely

## Diagram/Timeline



## Further Reading

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z39j2hv>

## QUESTIONS TO DEEPEN YOUR LEARNING

Character	Critical Thinking	Creativity	Communication	Citizenship	Collaboration
Did people in the Shang period believe in an afterlife?	What is more important, archaeological and written evidence?	Was writing invented during the period of the Shang Dynasty?	How could I present what I understand about the Shang period?	What impact did this civilisation have on modern day China?	Can I work with others to present my findings?