



Today we will be:

- Recapping what we have learnt about the Shang Dynasty so far.
- Finding out about how the Shang Dynasty buried their royals.
- Look at the story of Queen Fu Hao and how the discovery of her grave in 1976 taught us so much about what we now know about the Shang Dynasty.

LO: Use historical evidence to make inferences about the life of Fu Hao

First, a quick recap about what we already know about the Shang Dynasty...

The Shang Dynasty was the earliest well-documented dynasty in China and it ruled from about 1600-1046 BCE.

A dynasty is a society ruled by a line of kings from the same family.

So far, we have looked at ...

Lesson 1 - look back in your books

We found out all about how we know so much about the Shang Dynasty and their advancements during their period of reign.

We considered whether evidence from [redacted] or from [redacted] (on [redacted] bones) was a better source of evidence.

What did we conclude?

Lesson 2 - Look back in your books

We looked at what life was like for ordinary people during the Shang Dynasty and how life was organised in a [redacted] system with the King at the top then...

- noblemen and priests
- merchants
- [redacted]
- farmers
- [redacted]

Lesson 2 - Look back in your books

We looked at what life was like for ordinary people during the Shang Dynasty and how life was organised in a pyramid system with the King at the top then...


- noblemen and priests
- merchants
- craftsmen
- farmers
- slaves

We wrote a diary entry as an ordinary Shang person.

Can you remember any details about their life?

Lesson 3 - Look back in your books

We found out all about the writing created during the Shang Dynasty.

We matched  to words and wrote our own short story using them.

Lesson 4 -

You may be familiar with the Chinese legend of warrior Mulan; today, we will be looking at the story of a real warrior Queen, Fu Hao and how the discovery of her grave in 1976 taught us so much about what we now know about the Shang Dynasty.

Before we find out more, we need to look at some key vocabulary:

Monarch - the ruler of a country or state; a king, queen or emperor
allegiance - loyalty to a superior, commitment or cause
reverence - deep respect
ascended - move up to a higher rank
divination - the practice of seeking knowledge of the future or unknown
auspicious - favourable or a sign of future success
yue - symbolic military axe carried by Shang warriors
pastoralists - sheep or cattle farmers

Listen and watch carefully; take notes if you want to.



The Tomb of Fu Hao

In 1976, a team of archaeologists made a remarkable discovery at the site of the ancient Shang capital, Yinxu, in modern day Anyang. They found the tomb of the Shang military general and high priestess, Fu Hao.

Fu Hao's tomb is particularly important because it is the only Shang tomb that has been found intact.

The discovery of Fu Hao's tomb had a significant impact on our knowledge and understanding of the Shang dynasty and some of its people. It helped archaeologists and historians develop a deeper appreciation of Shang history.



The site of Yinxu, situated in modern day Anyang



As the archaeologists dug deeper into the grave, they uncovered layers of artefacts that revealed more and more about the Shang culture.

Tombs and Burial Customs

The way in which a person living during the Shang dynasty was buried varied according to their social status.

Kings and other important people at the top of the social class structure received elaborate burials. They could expect to be buried in large tombs (sometimes containing a number of rooms) alongside their slaves, animals and objects - it was thought that they would need these in the afterlife.

Poor people were buried in rows in group graves. It is thought that some of the poorest Shang were even simply tossed down wells when they died.

