

Ancient China: The Empire of Discovery

Learning objective: To recall key facts about the Shang Dynasty and the development of Ancient Chinese civilisation.

Join Ellie the Elephant on a historical adventure! Read the facts carefully and answer these 10 quick-fire questions about Ancient China.

Answer Key: 1. A (Yellow River), 2. True, 3. Bronze, 4. B (Oracle Bones), 5. True, 6. Silk, 7. C (A line of rulers from the same family), 8. False (They worshipped ancestors), 9. Writing, 10. D (All of the above).

Word bank: Shang Dynasty · Oracle Bones · Yellow River · Silk · Emperor · Bronze · Writing · Agriculture · Dynasty · Ancestor

1. 1. Which river is often called the 'cradle of Chinese civilisation'? A) The Nile, B) The Yellow River*, C) The Amazon, D) The Thames. (1 mark)

2. 2. True or False: The Shang Dynasty is the earliest Chinese dynasty supported by archaeological evidence. (1 mark)

3. 3. The Shang Dynasty was famous for creating beautiful items out of which metal? (One word answer) (1 mark)

4. 4. What did the Shang people use to predict the future? A) Crystal balls, B) Oracle Bones*, C) Playing cards, D) Tea leaves. (1 mark)

5. 5. True or False: Ancient Chinese people believed it was important to honour their ancestors. (1 mark)

6. 6. Which luxury fabric, made from cocoons, was a famous invention from Ancient China? (One word answer) (1 mark)

7. 7. What is the definition of a 'Dynasty'? A) A type of temple, B) A special war helmet, C) A line of rulers from the same family*, D) A type of currency. (1 mark)

8. 8. True or False: The people of the Shang Dynasty did not have a system of writing. (1 mark)

9. 9. What was the main occupation for most people living in Ancient China? (One word answer: Agriculture/Farming) (1 mark)

10. 10. Which of these were important to Ancient Chinese life? A) Religion, B) Farming, C) Metalworking, D) All of the above*. (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a scene from Ancient China featuring a beautiful bronze vessel decorated with patterns, or a piece of silk fabric being woven.



Extension challenge: Imagine you are an archaeologist. Write three sentences explaining why finding an 'Oracle Bone' would be an exciting discovery for a historian.