

## Key Question / Topic: The Shang Dynasty

### (Intention) What we intend to cover in our learning:

#### English

Stories from other cultures - Traditional tales from China  
The Willow Pattern Story  
Chinese Odes (poetry)  
Play script writing  
Report writing linked to topic  
Chinese writing

#### Maths

Place value and decimals  
Addition, subtraction, multiplication and division  
Fractions and percentages  
Ratio and proportion  
Position and direction  
Geometry  
Measure and time  
Statistics

#### PE

Football and Dance (linked to China)

#### Computing

Researching the internet and designing own webpage  
E-safety  
Multimedia presentations



**THE SHANG DYNASTY**  
**Fox Class - Spring Term**

#### RE

What do the stories of Christianity teach us?  
What can we learn from the stories of Hinduism?

#### History

Modern day China  
Map work  
Timeline of Shang Dynasty  
Living in the Shang Dynasty  
Emperors and wives  
Gods, worship and oracle bones  
Analysing artefacts

#### Art and DT

Chinese patterns and dragon art  
Create models of oracle bones and design and create own Chinese dings  
Create scaled model of the solar system

#### Science

Earth, Sun and the Solar System  
Earth's rotation - night and day  
Investigating shadows  
Phases of the moon  
Planning scientific enquiries to answer questions  
Research, data collection and graphs

(Implementation) Key words I will use and need to know:



## The Shang Dynasty




### Vocabulary List

Dynasty  
Emperor  
Cheng Tang  
Wu Ding  
Fu Hao  
Ancient China  
Yellow River  
irrigation

dragon  
bronze  
hu vessels  
ding vessels  
oracle bones  
worship  
ancestors

deities  
sacrifice  
Shang Di  
government  
bureaucracy  
chariots  
weapons  
Shang army

Earth	Pluto	heat
Sun	dwarf planet	eclipse
Moon		satellite
moon	<b>movement</b>	universe
planets	rotate	solar
star	orbit	
solar system	axis	<b>astronomer</b>
Mercury		Ptolemy
Venus	celestial body	Alhazen
Mars	spherical	Copernicus
Jupiter	sphere	
Saturn	day	shadow clock
Uranus	night	sundial
Neptune	light	



## (Implementation) Key knowledge we will learn:

### Shang Dynasty

- The first ruler of the Shang was Tang Shang, a military leader. There were thirty Shang Emperors; a **dynasty is a succession of rulers from the same family or line**.
- The Shang built their **houses and public buildings** out of wood and mud. They built mud banks to try and hold back flooding. Defensive walls and towers were also built of mud.
- Shang society was divided into different **classes**. At the top were the ruling class under the **royal family**, then came **priests**, an **administrative class**, **warriors**, **craftsmen**, **traders**, **farmers** and **slaves**. Most people were farmers.
- Noble warriors paid **tributes** to the Emperor who granted them land in return for their loyalty.
- The Shang were specialists in **bronze** work and many beautiful artefacts have been recovered from their tombs.
- The Shang believed in a supreme God, **Shang Di**, as well as subsidiary powers or spirits. Ancestor worship and the family were central to their religious practice. They also believed in an afterlife and were buried with the goods, slaves and animals they believed would be useful to them.
- **The Shang were the first Chinese to develop writing**. They used **pictographs**, characters which could convey more than one meaning.
- The **Shang year** of 360 days was comprised of 12 months of 30 days. It was based on the lunar month and the solar year. An additional month was added when necessary.
- In order to predict the future, or ask questions of the gods, people would engrave questions on **oracle bones** (tortoise shells or cow bones). These would then be burned and the priests would 'read' the cracks which then appeared.
- Chinese people used to grind down these ancient animal bones to make **traditional medicines**. In 1899 some scholars noticed engravings on the bones and discovered they had come from North East China. In 1928 excavations began and evidence of the Shang was discovered.

### Earth & Space

- Pupils should find out about the way that ideas about the solar system have developed, understanding how the geocentric model of the solar system gave way to the heliocentric model by considering the work of scientists such as Ptolemy, Alhazen and Copernicus.
- Comparing the time of day at different places on the Earth through internet links and direct communication; creating simple models of the solar system; constructing simple shadow clocks and sundials, calibrated to show midday and the start and end of the school day; finding out why some people think that structures such as Stonehenge might have been used as astronomical clocks

## (Implementation) Things to do and find out at home:

### English

Practise the Year 3 and 4 statutory spellings      Practise the Year 5 and 6 statutory spellings (*when confident with Year 3/4 spellings*)  
Concentrate on about 10 words each week

Read some Chinese myths/legends and choose your favourite to summarise

Write a story based in China about a dragon

Research and write your own dragon poem

Write a newspaper report on the Moon landing

*Year 6 SATs revision books for Reading and SPAG*

### Topic

Make a presentation about the differences between modern day China and life during the Shang Dynasty. You could include information on aspects such as: religion, government, clothes, food, medicine, rulers, traditions and farming

Research why dragons are such an important part of Chinese history and culture

Draw or make a model of a Chinese dragon

Find out about famous Chinese architecture and record with images

Choose an emperor from the Shang Dynasty to research and write a fact file about



### FOX CLASS HOMEWORK ACTIVITIES

### Maths

Learn multiplication and division facts of all 12 times tables

Learn to tell the time to 1 minute intervals in analogue and digital time (12 and 24 hour)

Practise the column method for addition and subtraction (Year 6 to also practise the written method for  $\times$  and  $\div$ )

Practise ordering decimal numbers with up to 3 decimal places (Year 5 could order money (with 2 decimal places) eg £3.45, £3.05 £3.95 etc)

Find all the lines of symmetry in common 2D shapes

*Year 6 SATs revision books for Arithmetic and Reasoning*

### Science

Record the phases of the moon over one lunar month

Choose your favourite planet to research and create a fact sheet about with illustrations

Make a model of a planet or space rocket

Make a wordsearch using the space vocabulary list

Look at the night sky and try to find some of the star constellations

Research facts to make a space quiz for your friends to answer

## (Impact) The children will be assessed against these National Curriculum Programmes of Study:

### History

- Devise, ask and answer more complex questions about the past, considering key concepts in history
- Select sources independently and give reasons for choices
- Analyse a range of source material to promote evidence about the past
- Construct and organise response by selecting and organising relevant historical data
- Understand that the past is represented and interpreted in different ways and give reasons for this
- Record knowledge and understanding in a variety of ways, using dates and key terms appropriately
- Begin to offer explanations about why people in the past acted as they did

### Science

- describe the movement of the Earth and other planets relative to the sun in the solar system
- describe the movement of the moon relative to the Earth
- describe the sun, Earth and moon as approximately spherical bodies
- use the idea of the Earth's rotation to explain day and night and the apparent movement of the sun across the sky