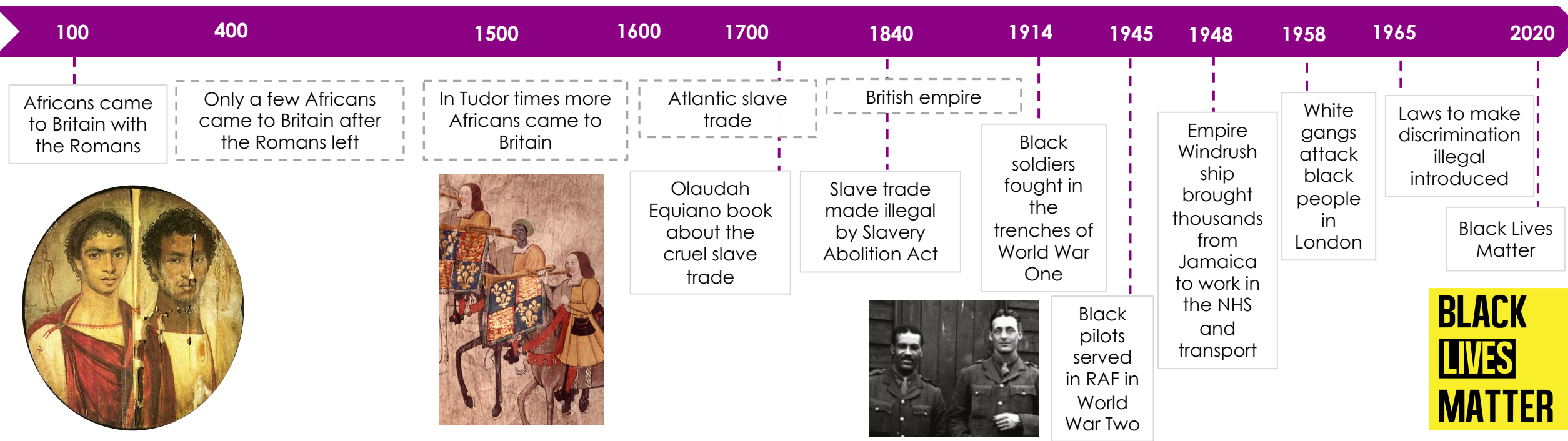


Black and British

Why we are learning about this topic

You are studying this topic in the hope that you will discover how Black British is an important part of British history. Looking back over 2000 years of British history you will see that black people played a varying part in British life, but were always present. It was not just after 1948 with the arrival of Jamaicans on the SS Windrush that black people were a significant group in British society. After all, they played an important role in both world wars. But it is in the last 75 years that the presence of black people in Britain has become much more conspicuous and has led to moments of tension leading the government to pass laws to stop discrimination. Nowadays, in your lifetime, the Black Lives Matters campaign has drawn particular attention to the need to treat everyone equally with the same respect and to acknowledge the range of ways in which black people continue to enhance British society.





Key vocabulary

Abolition	Ending of slave trade and slavery
Atlantic slave trade	Between 1640 and 1807 millions of Africans taken to America on ships to be slaves
Commonwealth	Group of over 50 countries once part of the British empire
Discrimination	Unfair treatment of people based on unreasonable ideas about the person or group
Empire	large group of places controlled by one powerful country
Middle passage	Horrific journey that Africans were forced to take across the Atlantic as slaves
Migrant	A person who moved from one country to another
Prejudice	opinions against certain people not based on reason or actual experience
Racism	the unfair treatment of people who belong to a different race
Segregation	Keeping people from different races apart
Windrush	The ship Empire Windrush is remembered today for bringing over a thousand post-war West Indian immigrants to the United Kingdom and its arrival has become symbolic of the generation of Commonwealth citizens who came to live in Britain between 1948 and 1971.

