CBS Knowledge Organiser

Year: 4

Topic: The Shang Dynasty

What I already know:

- Who the Anglo-Saxons were and where they came from;
- Anglo-Saxons kingdoms;
- Village life for the average Anglo-Saxon;
- Artefacts, evidence and Sutton Hoo;
- Anglo-Saxon warriors and weapons;
- Anglo-Saxon gods;
- Converting to Christianity; and
- Runes and writing.

New Knowledge/Facts

Importance of the Shang Dynasty

They left a legacy of Chinese culture that proved long lasting. The hereditary dynastic succession that they set in place endured for millennia. The role of the family and importance of ancestors remain central to Chinese culture today. Their artistry, with bronze in particular, continues to be admired for its beauty and grace.

Shang Society

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 who grew millet, wheat and barley but not much rice as this was grown further down south. It is also thought that silkworms were used to produce silk. Noble warriors often paid tributes to the Emperor who granted them land in return for their loyalty.

Overview of unit

Big Question – How does life differ now from when the Shang ruled?

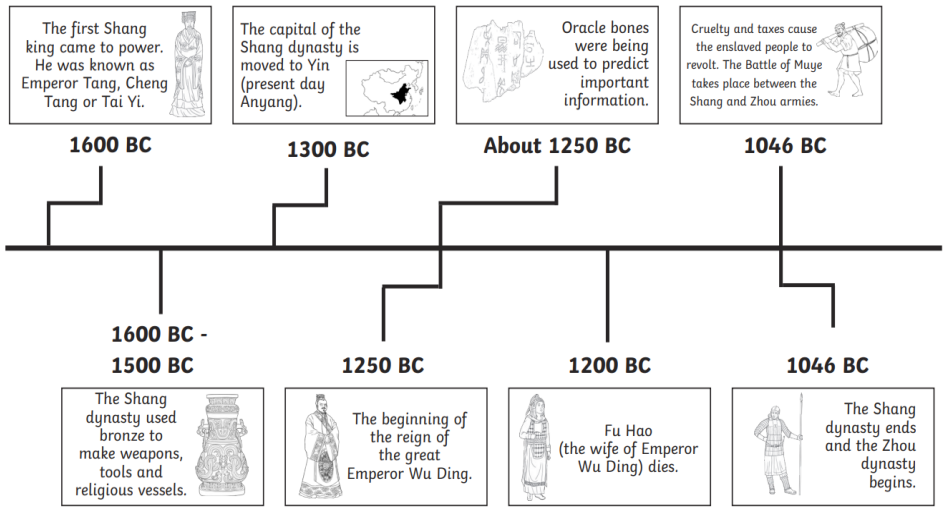
- Creating a timeline to show the major events during the Shang dynasty.
- Describing settlements around the yellow river.
- How the Shang people used symbols for writing.
- Discussing the religious beliefs of the Shang Dynasty.
- How do we assess a valid source?



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Timeline:



Key Vocabulary:

bronze	A strong metal alloy made from copper.
oracle bones	This was heated and cracked by holy men to seek advice from king's ancestors.
settlements	A place where people establish a community.
dynasty	A sequence of rulers from the same family
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.
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.
Yellow River	A major river running across the northeast of China.
artefacts	An object created by a human, usually found much later after it was made.
cowrie shells	Small seashells which were used by the Shang when trading as kind of money.
jade	A mineral (Rock) that is green in colour. Used in lots of Asian art.
culture	Activities such as the arts and philosophy, which are considered to be important for the development of civilisation.
society	People in general, thought of as a large, organized group.
trade	The activity of buying, selling, or exchanging goods or services.