

## Key vocabulary

<b>ancestor</b>	A person from whom someone is descended.
<b>archaeologist</b>	A person who studies people using artefacts from the past.
<b>composite</b>	A new material that is made up of more than one existing material.
<b>deity</b>	A god or goddess.
<b>dynasty</b>	A succession of people from the same family who rule the country, and the period when the country is ruled by them.
<b>emperor</b>	The male ruler of an empire.
<b>hierarchy</b>	A system in society where people are organised into different levels of importance from highest to lowest.
<b>oracle bones</b>	Bones used to communicate with ancestors and gods.
<b>ritual</b>	A ceremony that involves a series of actions performed in a fixed order.
<b>sacrifice</b>	To kill an animal or a person and offer them to the gods.
<b>smelt</b>	To melt metals at high temperatures.
<b>tyrant</b>	A ruler who has unlimited power over other people and uses it unfairly or cruelly.
<b>virtue</b>	The quality of being morally good.

Oracle bone

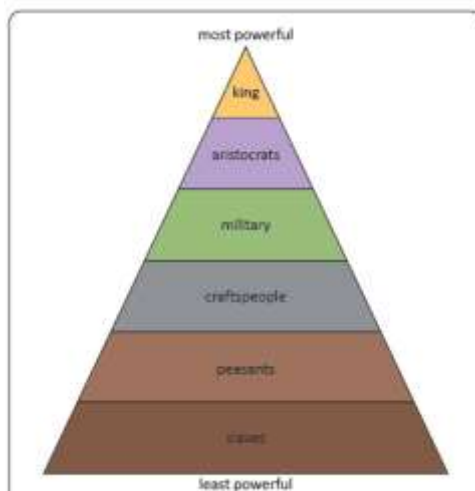


Houmuwu ding from Yinxu



A dynasty is a system of rule where the throne passes from one member of a ruling family to another. Dynasties have ruled China for 4000 years, from c2070 BC until 1912. During that time, around 15 different dynasties have held power. Each dynasty made important changes to the country, but many aspects of life in China started during the first five dynasties.

Hierarchy



## What will I learn about?

1899 The Big Dig at Yinxu
Oracle Bones
Religion
Bronzeworking
Jade and silk
Power and hierarchy
Warfare
Fu Hao
Everyday life
Comparison to other Bronze Age civilisations
End of the Shang Dynasty
Life after the Shang Dynasty

## How does this link to my previous learning?

**Y3 Through the Ages:** Bronze Age in Britain **Y3 Emperors and Empires:** Ancient Rome  
**Y4 Ancient Civilisations:** Ancient Sumer; Ancient Egypt; Indus Valley