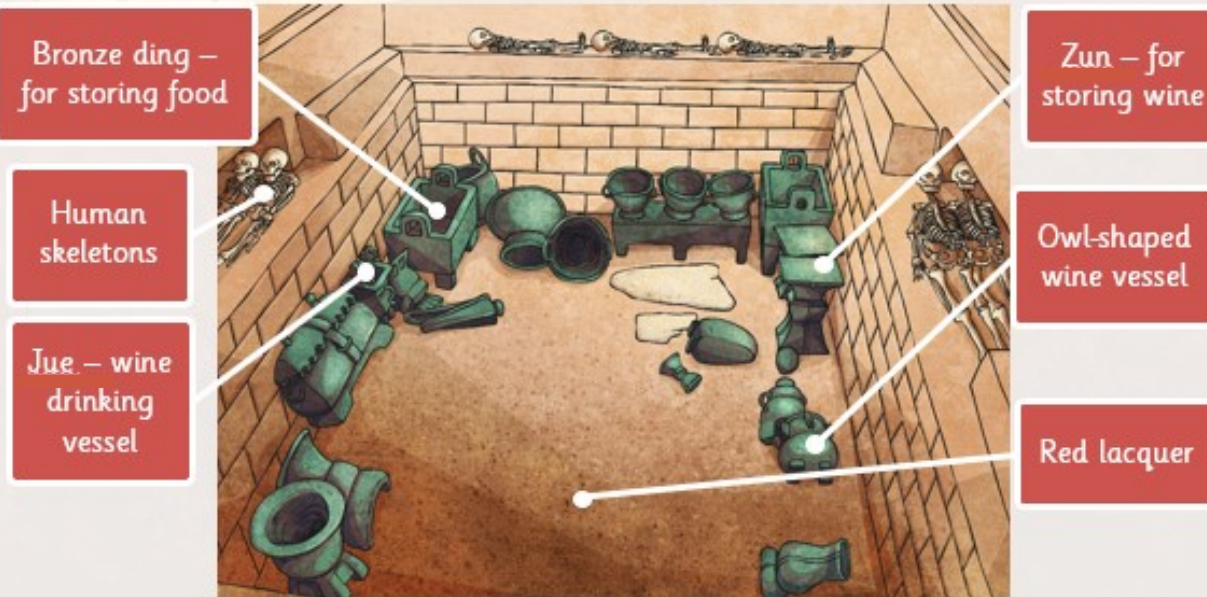


The Tomb of Fu Hao today



Inside the tomb of Fu Hao

Have good look around Fu Hao's tomb. What can you see?



The Tomb of Fu Hao

Contents of the Tomb

All of this was found inside Fu Hao's tomb:

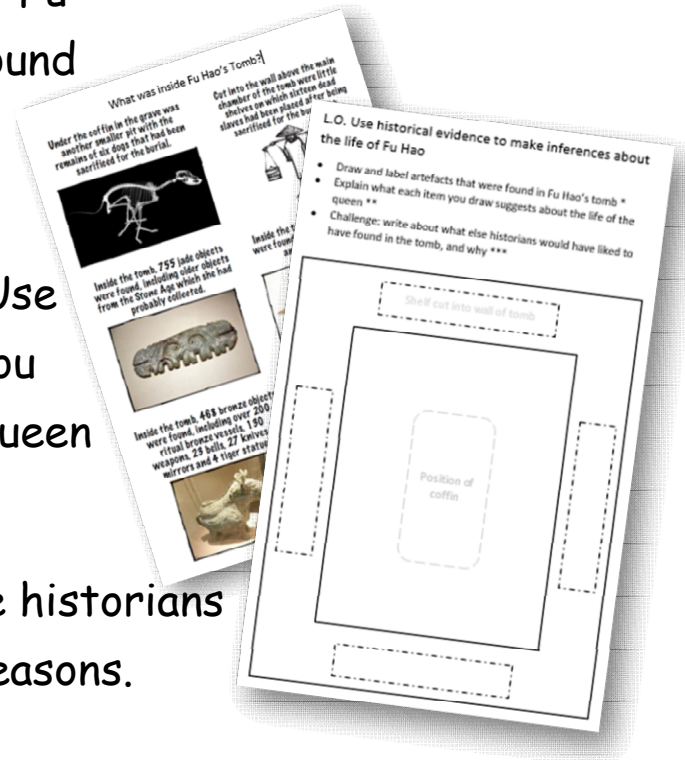
- The remains of 6 dogs and 16 humans
- Over 420 bronze objects (including 130 weapons, 23 bells, 27 knives, 4 tigers and 4 mirrors). The total weight was 1.6 metric tons, a massive amount, showing how rich the family were
- Over 750 jade objects
- 63 stone objects
- 5 ivory objects
- Over 550 bone objects (mainly bone hairpins and some arrowheads)
- 11 pottery objects
- Almost 7000 cowrie shells



Use the information sheet to draw the contents of Fu Hao's tomb in the diagram on your worksheet. Around the diagram, label the items that you draw.

A 'two-star' historian will use evidence to make **inferences** and **deductions** about what they find. Use what you have learnt in this lesson to write what you think each artefact tells us about the life of the queen that was buried there.

For a 'three-star' challenge, write about what else historians would have like to have found in the tomb, giving reasons.



Kahoot - if there is time.

<https://create.kahoot.it/details/8c25e8a0-4d8b-4376-9e50-44b87d78acb4>



**China Lesson 1: Shang
Dynasty**

