

# Discovering Ancient China with Ellie the Elephant

Step back in time and uncover the wonders of the East!

- The Huang He, or Yellow River, was the birthplace of Ancient Chinese civilisation, providing fertile soil for farmers to grow crops like millet.
- The Shang Dynasty was the first recorded dynasty in Chinese history, known for its incredible skill in casting bronze to make ritual vessels and weapons.
- Kings and rulers communicated with the spirit world by carving questions onto 'oracle bones' made from turtle shells or animal bones.
- Family was central to life in Ancient China; people showed great respect to their ancestors through special ceremonies and offerings.
- Ancient Chinese writing used logograms, which are symbols that represent words or ideas rather than individual sounds.

*Did you know? Did you know? The ancient Chinese invented paper, the compass, and even fireworks! They also cultivated silkworms to create beautiful, soft silk fabric, which was so valuable it was traded along a route known as the Silk Road.*

**Key vocabulary:** Dynasty · Oracle bones · Ancestor · Bronze · Huang He · Silk · Emperor