

Xiaotun Dig

I can use archaeological evidence to draw conclusions about what life was like in the Shang Dynasty.



Read about the evidence that was found during the 9-year-long archaeological dig at Xiaotun. Discuss as a group what you think this can teach us about the Shang dynasty. Write your ideas in each box under the information.

The ruined foundations of a large city were found at the dig.	Inside the tomb, skeletons of dogs and sheep were found. Also, the skeletons of horses were laid next to chariots.	There were side tombs with skeletons laid side by side. Many skeletons were separate from their heads, which were buried in another part of the tomb.
There were huge tombs containing bodies of men and women surrounded by many luxury items.	'Dragon bones' were found; which were later identified as the shoulder bones of cattle and the under-shells of turtles, inscribed with Chinese writing.	The ruins of palaces or ceremonial buildings were found at the dig.
Intricately decorated bronze and jade sculptures were found inside the tombs.	Huge tombs were found. They were shaped like crosses and had many underground chambers.	Many ceramic artefacts were found at the dig.