

The Spring Partnership Trust – Knowledge Organiser

When? (Key Knowledge)

1600 BC	Cheng Tang founds the Shang dynasty after overthrowing the legendary Xia dynasty
1400 - 1200 BC	The earliest found examples of Chinese writing are dated to around this time
1250 BC	King Wu Ding begins his reign
1200 BC	Fu Hao, wife of King Wu Ding, dies
1075 BC	The last Shang king, Di Xin, begins his reign
1046 BC	The slaves revolt in protest of cruel treatment and increasing taxes. The Shang dynasty is overthrown and the Zhou dynasty begins

Diagrams



Background Information

The Shang Dynasty (ruled by the Shang family) was located in ancient China. The civilisation lasted from around 1600 BC until 1046 BC. It was the second dynasty of China which succeeded the Xia Dynasty (c. 2700-1600 BCE) after the overthrow of the Xia tyrant Jie by the Shang leader, Tang. We know lots about the Shang dynasty from archaeological remains and written documents.

What? (Key vocab)

Spelling	Definition
Dynasty	A sequence of rulers from the same family
Emperor	The ruler of a country
Artefacts	Objects found from previous civilisations
Merchant	A person who trades or sells items as a living
Civilisation	The culture of people living together
Oracle bones	Bones which were used to conduct a divination ceremony and speak to ancestors
Social Hierarchy	The different groups of people and their lifestyles
Peasant Farmer	One of the lowest social classes, the peasant farmers spent all days in the fields growing and harvesting crops

Who?

Fu Hao	A great military leader and warrior. Her tomb is the only one to be left untouched
Tang	The first emperor of Shang. He was very popular and very successful
Shang Di	Believed to be the God with the ultimate spiritual power