

Feniscowles Primary School

Striving for Excellence

How did a pile of dragon bones help to solve an ancient Chinese mystery?

Medium Term Plan - Year 5 Autumn Term

Enquiry: How did a pile of dragon bones help to solve an ancient Chinese mystery?

What the pupils will know

- That the Shang Dynasty was located in northern China between 1600 BC 1046 BC
- This was the same time as the Bronze Age in Britain and the Ancient Egyptian civilisation
- That until 1899 there was no evidence that the Shang Dynasty had ever actually existed
- What Wang Yirong discovered at a Peking market in 1899 that was so significant in telling archaeologists about the Shang Dynasty
- The likely purpose of carved oracle bones during the Shang Dynasty
- What artefacts tell us about the lives and beliefs of the monarchs and noblemen of the Shang Dynasty
- Why there is no evidence of the lives of ordinary people of the Shang Dynasty
- How and why the impacts of the reigns of King Cheng Tang and Di Xin were so different
- The importance of the Shang burial chamber discovered at Yi Au in 1976
- What the artefacts and remains found in the tomb tell us about the person who was probably buried there
- Why tombs of monarchs and noblemen often became the target of graverobbers during the Shang Dynasty
- How life during the Shang Dynasty compared with life for most people in Bronze Age Britain

National Curriculum Coverage

Pupils should be taught about:

 the achievements of the earliest civilisations – an overview of where and when the first civilisations appeared and an in-depth study of one of the following: Ancient Sumer, the Indus Valley, Ancient Egypt or the Shang Dynasty of Ancient China.

Historical sources the pupils will interpret

- Photographs
- Sculptures
- Maps
- Frescos
- Drawings
- Statues
- Books
- Artistic reconstructions
- Artefacts

Disciplinary thinking skills the pupils will use to understand what they know

Synthesise	Bring together a range of ideas and facts from different
	sources to develop an argument or explanation for
	something.
Explain	Demonstrate understanding and comprehension of how or
	why something is the way it is as a result of synthesising
	information.
Empathise	The capacity to place oneself impartially in another's
	position to better understand their motives, decisions and
	actions (even if they are not shared values).
Informed conclusion	A knowledgeable summing up of the main points or issues
	about something.
Reasoned judgement	A personal view or opinion about something supported by
	factual evidence.
Justify	Give reasons to show or prove what you feel to be right or
	reasonable.
Apply	The transfer of knowledge and/or skills learned in one
	context to help make sense of a different situation
Evaluate	Weigh up and judge the relative importance of something in
	relation to counter ideas and arguments.
Critique	Review and examine something critically particularly to gain
	an awareness of its limitations and reliability as evidence
Hypothesise	Come up with an idea, question or theory that can be
	investigated to see whether it has any validity or truth.

SEND

In line with our school policy, we ensure inclusion through constructing enquiries which are graduated in 'bite size' steps allowing for the setting of personalised targets, a broad range of learning and teaching strategies including questioning, working with additional adults where appropriate and a holistic approach to assessing achievement.

Pupils making a good level of progress will:

• **Identify, describe and explain** that the Shang Dynasty was located in northern China between 1600 BC – 1046 BC

End Points of Learning

- Recognise that this was the same time as the Bronze Age in Britain and the Ancient Egypt
- **Explain** why until 1899 there was no evidence that the Shang Dynasty had ever actually existed
- Describe what Wang Yirong discovered at a Peking market in 1899 and explain why it was so significant
- Reach a judgement as to the likely purpose of carved oracle bones during the Shang Dynasty
- Reach a judgement about what archaeologists believe these artefacts tell us about the lives and beliefs of the monarchs and noblemen of the Shang Dynasty
- **Explain** why there is no evidence of the lives of ordinary people of the Shang Dynasty
- Evaluate the impact of the reigns of King Cheng Tang and Di Xin in China and reach a judgement about which was most significant, justifying their views
- Identify and describe the artefacts discovered in the burial chamber at Yi Au in 1976
- **Explain** the significance of some of these and **reach a judgement** about what they tell us about the person who was buried there
- **Compare and contrast** how life in the Shang Dynasty compared with Ancient Egypt and the Bronze Age in Britain

Pupils working at greater depth will also:

 Be able to reach a judgement about which society – Shang or Bronze Age – should be considered the most developed and justify their views

Prior Learning

Earlier Lower Key Stage 2 and Upper Key Stage 2 pupils learned:

- About life in Bronze Age Britain which occurred at the same time as the Shang Dynasty in China
- About what an empire is and why the Romans invaded Britain to extend their empire
- About the Maya Civilisation in Central America and why their great jungle cities were ultimately abandoned