



**Kildwick CE VC Primary School**  
Learning to Live - Living to Love - Loving to Learn



# Achievements of the earliest civilisations with a focus on the Shang Dynasty Key Stage 2

**History: Curriculum Intent—Key Knowledge**

<b>Background</b>
<p>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 ,Indus Valley , 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.</p>

All dates below are approximate	
1600BC	The Shang Dynasty was founded when Cheng Tang overthrew the Xia dynasty. He had the support of 40 other kingdoms.
1400-1200BC	The earliest found examples of Chinese writing are dated to this period.
1250BC	King Wu Ding began his reign.
1200BC	Fu Hao, one of the wives of King Wu Ding, died. Her tomb is the only intact Shang tomb that has been found to date.
1075BC	The last Shang King, Di Xin, began
1046BC	Slaves revolted in protest against cruel treatment and increasing taxes. The Shang Dynasty was overthrown and replaced by the Zhou Dynasty.

<b>Key Themes and terms which run through our history curriculum</b>
<p><b>Archaeology / archaeologist</b> – the study of history by digging in different historic sites and studying what is found/ someone who digs up the remains of old societies</p> <p><b>Civilisation</b>– a society with its own social organisation (written records, system of government) and culture (beliefs and customs)</p> <p><b>Culture</b> –shared behaviour such as diet, language, clothing, tools, music, arts, customs, beliefs, and religion, which are shared by a group of people or society</p> <p><b>Dynasty</b>-a period of rule when a series of kings, queens or pharaohs all come from the same family</p> <p><b>Government</b>– the group of people with the authority to rule the country or state.</p> <p><b>Hierarchy</b>- the different ranks, or power structures.</p> <p><b>Monarch, monarchy</b> – a monarch is the king or queen. A monarchy is a country ruled by a monarch</p> <p><b>Society</b> – people living together in organised communities</p> <p><b>Technology</b>- inventions and methods for solving practical problems.</p> <p><b>Trade</b> - is the activity of buying, selling, or exchanging goods or services between people, businesses, or countries</p>

<b>Key People (Chronological)</b>
<p><b>Cheng Tang:</b> The Shang dynasty is founded when Cheng Tang overthrows the Xia dynasty. He has the support of 40 other kingdoms</p> <p><b>Fu Hao:</b> Not only the first known female military leader, but also the most influential military leader of her time, either male or female, responsible for leading 13,000 soldiers into battle. She was also a high priestess, which was very unusual for a woman at the time.</p> <p><b>Di Xin:</b> The last Shang king.</p>

## Curriculum Intent: Key Lines of Enquiry

Key line of enquiry 1:	Key line of enquiry 2:	Key line of enquiry 3:
<p><b>What is a civilisation? When and where did the earliest civilisations appear?</b></p> <p>We will learn about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What a civilisation is.</li> <li>• That there are 4 civilisations which are believed to be the earliest: Ancient Egypt , Indus valley , Sumer (Mesopotamia Modern Iraq) and the Shang dynasty China.</li> <li>• When these civilisations began (in relation to other time periods studied)</li> <li>• Where they began.</li> </ul>	<p><b>What do civilisations need to grow and succeed?</b></p> <p>We will learn about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What the location of the earliest civilisations have in common (they are all situated in a similar position on the globe located to at least 1 river)</li> <li>• Why rivers were important: (drinking water, fertile flood-plains for agriculture, transport)</li> <li>• Explain why these conditions enabled civilisations to grow and succeed: rivers and climate 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.</li> </ul>	<p><b>What were the achievements of each civilisation and how do historians know about these achievements?</b></p> <p>We will learn about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The achievements of each civilisation, including: writing systems, maths and number systems, trade and technology.</li> <li>• The impact of these achievements.</li> <li>• How historians use writing, artefacts and places to find out about the earliest civilisations.</li> </ul>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Key Vocabulary</b></p> <p><b>Civilisation</b>– a society with its own social organisation (written records, system of government) and culture (beliefs and customs)</p> <p><b>Culture</b> –shared behaviour such as diet, language, clothing, tools, music, arts, customs, beliefs, and religion, which are shared by a group of people or society</p> <p><b>Society</b> – people living together in organised communities Technology- inventions and methods for solving practical problems.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Key Vocabulary</b></p> <p><b>Archaeology / archaeologist</b> – the study of history by digging in different historic sites and studying what is found/ someone who digs up the remains of old societies</p> <p><b>Civilisation</b>– a society with its own social organisation (written records, system of government) and culture (beliefs and customs)</p> <p><b>Culture</b> –shared behaviour such as diet, language, clothing, tools, music, arts, customs, beliefs, and religion, which are shared by a group of people or society</p> <p><b>Government</b>– the group of people with the authority to rule the country or state.</p> <p><b>Society</b> – people living together in organised communities</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Key Vocabulary</b></p> <p><b>Technology</b>- inventions and methods for solving practical problems.</p> <p><b>Trade</b> - is the activity of buying, selling, or exchanging goods or services between people, businesses, or countries</p>

## Curriculum Intent: Key Lines of Enquiry

Key line of enquiry 4:	Additional Line of Enquiry 5:	Links to other history topics:
<p><b>What was the Shang Dynasty? What was life like in the Shang Dynasty?</b></p> <p>We will learn about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What a dynasty is.</li> <li>• The different dynasties of China.</li> <li>• Ordering of key events from the Shang Dynasty period.</li> <li>• The social hierarchy of the Shang Dynasty.</li> <li>• Compare this social hierarchy with other societies studied.</li> <li>• The Gods that the people of the Shang Dynasty believed in.</li> <li>• Comparison of Gods of other early civilisations.</li> <li>• Burials in the Shang Dynasty. Comparison of burials with Ancient Egyptian pyramid burials.</li> <li>• The burial of Fu Hao.</li> <li>• How historians know about the Shang Dynasty.</li> </ul>	<p><b>What were some of the significant achievements of the Shang Dynasty?</b></p> <p>We will learn about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The end of the Shang Dynasty</li> <li>• Revisit and summarise the achievements and link to these areas (technological, scientific, cultural, economic, etc)</li> <li>• Compare with other civilisations</li> </ul>	<p>Comparison with the Britain in the Bronze Age.</p> <p>Links with the year 6 Maya topic.</p>
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