

Key facts, places and dates

VOCABULARY!

Archaeologist

Someone who studies the past by looking at objects, buildings and remains.

Artefact

An object created by a human, usually found a long time after it was made.

Bronze

A metal made by melting and mixing copper and tin.

Dynasty

A family that rules a country for a long time.

Emperor

The ruler of a country or empire.

General

A leader in an army.

Jade

A green rock that is used in a lot of Asian art.

Oracle bones

Animal bones with Chinese writing on, used in Ancient China to try and predict the future.

Tomb

an underground monument to a dead person.

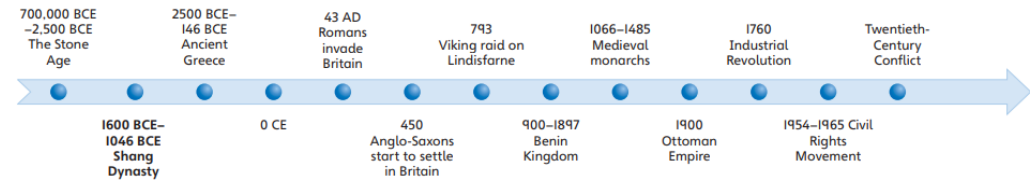
Yellow River

A major river running across the north east of China.



Timeline	
2400 BCE	The Bronze Age begins in China
1600 BCE	King Tang overthrows the last emperor of the Xia Dynasty; the Shang Dynasty begins
1250 BCE–1192 BCE	Emperor Wu Ding reigns over the Shang Dynasty
1250 BCE–1192 BCE	General Fu Hao leads many successful military campaigns
1046 BCE	The Shang Dynasty is defeated
1898	Antique dealers notice Chinese writing on oracle bones
1928	Excavations in Anyang; many items from the Shang Dynasty are found
1976	The tomb of Fu Hao is discovered near Anyang

Important people	
Tang	First emperor of Shang; very popular and successful
Fu Hao	A great military leader and warrior; wife of Wu Ding
Wu Ding	A very successful emperor; ruled for 58 years
Zhou	The last emperor of the Shang Dynasty; a tyrant; born 'Xin'
Daji	Cruel woman (wife of Zhou), who made up awful punishments



The Shang Dynasty was an ancient civilisation in China. Today, China is the third-biggest country in the world, and has the largest population of any country: 1.4 billion people live there. However, ancient China had many different civilisations, and the Shang Dynasty occupied a much smaller area than the country of China does today. Most of the main cities in the Shang civilisation were near the Yellow River.