

Yellow River Valley – Shang Dynasty

<p>Political</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shang Dynasty's last emperor: Zhou - Zhou's Dynasty tortured and oppressed civilians. - Zhou empire overthrown by Wu - Shang Dynasty began in 1600 B.C; ended in 1100 B.C - Founder of the Shang Dynasty is Tang the Great. - About 13.5 million people in population - Capital: Yin - Tang the Great showed compassion and respect towards civilians. - Shang Dynasty had 33 emperors. - Peace and turmoil settled throughout the dynasty.
<p>Economic</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - lacked written languages - day to day agriculture - Silk Road was very important (helped it grow) - travel on the Silk Road for trading - they had fertile soil which was very important - family was the most important - Men had most all of the authority - villages became more productive and it caused social classes to become more distinct. - fairly stable - silk worm nests were used to make silk
<p>Religious</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - worshipped the main god, Shang Di - Shang Di ruled lesser gods, moon, sun, wind rain - worshipped their ancestors - contacted them with bones and sacrifices - Sacrificed animals, to feed gods or get help - thought if they failed they would be punished - were very serious about burial and tombs - important people were often buried with people, servants, relatives
<p>Social</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The emperor had the highest authority. - Nobles and lords were second to the ruler. - Aristocrats had a not much of a higher authority than peasants. - Peasants were the bottom of the social class. - Small town leaders: nobles - Family was vital. - Men were more powerful than women. - The king and nobles were the ruling class.
<p>Intellectual</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Oracle bones with first form of written language - language has not change much over thousands of years - the use of bronze technology - they used chariots and bronze weapons in war, gave them an advantage

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -first to have an organized government -ranking levels for various jobs
Artistic and Technological Advances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -improvements in bronze casting allowed more delicate instruments than before to be made -Archaeologist found musical instruments such as Xun (Ocarina made of baked clay), drums, and copper cymbals.
Music	
Art	
Materials	
Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - made of bronze and jade - generally had a deeper meaning -functional or ritual purpose (normally found in tombs) - mostly sculptures,masks, and pot paintings - people skilled in crafts made up a separate class - bronze making- leading craft objects were used in religious beliefs and symbols of royal power. - some small and graceful, other objects were massive caldrons weighing almost a ton. <p>-bronze vessels, tools, and weapons, elaborate jades and hard stones, as well as high-fired ceramics, carved wood and ivories, and silk textiles (excellent bronze workers)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Advancements in written characters - considered oldest form of communication (first culture in China to have a completed written language) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - MOST IMPORTANT- invention of writing - Known as the oracle script over 3000 characters (letters) -first written source of communication -most commonly found written in oracle bones - how they worked, the seer would write a question on a clean bone, which was then fired, and a t-shaped crack would show which would later be interpreted and the interpretations were written on the bones - seer would submit questions, normally regarding crop planting, weather or peoples fortunes.The questions were carved on to the bones/shells. Intense heat was then applied (either a metal rod or the bones were thrown into a fire) until the bone cracked.the seer would then interpret the cracked bones.

<p>Oracle Bones Writing</p> <p>Technological advances</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -written language (most important) -the craft of art and bronze (specialized) - understanding and utilizing silk - two horses chariots - used a calendar - created the first decimal system
<p>Summary:</p>	<p>The Shang Dynasty was a very prosperous time but like most good things it came to an end. Thanks to this Dynasty (and their writing skills) we now can learn about the lives of the people who lived in one of the world's oldest civilizations. The Shang dynasty also left behind an impression on the land surrounding the Yellow River Valley. This dynasty's achievements in bronze making, math, and science has affected the entire world. They Shang Dynasty was a very influential period in time.</p>