

Topic: History- How does the Shang Dynasty differ to other Empires?

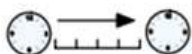
Term: Spring 1

Year: Unit 3

Duration: 4 Weeks

The Powerful Knowledge we will take away from this Learning Enquiry (what children will be learning):

Chronology



- I know that the Shang Dynasty ruled in China from 1600-1046BC. I understand the terms 'dynasty' and 'empire' and can discuss the similarities and differences. I know that the Bronze Age was happening in Britain at the same time as the rule of the Shang Dynasty.

Interpreting History



- I know that historians do not have many sources to rely on for information about the Shang Dynasty and can discuss possible reasons for this. When looking at photographs of artefacts, I can formulate opinions on the items and think about what they may tell us.

Change and continuity



- I know that the Shang Dynasty is the earliest part of Chinese history that historians have found evidence (artefacts) from.

Historical Enquiry using Evidence



- I know that the first Shang king was Cheng Tang who defeated the Xia dynasty in the Battle of Mingtiao, and the last Shang king was Di Xin, defeated in a great battle by Wu of Zhou. His people had started to become unhappy with the way he ruled and did not fight with him.

Cause and consequence



- I know that during this period, there was lots of progress made in society and many achievements. I can name and discuss these e.g., in writing, housing, and farming.

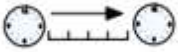
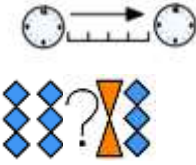



Similarities and differences



- I can make comparisons and links between previous knowledge and my new knowledge about the Shang Dynasty.

Our Key Vocabulary:

| Word | Meaning |
|--------------|---|
| Dynasty | A society that is ruled by one family throughout the ages. Power is transferred from the ruler to the successor when they die. It is a family line of rulers. |
| Empire | A group of countries ruled over by one country and its monarch or system of government. There is central rule in place. |
| Source | Sources help us understand the past. Primary sources come from that time period and secondary sources are written after the period. |
| Artefact | An object from the time period that can help historians understand what life was like. |
| Descendants | The children (usually the son) of the ruler. |
| King | A male monarch of the Dynasty with ruling power. |
| Emperor | A ruler of an empire. |
| Bronze Age | The age which followed the Stone Age and preceded the Iron Age. |
| Agriculture | The practice of farming. |
| Yellow River | The second longest river in China. |
| Chronology | The arrangements of dates in time order. |

| Steps in learning | |
|---|--|
|  | <p>I can recall prior knowledge about the concept of Empire, considering knowledge learnt about the British Empire, the Roman Empire, and the Viking invasion of Britain. I can place these on a timeline in chronological order.</p> <p>I can identify China on a modern world map.</p> |
|  | <p>How did the Shang Dynasty form?</p> <p>A study on how the Shang Dynasty formed, using available evidence.</p> <p>I can make comparisons and find differences between the formation of the Shang Dynasty and the Roman Empire.</p> <p>I understand the difference between a dynasty and an empire.</p> |
|  | <p>What was life like in the Shang Dynasty?</p> <p>An enquiry into the achievements, religion, and society of the Shang Dynasty.</p> <p>How does this compare with life in the Roman Empire?</p> <p>I can find comparisons and identify differences between these aspects of the Shang Dynasty and the Roman Empire.</p> |
|  | <p>Did the Shang Dynasty expand?</p> <p>An enquiry into warfare and the expansion of the Dynasty.</p> <p>How did the Dynasty end?</p> <p>Children will develop an understanding of the factors that led to the decline of the Shang Dynasty.</p> |
|  | <p>Children will formulate and write a response to the enquiry question, 'How does the Shang Dynasty differ to other Empires?'</p> |

What I already know:

In Key Stage One, children learnt about Mary Seacole and her efforts in Crimea to help soldiers. They learned that she came from Britain, the leader of the British Empire at the time. Children explored why Mary Seacole worked for the British Empire.

In Unit 4, children will learn about the achievements of the Ancient Greek and Egyptian Empires and will be able to compare these to the knowledge learnt about the Shang Dynasty. They will also explore the British Empire in more depth and its impact on nations within the Empire.

Across the school, there is an emphasis on chronology and children will be able to place events and periods learnt about on a timeline.

Website links:

[Shang dynasty - Kids | Britannica Kids | Homework Help](#)

[Shang Dynasty - KS2 History - BBC Bitesize](#)



This map shows modern day China. The red part shows the boundaries of the Shang Dynasty. China was not the unified country we see today, instead it was made up of several dynasties.



This painting shows what a palace of the Shang Dynasty may have looked like. The Shang built large cities. They farmed the land and fished in the waters, contributing to many modern-day practices.