

Ancient China: A Journey Through Time with Ellie

Learning objective: To understand key historical developments of the Shang Dynasty and the importance of geography in the development of Ancient China.

Use these flashcards to test your knowledge of Ancient China. Try to explain the significance of each term in your own words before checking the answer.

What is a 'Dynasty' in the context of Ancient China?

A line of hereditary rulers from the same family who control a country for a long period of time.

Why was the Yellow River often called the 'cradle of Chinese civilisation'?

Its fertile soil and water supply allowed early farmers to grow crops and build the first permanent settlements.

What were 'Oracle Bones' used for by the Shang Dynasty?

They were turtle shells or ox bones used by priests to predict the future or ask for guidance from ancestors.

Explain the significance of Ancestor Worship in Ancient Chinese society.

People believed their ancestors had the power to influence the lives of the living, so they made offerings to show respect and seek protection.

What luxurious material was discovered and produced by the Chinese, which became a major trade item?

Silk, which was made from the cocoons of silkworms.

Why is the Shang Dynasty often associated with the 'Bronze Age'?

Because they became highly skilled at casting bronze to create intricate ritual vessels, weapons, and tools.

What was the primary purpose of the Great Wall of China?

It was constructed to protect the Chinese states and empires against raids and invasions from nomadic groups from the north.

Describe the role of an Emperor in Ancient China.

The Emperor was the supreme ruler, often believed to hold the 'Mandate of Heaven', meaning they had the divine right to rule based on their virtue.

What was the purpose of the Terracotta Army?

It was a collection of thousands of life-sized clay soldiers buried with the first Emperor of China to protect him in the afterlife.

Why was irrigation vital for Ancient Chinese farmers?

It allowed them to control the flow of water from rivers to their crops, ensuring a reliable food supply even during dry seasons.