

Ellie's Ancient China Expedition: A Year 5 History Quiz

Learning objective: To recall and apply knowledge about the achievements, geography, and social structure of the Shang Dynasty and Ancient China.

Join Ellie the Elephant on a journey through time! Read the questions carefully and use your historical knowledge to uncover the secrets of one of the world's oldest civilisations.

Answer Key: 1. B (Yellow River), 2. True, 3. Bronze, 4. False (It was used for communication with ancestors), 5. A (Silk), 6. True, 7. Emperor, 8. C (Writing/Calligraphy), 9. True, 10. False (They were made of clay).

Word bank: Dynasty · Oracle · Silk · Yellow River · Terracotta · Ancestor · Emperor · Bronze

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

2. 2. True or False: The Shang Dynasty is known for being the first Chinese dynasty to leave written records. (1 mark)

3. 3. What type of metalwork were the Shang craftsmen famous for creating? (1 word) (1 mark)

4. 4. True or False: Oracle bones were used primarily for calculating maths problems. (1 mark)

5. 5. Which precious material, originally kept as a secret, was traded along the famous 'Silk Road'? A) Silk* B) Cotton C) Wool D) Linen (1 mark)

6. 6. True or False: Ancient Chinese society held great respect for their ancestors. (1 mark)

7. 7. What is the title given to the supreme ruler of a Chinese dynasty? (1 word) (1 mark)

8. 8. Which of these was a major innovation of Ancient China? A) The steam engine B) The printing press C) Paper and Calligraphy* D) The telescope (1 mark)

9. 9. True or False: The Great Wall was built over many centuries to protect the borders of the empire. (1 mark)

10. 10. True or False: The famous Terracotta Army was carved entirely from solid gold. (1 mark)

Draw: Draw a scene from the banks of the Yellow River in Ancient China. Include a traditional pagoda, a farmer working in a rice paddy, and a piece of ancient calligraphy on a scroll.



Extension challenge: 1. Explain why the Yellow River was both a blessing and a danger to the people living there. 2. Compare and contrast the social structure of Ancient China with life in Britain during the Iron Age. 3. Justify why the invention of paper changed the way history was recorded. 4. What might happen if the secret of silk production had been revealed to the rest of the world 500 years earlier? 5. If you were an advisor to an Emperor, which one achievement would you prioritise to protect your people and why? 6. Design a 'modern' invention that you think would have been the most useful to a citizen of the Shang Dynasty and explain your reasoning.