

Discovering Ancient China with Ellie

Step back in time to explore the wonders of the East!

- The Shang Dynasty is often recognised as the first major Chinese dynasty to leave behind written records, which were often carved onto turtle shells or animal bones called oracle bones.
- The Great Wall was built over many centuries by different emperors to protect their borders from invaders and to control trade along the Silk Road.
- Ancient Chinese farmers were experts at irrigation, using the water from the Yellow River and the Yangtze River to grow vital crops like rice and millet.
- The first Emperor, Qin Shi Huang, famously commissioned an army of over 7,000 life-sized terracotta soldiers to guard his tomb for eternity.
- Family was central to life in Ancient China, and people showed great respect for their ancestors, believing they watched over the family's fortunes.
- Silk was a highly guarded secret in Ancient China for thousands of years; the process of making it from silkworm cocoons was so valuable that traders travelled for years to reach the markets.

Did you know? Did you know? Ancient Chinese inventors changed the world! They were the first to create paper, the magnetic compass, and even fireworks. The famous Silk Road was not just for silk; it was a massive network of trade routes that connected China to the rest of the world, sharing spices, ideas, and precious goods across thousands of miles.

Key vocabulary: Dynasty · Oracle bones · Silk Road · Terracotta · Irrigation · Ancestor