

The Shang Dynasty : History : Year 5/6

	Learning Objective	Overview	Assessment Questions	Resources
Lesson 1	To find out about the Shang Dynasty of China and explore how we know about it.	Children are introduced to the Shang Dynasty of ancient China, placing it on a timeline. They will compare this timeline with a British timeline of the same period. They will go on to compare accounts of the Shang Dynasty written c.200 B.C. with more modern archaeological evidence, making judgements about which is more accurate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do children know what different sources of evidence there are for learning about the past? Can children describe the advantages and disadvantages of different sources of evidence? Do children know where and when the Shang Dynasty was in power? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slides Worksheet 1A/1B/1C Information Sheet A/B Story Sheet (FSD? activity only)
Lesson 2	To explore the evidence surrounding the Shang kings.	Children will look at the list of the first ten kings of the Shang Dynasty as written c.200 B.C. They will go on to think about how accurate this information is and use other sources to try and establish facts. They will find out what oracle bones are and how they helped historians find out information about the Shang Dynasty.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can children name some of the Shang rulers and what they did according to the history books? Can children suggest what makes a history book accurate or inaccurate? Can children suggest why learning about leaders is important? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slides Worksheet 2A/2B Sorting Cards A/B Information Sheet (FSD? activity only)
Lesson 3	To find out about Shang royal burials.	Children will look at archaeological evidence surrounding the royal tombs of the Shang Dynasty. They will find out some of the burial rituals and beliefs, including sacrifices, and consider what we can learn from jade, bronze and ceramic objects found within Shang Dynasty tombs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can children explain what happened to Shang rulers when they died? Can children describe the objects that were buried with Shang rulers? Can children suggest why people and animals were sacrificed during the Shang Dynasty? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slides Worksheet 3A/3B/3C Fact Cards Picture Sheet (FSD? activity only) Clay and clay tools (FSD? activity only) Bronze paint (FSD? activity only) Information Sheet
Lesson 4	To find out what ordinary life was like for people during the Shang Dynasty.	Children will find out about the structure of society in the Shang Dynasty. They will find out about the everyday life of peasants in the Shang Dynasty, discovering what kinds of homes they lived in and how they farmed the land. They will express their understanding of life during the Shang Dynasty in a variety of ways.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can children describe what kind of houses ordinary people lived in during the Shang Dynasty? Can children describe what people ate during the Shang Dynasty? Can children use evidence to describe a day in the life of an ordinary person during the Shang Dynasty? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slides Worksheet 4A/4B/4C Information Sheet Story Sheet (FSD? activity only) Challenge Card (FSD? activity only)
Lesson 5	To find out about the writing and calendar created during the Shang Dynasty.	Children will consider why writing developed and how it helps historians find out about the past. They will look at the oracle bones and some of the questions found on them. It goes on to look at the oracle bone script, teaching children to identify the meaning of some of the characters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do children know why the Shang invented writing? Do children know why the Shang invented a calendar? Can children describe the features of the oracle bones script? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slides Worksheet 5A/5B Game Cards Challenge Card (FSD? activity only)
Lesson 6	To find out why the Shang Dynasty ended.	Children will explore the story of how the Zhou army attacked and took over the Shang palace, ending the Shang Dynasty. Your class will read some evidence in the oldest Chinese poetry book and think about its reliability as a historical source, before expressing the story in a variety of ways.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can children describe what the Shang Dynasty achieved? Can children describe how the history books say the Shang Dynasty ended? Do children know when the Shang Dynasty ended according to evidence and history? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Slides Worksheet 6A/6B/6C Information Sheet Challenge Card (FSD? activity only) End of Unit Quiz