

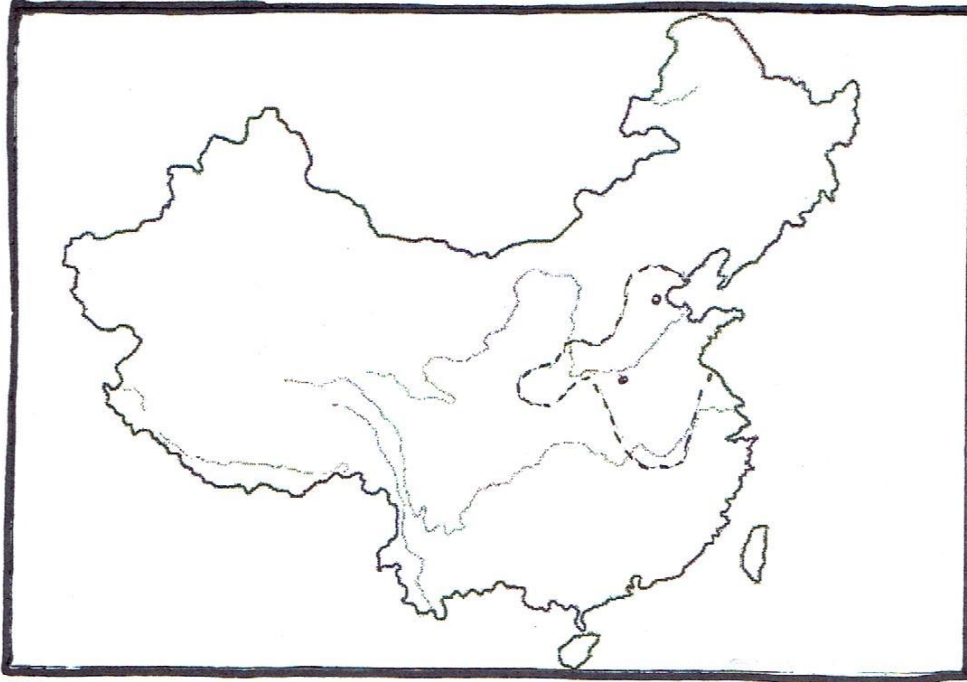
## Shang Dynasty Worksheet

### Shang map

Color the Shang Dynasty area.

Label the capital cities Shang and Anyang.

Label the Huang He (Yellow) and the Chang (Yangtze) rivers.



### Shang Reading

Fill in the following notes by reading pages 151-152 in your textbook.

#### THE SHANG DYNASTY

The Shang dynasty ruled hundreds of towns along the \_\_\_\_\_.

These towns provided \_\_\_\_\_ who were called upon to protect and expand the kingdom.

#### SHANG CULTURE

Like early cuneiform, the earliest Chinese signs looked like \_\_\_\_\_ of objects. By the Shang dynasty, however, the characters had been \_\_\_\_\_.

One ancient Chinese historian mentioned that Shang records were "written on \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_." More writing has been discovered on cattle and sheep bones like the one on this page. The bones were called \_\_\_\_\_.

Shang Chinese believed that their \_\_\_\_\_ lived in another world and controlled human life. The people of the Shang Dynasty also worshipped many different \_\_\_\_\_.

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In addition, the god worshipped by everyone during the Shang dynasty was Shang Di, the "lord on high." Shang Di was believed to be the link between people and heavenly beings. The souls of ancestors, it was thought, visited with Shang Di and received their instructions from him. It was therefore very important to make sure that Shang Ti was happy. This was done with various rituals and prayers, offerings, and sometimes even human sacrifices.

# Lesson 2

## The First Dynasties of China

### VOCABULARY

dynasty  
oracle bones  
Mandate of Heaven  
Warring States Period  
Daoism

### PEOPLE

Fu Hao  
Wuwang  
Duke of Zhou  
Confucius  
Lao Zi

### READING STRATEGY

Make a chart like this one to show sequence of events. List the most important events in the lesson.

