



Year 3/4 History Knowledge
Organiser: The Shang Dynasty



Subject Specific Skills

- The achievements of the earliest civilizations - an overview of where and when the first civilizations appeared and a depth study of one.
- To develop chronologically secure knowledge and establish clear narratives within and across periods of history.
- To note connections, contrasts and trends over time and devise historically valid questions about change, cause, similarity and difference, and significance.

Prior Learning

- To understand that there is a past within their living memory and a past beyond.
- Substantive concepts such as trade, industry and settlement will have been mentioned but not explicitly taught.
- To place events on a timeline.
- Children may have already studied the Stone Age and will be able to use BCE and CE. They may be familiar with prehistory and be able to discuss similarities and differences between periods.

Key Vocabulary:

Artisans - Talented group including potters, stonemasons and workers with bronze and jade

Dynasty - A sequence of rulers from the same family

Oracle Bone - This was heated and cracked by holy men to seek advice from king's ancestors

Society - a group of people living as a community or organised group for a common purpose

Warfare - the act of fighting in a war

Key Knowledge:

- The Shang dynasty is the **earliest ruling dynasty** of China in recorded history that ruled Ancient China between 1600-1046 BC over the land near the **Yellow River**.
- **Archaeologists** have found **chariots** that would have been used in battle, **oracle bones**, which are an example of early Chinese writing and tombs filled with artefacts belonging to important members of Shang society.
- The Shang dynasty existed at the height of China's Bronze Age when bronze was used to make items for many different purposes. The production of bronze objects became a symbol of power and status.
- The Shang dynasty introduced rules to control what people were allowed to do and what they could own.
- Life was very different for the rich and poor in Shang society.