Top takeaways

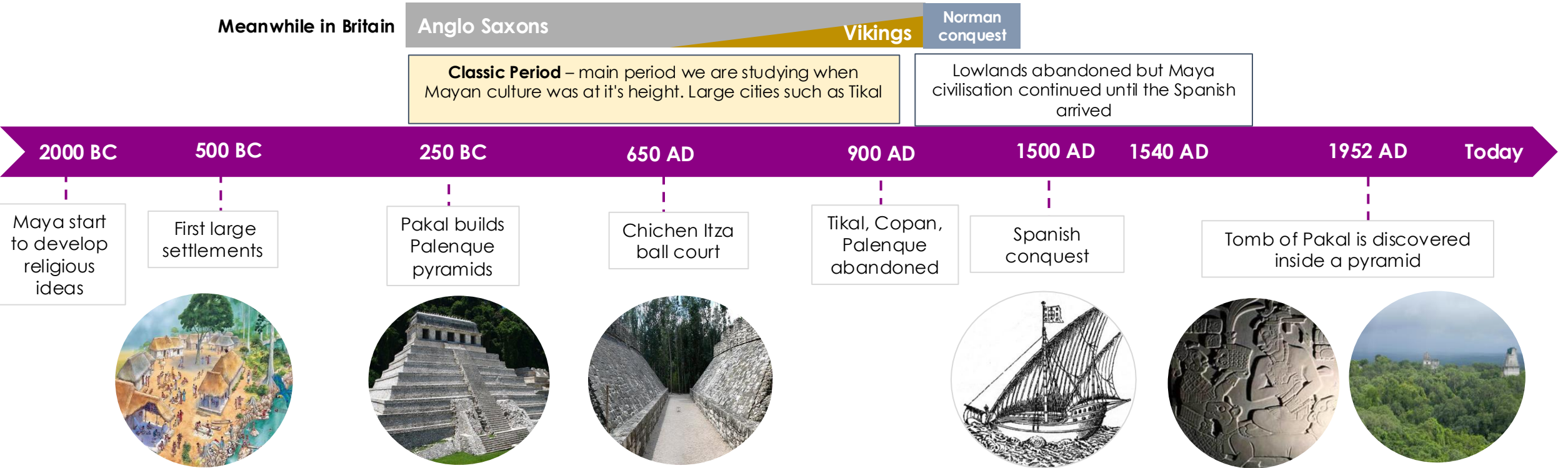
You will have learned that:

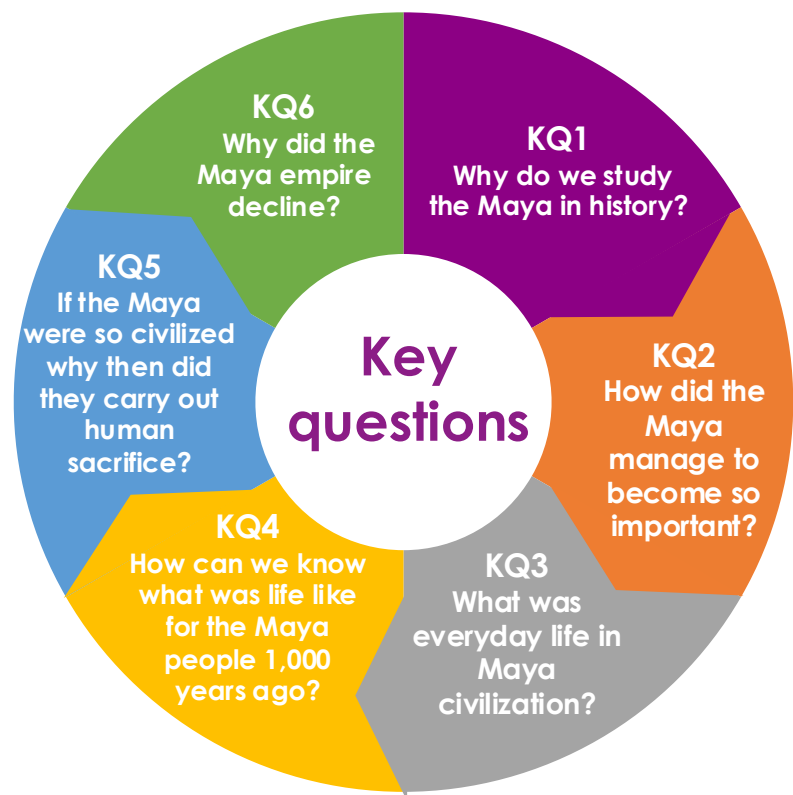
1. There have been black people living in Britain through much of history , all the way back to Roman times
2. Black people suffered horribly as slaves working on plantations in the Americas, but they also worked as slaves in rich people's homes in British cities
3. Black people served in the trenches in World War One and as pilots in the Second World War.
4. The best-known and most significant period of black immigration came with the arrival of SS Windrush in 1948 to work in the NHS and on the buses. Many black people living in Britain today can trace their ancestors back to this time.
5. Life has not always been easy for black people living in Britain over the last 75 years so there have had to be laws to prevent discrimination.
6. The recent Black Lives Matter campaign is an attempt to show how far we still have to go to make sure black people are treated equally.

