

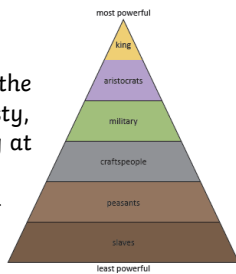
# Phase 3 – Chinese Dynasties

## When were the Chinese Dynasties?

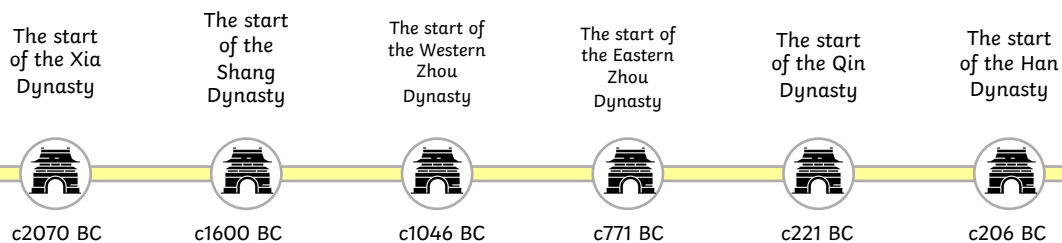


## Hierarchy

There was a strict social hierarchy in the Shang Dynasty, with the king at the top and peasants and slaves at the bottom.



## Chinese Dynasties' Timeline



## The Shang Dynasty

The Shang Dynasty is the earliest ruling dynasty in the recorded history of China. The Xia Dynasty is thought to have gone before; however, there is no recorded evidence to support this.

The Shang Dynasty reigned during China's Bronze Age, from c1600 to c1046 BC and were known for their advances in bronze work, silk manufacture, jade carving and military technology.

People in the Shang Dynasty lived in cities, towns and villages. Wealthy people lived in large houses made from wattle and daub, while poorer people lived in small houses made by digging into soft rock. People had a variety of jobs, such as farmers, miners, bronzeworkers, craftspeople, soldiers and government officials.

Warfare was a way of life in the Shang Dynasty. The king led the army. Foot soldiers were armed with bronze daggers and axes. Soldiers wore protective armour and bronze helmets.

## Fu Hao

Fu Hao was a wife of the Shang king, King Wu Ding. She became the Shang Dynasty's most influential military leader and commanded an army of 13,000 men. She was buried in her own tomb, surrounded by important objects including ritual vessels and weapons.



## The Zhou Dynasty

In c1046 BC, an army from the Zhou state invaded and defeated the last Shang Dynasty king, Di Xin.

During the Zhou Dynasty, power moved from the king to the feudal lords of individual states. Iron began to replace bronze and warfare advanced with crossbows and horses.

Seven states fought for power during the Eastern Zhou Dynasty. The Qin Dynasty united the warring states and introduced the first emperor of the whole of China.

Building also began on the Great Wall of China and the Terracotta Army.

## Key Vocabulary



**ABSOLUTE POWER:** Total and complete control over others.



**BRONZE:** A yellowish-brown metal which is a mixture of copper and tin.



**DYNASTY:** A period of time during which a country is ruled by members of the same family.



**IMPERIAL:** Things relating to an empire.



**JADE:** A hard stone, usually green in colour, that is used for making jewellery and ornaments.



**PHILOSOPHY:** A particular set of ideas that a philosopher has.



**SHAMAN:** A priest who is believed to communicate with spirits.



**TYRANT:** Someone who has power over others and treats them cruelly and unfairly.