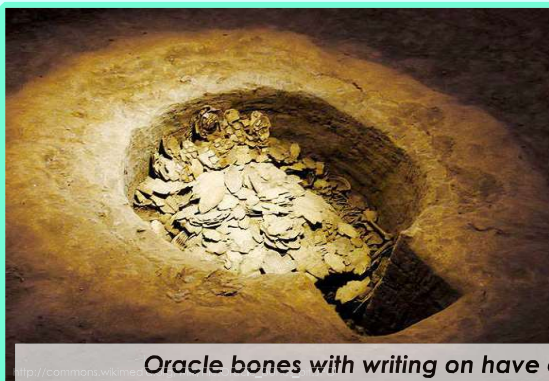


What do we know about the Shang Dynasty?

History books about the Shang Dynasty were not written until long after the Shang Dynasty had ended. It wasn't until much later still that archaeologists discovered evidence of the Shang Dynasty. The evidence they found didn't always support the writings in the history books. Read this table to find out what the history books and archaeologists say.

What the history books say	What archaeologists say
When was the Shang Dynasty?	
A historian called Liu Xin who lived from 50 BC to 23 AD said the Shang Dynasty started in 1766 BC and lasted until 1122 BC.	In 1996, a group of 200 archaeologists looked at all the evidence and decided that the Shang Dynasty lasted from about 1600 BC to 1046 BC.
Who began the Shang Dynasty?	
The first head of the Shang Dynasty, Qi, was born after his mother swallowed a dark egg from a black bird.	The body of the first ruler has never been found. Archaeologists do not usually know the names of the people they dig up.
Where did the Shang rulers live?	
The Shang rulers lived in the city of Yin.	Writing on bones dug up at excavations near Anyang call the city Dáyì Shāng, The Great Settlement Shang.
What were the royal palaces like?	
Shang rulers had amazing palaces at Yin.	Archaeologists digging at Anyung (Dáyì Shāng) have found the remains of royal palaces filled with bronze and jade objects.
Who were the Shang rulers?	
The history books have a list of kings who ruled the Shang Dynasty.	Writing on bones dug up at excavations near Anyang often have the name of the current king, his ancestors and a date on them. Archaeologists have been able to build up a list of the rulers of the Shang Dynasty, which is very similar to the one in the history books.



Oracle bones with writing on have confirmed the existence of the Shang Dynasty.