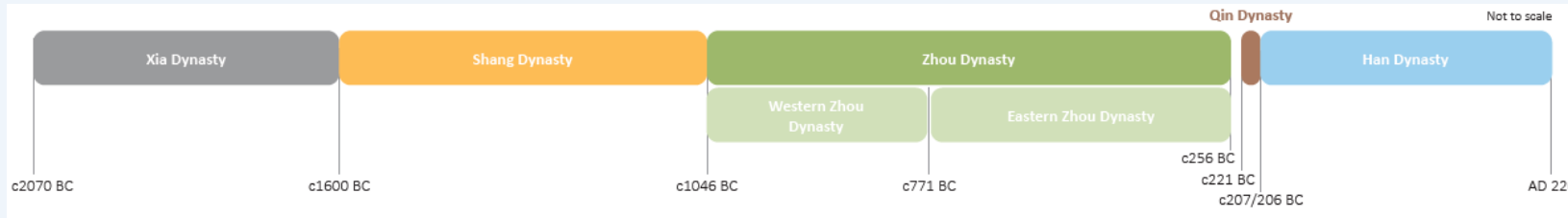


# Year 5: Dynamic Dynasties


# The Shang Dynasty The earliest ruling dynasty in the recorded history of China (c1600–c1046 BC).

## WHEN?




## GLOSSARY

## WHAT?


 **Dig at Yinxu.** Remains of palaces, temples and tombs, bronze and jade objects and oracle bones found.

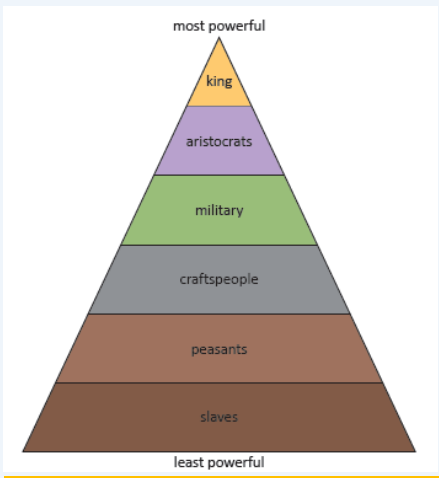



 **Oracle bones.** Pieces of sheep or cow bone, or turtle shell. Shamans or kings wrote questions on these bones to ask for guidance from the deities.



Houmuwu ding from Yinxu


 **Bronze.** Bronzeworking skills were a major advance during the Shang Dynasty.




 **Social Hierarchy.** People are organised into different levels of importance.



Shangdi surrounded by attendants


 **Religion.** They worshipped the king of the gods, Shangdi and prayed to lesser Gods who controlled things such as the sun, wind, rain and moon.










 **Warfare.** Way of life. Led by King. Bronze daggers, axes, bows and arrows, chariots with spearmen.



**Fu Hao.** Wife of the Shang king, King Wu Ding. Most influential military leader, commanding an army of 13,000 men. She was buried in her own tomb, surrounded by important objects including ritual vessels and weapons.

 **The end.** Last king: Di Xin. A cruel dictator who was very unpopular. Defeated by Zhou state army and so the Zhou dynasty began.

-  **afterlife** The life that is believed to begin after death.
-  **ancestor** A family member who lived a long time ago.
-  **dynasty** A family who rule the country, and the period when the country is ruled by them.
-  **deity** a god or goddess.
-  **ding** Cauldron used for cooking, storage or ritual offerings.
-  **inscription** words cut into pottery, stone, bone or metal.
-  **sacrifice** The act of killing an animal or person and offering to the gods.
-  **shaman** A priest who is believed to communicate with spirits.
-  **plastron** The flat underside of a turtle shell.
-  **divination** The art of finding out and saying what will happen in the future.