

The Legacy of the Shang Dynasty

The Shang Dynasty was one of the earliest ruling families in ancient China. They came to power around 1600 BCE and ruled for several hundred years. During this time, they made discoveries and built things that would shape Chinese history forever.

One of their greatest achievements was developing one of the world's earliest writing systems. Shang scribes carved symbols onto animal bones and tortoise shells to ask questions of the gods. These are called oracle bones, and historians still use them to learn about Shang life today.

The Shang were also master craftsmen. They created stunning objects from bronze, including large ceremonial vessels used in religious rituals. These showed incredible skill and artistry.

Society during the Shang Dynasty was well organised. Kings ruled at the top, followed by nobles, soldiers, craftsmen, and farmers. The king was believed to connect the living world with the world of the gods and ancestors.

The Shang Dynasty eventually fell, but its achievements lived on, forming strong foundations for later Chinese civilisations.

Questions

1. When did the Shang Dynasty come to power?
2. How long did the Shang Dynasty rule for?
3. What was one of the greatest achievements of the Shang people?
4. What did Shang scribes use to write on?
5. Why did they carve symbols onto bones and shells?
6. What are these carved bones and shells called?
7. What material did the Shang use to create stunning objects?
8. What were the bronze objects used for?
9. Name three groups of people in Shang society, from top to bottom.
10. Why do you think the king was considered so powerful in Shang society?



Text B Quiz



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