

# Achievements of the earliest civilisations with a focus on the Shang Dynasty KS2 Knowledge Mat

## Subject Specific Vocabulary

<b>archaeologist</b>	People who discover our history by looking at artefacts that have been found.
<b>civilization</b>	A society with its own social organisation and culture.
<b>dynasty</b>	A family of rulers who rule over an area for a long period of time.
<b>River valley</b>	A long narrow area of low land between mountains or hills, with a river or stream running along the bottom.
<b>irrigation</b>	The supply of water to land to help crops to grow.
<b>inscription</b>	When an object has something written or carved onto it.
<b>Fu Hao</b>	Fu Hao was a Shang military general and high priestess. Archaeologists found her tomb and this has helped historians to develop a deeper understanding of life in the Shang Dynasty.
<b>Oracle bones</b>	Bones that the people of the Shang Dynasty would carve or scratch questions on to. They were used for divination.
<b>Excavation</b>	Digging up and removing things from an archaeological site.
<b>Ancestor</b>	A person from whom a person is descended.



### Sticky Shang Dynasty Knowledge

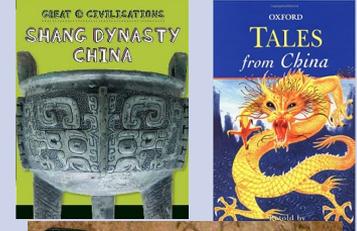
A civilisation is a society with its own social organisation and culture. There are 4 civilisations which are believed to be the earliest: Ancient Egypt (in Egypt), Indus Valley (in Pakistan) , Sumer (Mesopotamia Modern Iraq), the Shang Dynasty (China). They are all situated in a similar position on the globe and located near to at least 1 river.

The rivers and climate of these places helped settlements to become established. Population grew because enough food could be produced to feed the people. Systems of government became established so people could live together by the same rules. Beliefs, art, music were shared by people. Forms of writing were created for communication and keeping records.

The Shang Dynasty civilisation achieved lots, including their own writing system, calendar, large underground burials, use of jade and bronze to make carvings and weapons.

Life was different for different people in the Shang Dynasty. There was a social hierarchy with slaves at the bottom and kings and the ruling family at the top. The Ancient Egyptians had a similar social hierarchy.

## Exciting books



The Shang Dynasty ruled part of China between 1600BC and 1046BC.