

Life in The Shang Dynasty

The Shang Dynasty ruled ancient China from around 1600 BC to 1046 BC, making it one of the earliest Chinese kingdoms we know a great deal about. Most people lived in small villages along the Yellow River, where the land was good for farming. Farmers grew crops such as rice, wheat and millet, and they also kept animals like pigs and cattle.

The king was the most powerful person in the land. He ruled with the help of nobles and officials. Religion was very important to the Shang people. They believed in many gods and also honoured their dead ancestors. Priests used special bones called oracle bones to try to find out what the gods wanted.

The Shang people were skilled craftsmen. They created stunning objects from bronze, jade and silk. Their writing system, carved onto bones and tortoise shells, is one of the oldest in the world and is an ancestor of modern Chinese writing. Warriors fought using bronze weapons, chariots and powerful composite bows.

Questions

1. When did the Shang Dynasty begin?
2. Where did most Shang people live?
3. Name two crops that farmers grew.
4. Who helped the king rule the kingdom?
5. What were oracle bones used for?
6. Name two materials that skilled craftsmen worked with.
7. What was carved onto bones and tortoise shells?
8. Name two types of animals that people kept.
9. What weapons did Shang warriors use?
10. Why do you think writing was such an important invention for the Shang Dynasty?



Text B Quiz



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