Maya civilisation

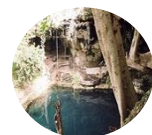
Why we are learning about Maya civilisation

The height of Maya civilization came at the time when the Saxons were fighting the Vikings in Britain, but it was the Maya society that was in many ways more advanced with its large cities, sophisticated stone buildings, such as temples, and complicated systems for writing and counting. Although we might think that they were not very civilized because they believed the gods needed offerings of human sacrifice, in fact they were very knowledgeable about the stars and even had their own calendars. By the 1520s arrival of the Spanish forced the Mayans to give up their own gods and become Christian. Luckily the Spanish did not destroy all the wonderful ,recently discovered, architecture and artefacts that we can still see today, as testament to the Mayan’s skill.





Key vocabulary



Cenote

Sink hole formed by collapse of rock into which Maya threw offerings



Codex- plural is codices

Collection of manuscript pages held together into early form of book



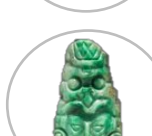
Glyph

Written symbol used to present spoken words



Hieroglyph

System of writing used by ancient Mayas made up of symbols that stand for words or syllables



Jade

Green stone used to make wonderful jewels



Obsidian

Black glassy rock formed when volcanic lava cools



Quetzal

Colourful tropical bird very important to the maya



Ritual

Act that is always performed in same way as part of a religious ceremony

Top takeaways

1. In the year 1000 settlements like Chichen Itza were among the largest settlements anywhere in the world and Chichen Itza is probably the best preserved of any city in the world from this time.
2. After about the year AD830 very little new construction took place at Chichen Itza. The last glyph with a date on comes from AD910. The reasons why the Maya declined at that time (they weren't entirely wiped out) was probably due to drought and overworking of the soil.
3. The Maya farmed on land they terraced and made fertile. Their staple diet was maize and even worshiped maize as a god. They drank chocolate but not as we know it. It was unsweetened and spiced with chilli peppers. They even had a frother!
4. They built pyramids with temples on top and even had an amazing astronomical observatory
5. The Maya worshipped many gods and believed they needed offerings of blood.
6. We know about the Maya from their writings in hieroglyphics, their advanced number system and the buildings such as the ball court that are still there today

