



# KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER



## Shang Dynasty

### Timeline

1600 BC	1400—1200 BC	1250 BC	1200 BC	1075 BC	1046 BC
The Shang dynasty is founded when Cheng Tang overthrows the Xia dynasty. He has the support of 40 other kingdoms.	The earliest found examples of Chinese writing are dated to this period	King Wu Ding begins his reign	Fu Hao, one of the wives of King Wu Ding, dies. Her tomb is the only intact Shang tomb that has been found to date	The last Shang king, Di Xin, begins his reign.	Slaves revolt in protest against cruel treatment and increasing taxes. The Shang dynasty is overthrown and replaced by the Zhou dynasty.

### Key Vocabulary

Civilisation	a society that has a high level of culture and social organisation
Ancestors	somebody from whom somebody else is directly descended, especially more distant than a grandparent
Society	a structured community of people bound together by similar traditions, institutions, or nationality
Empire	a group of nations, territories, or peoples ruled by an emperor or empress
Dynasty	a succession of rulers from the same family
Emperor	a man who rules an empire
Inscriptions	a sequence of words or letters written, printed, or engraved on a surface



### Key Facts



- The Shang were frequently mentioned in many Chinese myths, legends and fables, but no one really knew whether they had ever really existed in the past.
- Ancient inscriptions discovered to have been carved into bones nearly 3,000 years previously, during a time in China known as the Shang Dynasty—this was finally evidence they existed.
- **King Cheng Tang** was the first Shang king and **King Di Xin** was the last. They ruled nearly 500 years apart.

### Hieroglyphs

