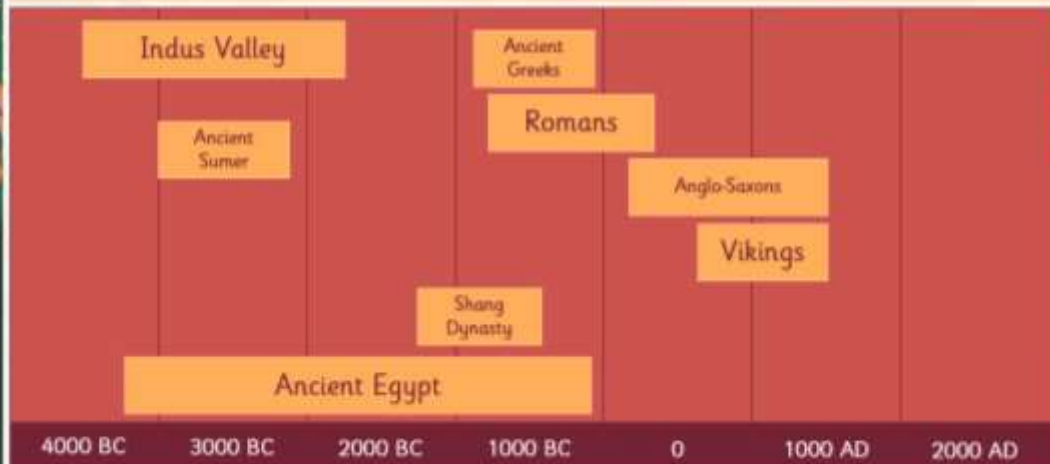


World History Timeline



Before we learn about the Shang Dynasty, here are some of the other great civilisations of the world that you may have heard of.



The Shang Dynasty

The Shang dynasty (ruled by the Shang family) was located in ancient China.
The civilisation lasted from around 1600 BC until 1046 BC.

We know lots about the Shang dynasty from archaeological remains and written documents. Chinese legend says that the founder of the Shang Dynasty, Cheng Tang, overthrew the Xia dynasty to take power, but there is no definite proof of the Xia dynasty's existence.



Shang Dynasty Map



Here are some famous rivers, landmarks and cities in China, as well as the borders to other countries and seas.



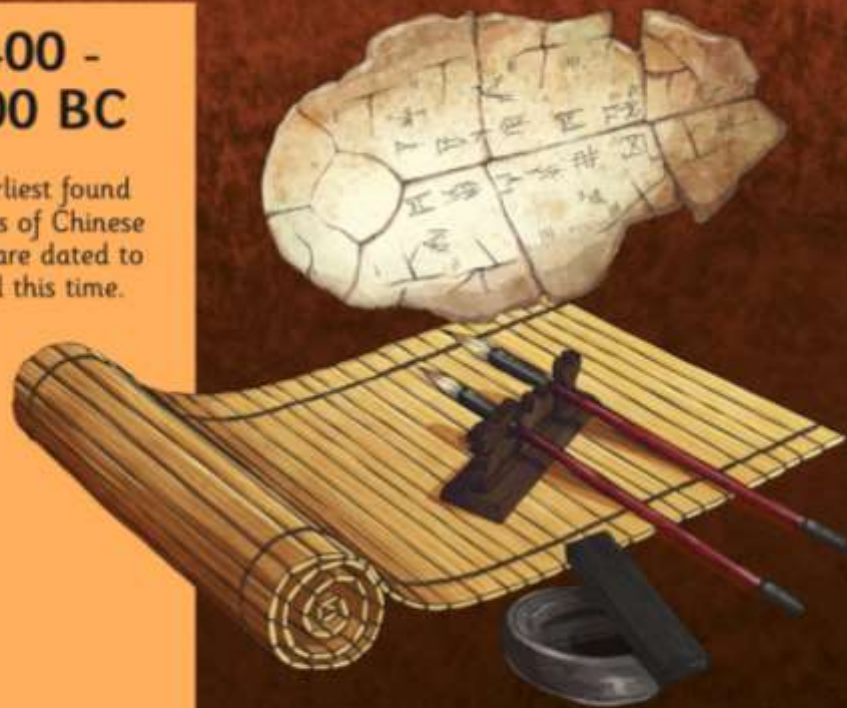
1600 BC

Cheng Tang founds the Shang dynasty after overthrowing the legendary Xia dynasty.



**1400 -
1200 BC**

The earliest found
examples of Chinese
writing are dated to
around this time.



1250 BC

King Wu Ding begins
his reign.



1200 BC

Fu Hao, wife of King
Wu Ding, dies.



1075 BC

The last Shang king, Di
Xin, begins his reign.



1046 BC

The slaves revolt in protest of cruel treatment and increasing taxes. The Shang dynasty is overthrown and the Zhou dynasty begins.



Discovery of the Shang Dynasty



You may not be surprised to learn that the existence of the Shang dynasty was not fully proved until AD 1928!

An interest in finding the source of the legendary 'dragon bones' of ancient China led a team of archaeologists to perform a dig in Xiaotun, near Anyang. It was there that the foundations of an ancient royal city were unearthed and the existence of a great ancient civilisation began to be made clearer.

You are going to become archaeologists on the dig at Xiaotun. Can you piece together the evidence from the dig to reveal information about the Shang dynasty?



Discovery of the Shang Dynasty



Use you knowledge about the Xiaotun dig to create either a written newspaper article or a televised news report.