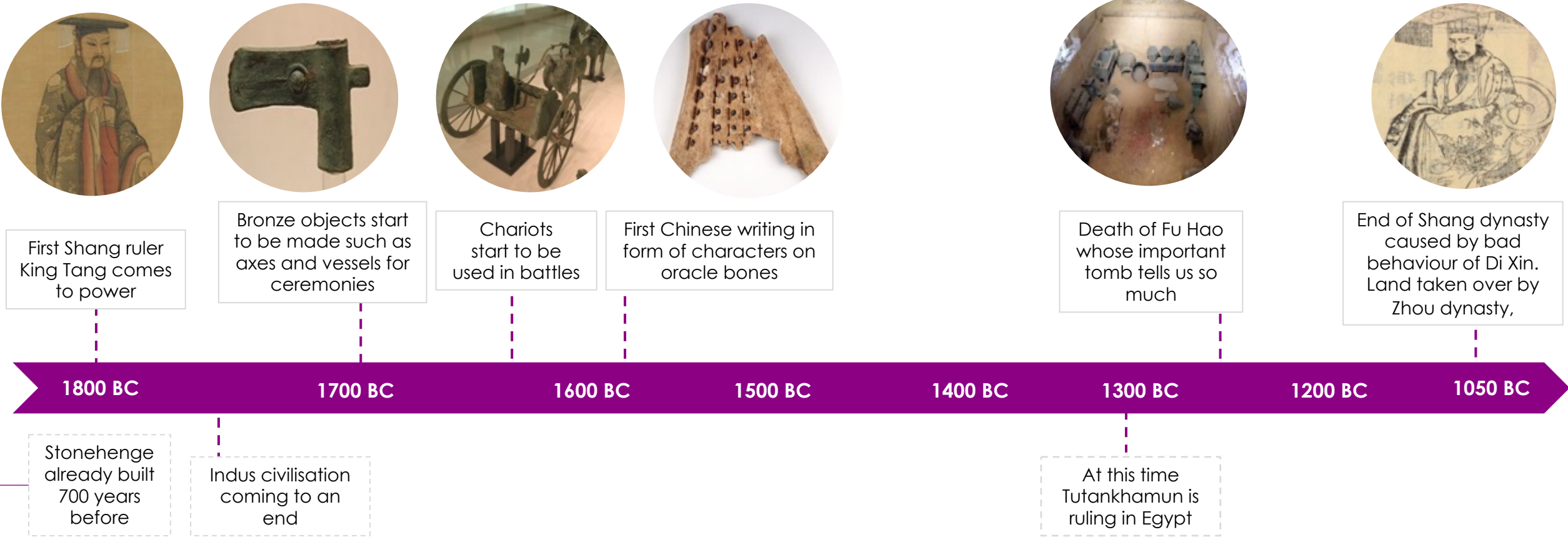
Map of Maya Empire



Shang dynasty

Why we are learning about the Shang dynasty

You are studying the Shang dynasty because it was the first Chinese civilization in ancient times and one for which we now have detailed evidence. This topic not only shows you how history is reconstructed literally from fragments of bone, it also shows how history has to be constantly re-written in the light of new discoveries. As recently as 150 years ago many scholars thought that the Shang dynasty was actually mythical and did not exist in reality. And, of course, the Shang people deserve their own special place in our memory for their outstanding bronze work -a world leader at the time- as well as their sophisticated system of writing in symbols.





Key vocabulary

Ancestors	people from the past who came before the Shang
Archaeologist	A person who studies human history and prehistory through the excavation of sites
Bronze	A yellowish-brown metal which is a mixture of copper and tin, that naturally turns to a blue green colour over time
Chariot	A two-wheeled vehicle pulled by horses
Cowrie shells	Used as currency during the Shang dynasty
Ding	Large container made of bronze used in religious ceremonies
Diviner	A person uses omens or magic powers to foretell the future.
Dynasty	Rulers from same family who have power passed down to them
inscription	The act of writing or a small bit of writing
Jade	A green precious stone used for jewellery and decorative items
Millet	Cereal used to make flour
Oracle bones	bone from cattle or tortoises on which were letters which helped tell the fortunes
Tomb	A large structure, usually underground, for burying the dead and their possessions

Top takeaways

In this topic you will learn:

1. The Shang dynasty was China's first civilisation that left evidence. Even then it was only recently that they knew it really did exist and was not made-up.
2. The discovery of oracle bones with their inscriptions ,provided the best proof that the Chinese could write and they tell us about their kings, religious beliefs and how their society was run.
3. The Shang dynasty survived for 600 years during which time it was constantly at war. Most battles were won because they had better weapons.
4. The Shang worshipped the Shang Di who was the supreme god who ruled other lesser gods of the sun, moon, wind and rain. They also worshipped their ancestors because they thought they still influenced the kins.
5. They invented a system of writing similar to that still used today, they were the best in the world at making bronze and knew how to use chariots in battle, changing completely the way battles were fought,
6. The Shang dynasty came to an end because it was said the king was evil and that heaven no longer wanted him to rule because of the bad way he behaved.