

The Shang Dynasty was the first well-documented dynasty in China, though earlier ones are mentioned in Chinese legend. It was based around the Yellow River in central China and is sometimes called the cradle of Chinese civilisation.



Key facts

Tang was the first emperor of Shang. He was very popular and successful.

Fu Hao was one of the many wives of Wu Ding but was also the military commander.

Wu Ding a very successful emperor for 58 years.

Zhou was the last emperor of the Shang Dynasty who was known as a tyrant.

In this unit children will explore:

How was society structured in the Shang Dynasty?

Who was Fu Hao?

What were the accomplishments of the Shang Dynasty?

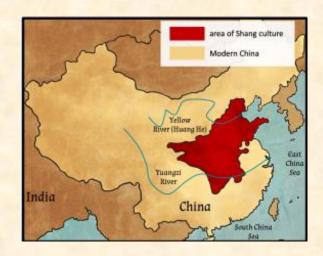
Key People

Emperor Tang King Zhou Fu Hao

Shang Dynasty

Transferable vocabulary & concepts

Society: people in general, thought of as a large organised group
Classes: a system of ordering society were people are divided into groups based on social or economic status
Hierarchy: a system of organising people into different ranks or levels of importance



Key Vocabulary

Dynasty: a family that rule a country or state for many generations

Jade: A mineral (rock) that is green in colour General: A leader of an army

Oracle bones: Animal bones or turtle shells used to try to predict the future

Yellow River: A major river running north east of China

Timeline of Key Events

2400 BCE 1600 BCE

Bronze age begins in China King Tang starts the Shang Dynasty

1250 BCE-1192 BCE

1046 BCE

1928

King Tang starts the Shang Dynasty Emperor Wu Ding reigns Shang Dynasty is defeated

Excavations begin in Anyang