↓
↓



How did the early rulers shape Chinese culture?

### Lesson Outline

- The Shang Dynasty
- Shang Culture
- Inventions, Local Rule, and War
- A Man Named Confucius

### BUILD BACKGROUND

In 1899, a Chinese scholar was given a packet of animal bones covered with mysterious ancient writing. What did the writing mean? Archaeologists were sent to a site along the Huang He. They determined that a kingdom called Shang developed there at around 1700 B.C. A single family ruled the kingdom for a long time, so the government became known as the Shang **dynasty**. A dynasty is a line of rulers who belong to the same family. For 600 years the Shang dynasty shaped the lives of people living along the Huang He.



This bronze elephant shows the Shang style of combining natural shapes with elaborate decoration.



**You Are Here**  
**1700 B.C. – 221 B.C.**

## THE SHANG DYNASTY

The Shang dynasty ruled hundreds of towns along the Huang He. Shang kings also created new towns by giving land to their relatives, who oversaw the construction of the new towns. Each town was an important production center. Its farmers and workers supplied food, clothing, and other products for the Shang rulers. These towns also provided soldiers who were called upon to protect and expand the Shang kingdom. They were sent to war whenever they were needed. Prisoners taken in war were forced into slavery.

Near the end of the Shang dynasty's 500-year rule, the capital was destroyed by invaders. A new capital was built near the town that is today **Anyang** (AHN YAHNG). Archaeologists working at Anyang have uncovered many huts.

Dug halfway into the ground, these "pit-houses"

served as homes and workshops for metalworkers, potters, and servants. Remains of what seem to be palaces lie at the city's center. Bronze cups, stone carvings, and magnificent chariots have been found in nearby royal tombs. Also found in the tombs were the remains of people, perhaps slaves, who were buried with the kings.



**Who ruled Shang towns and villages?**



**Lands of the Shang Dynasty, c. 1200 B.C.** NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

**Map Skill**

1. About how far is Anyang from the Yellow Sea?
2. Between which two major rivers is Shang located?

## SHANG CULTURE

One royal tomb found at Anyang contained hundreds of bronze containers, ivory statues, and other valuable objects. Most Shang rulers are unknown. Because of records in the tomb, we know that it belonged to a woman named **Fu Hao** (FOO HOW), or “Lady Hao.” Fu Hao was the wife of a king, Wu Ding. Records in her tomb tell us that she led troops to war and ruled her own town.

### Bamboo and Bones: Shang Writing

A writing system had developed along parts of the Huang He even before the Shang dynasty. Like early cuneiform, the earliest Chinese signs looked like pictures of objects. By the time of the Shang dynasty, however, the characters had been simplified. Symbols could stand for objects or ideas. The chart on this page shows how China’s writing system developed over time.

One ancient Chinese historian mentioned that Shang records were “written on bamboo and silk.” Unfortunately, no bamboo tablets or silk cloth have survived from Shang times. Some writing, however, has been found on bronze pots and stone. More writing has been discovered on cattle and sheep bones like the one on this page. The bones were called **oracle bones**. Shang priests heated the bones over a fire until they cracked. The pattern of cracks was thought to answer questions about the future. Shang rulers consulted oracle bones before making an important decision.

## Development of Chinese Writing

Shang Dynasty  
Oracle Bone  
Characters  
(1700–1400 B.C.)



Modern  
Characters



Modern Simplified  
Characters



### Chart Skill

1. How did Chinese writing change over time?
2. Why do you think Chinese writing changed in this way?

### Shang Religious Beliefs

Shang Chinese believed that their ancestors lived in another world and controlled human life. If an oracle’s prediction came true, they believed that it proved the king was being helped by his ancestors. This proved he was the right person to be king.

The people of the Shang dynasty also worshiped many different gods. They believed these gods controlled nature. The ancient people also believed that when they died, they would join their ancestors and the gods.