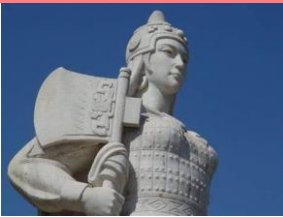


Year 4 History Knowledge Organiser: Shang Dynasty

Key Events	
1600 BC	The Shang dynasty is founded when Cheng Tang overthrows the Xia dynasty. He has the support of 40 other kingdoms.
1400-1200 BC	The earliest found examples of Chinese writing are dated to this period.
1250 BC	King Wu Ding begins his reign.
1200 BC	Fu Hao , one of the wives of King Wu Ding, dies. Her tomb is the only intact Shang tomb that has been found to date.
1075 BC	The last Shang king, Di Xin, begins his reign.
1046 BC	Slaves revolt in protest against cruel treatment and increasing taxes. The Shang dynasty is overthrown and replaced by the Zhou dynasty.

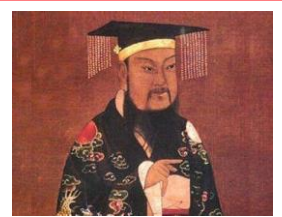
Significant figures

Lady Fu Hao



First known female military and influential leader of her time, either male or female, responsible for leading 13,000 soldiers into battle. She was also a high priestess, which was very unusual for a woman at the time.

Cheng Tang



He took over from a king called Jie who was mistreating his power and his own generals would not obey him. He ruled for 17 years. As many as 40 kingdoms supported him. He lowered taxes.

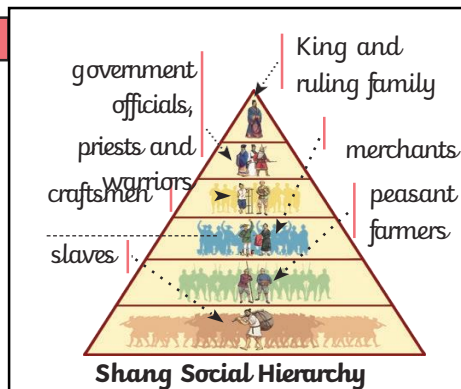
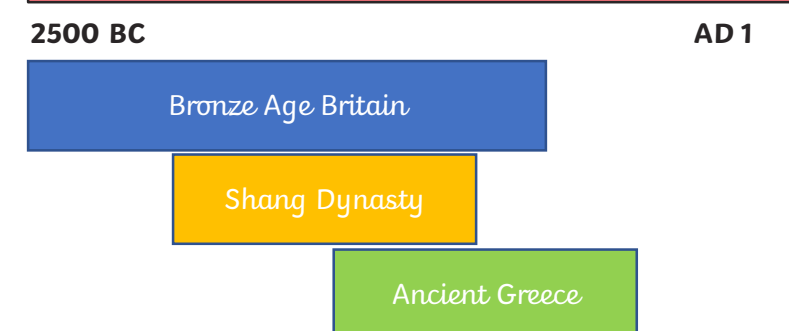
King Di Xin (Emperor Zhou)



He raised taxes and tortured people for fun. He raised taxes to fund his extravagant lifestyle, which made people poor and resentful. He made his army with slave, prisoners and peasants who did not listen to him.

Key Vocabulary	
oracle bones	Usually the shoulder bones of animals or the belly shells of turtles. Dug up centuries later by farmers, they were thought to be dragon bones and were ground up to be used in traditional Chinese medicine. In 1889, Wang Yirong and his friend Liu E worked out that the 'dragon bones' had been used in ancient ceremonies.
intact	Complete, not robbed by looters.
jade	A hard mineral stone, usually green.
bronze	A metal made from a mixture of copper and tin.
cowrie shells	Small, flat, yellowish seashells, used like coins in trading.
dynasty	A line of hereditary rulers of a country.
GOLDEN VOCABULARY	
AD/CE	After the birth of Jesus/common era
BC/BCE	Before Christ/Before common era
Source	Something that tells us about history (a painting, photograph, a document, a map etc).
Analyse	To look at and consider something in detail, to discover something about it and learn about its relevance to something.

Timeline



Artefacts



Food vessel



Oracle bone



Bronze mask



Cowrie Shell



Jade