



Timeline	
Around 2000 BC	Xia Dynasty rules. Chinese traditions begin here.
Around 1600 BC	King Cheng Tang takes control- the beginning of the Shang Dynasty.
Around 1700 BC.	Start of the middle Bronze Age.
Around 1300 BC	Pan Geng rules.
Around 1200 BC	Wuding rules and brings the Shang Dynasty to it's peak.
Around 1200 BC	Lady Hao dies (Wuding's wife)
Around 1200 – 1046 BC	Conditions decline as the people are not happy with Wuding's rule.
1046 BC	Di Xin is overthrown by WuWang.. The Chou Dyansty begins and the Shang Dynasty ends.

Key Facts
Chinese dragons are seen as bringing good fortune, wisdom, prosperity and strength to those who are deserving of it. They are always associated with water, in particular their ability to control rainfall and natural disasters such as floods and typhoons.
In 1899, Wang Yirong saw some 'dragon bones' for sale in a market in Peking (now Beijing), the capital city of China.
Since the discovery of the oracle bone fragments by Wang Yirong, archaeologists have uncovered the remains of Shang cities, workshops, palaces and houses throughout northern China.
King Cheng Tang was the first Shang king and King Di Xin was the last. One created the Shang Dynasty and the other was largely responsible for its fall and defeat by the Zhou people, who lived in neighbouring lands in China.
For the Shang, men were more important than women and most women had very little status in society. Lady Fu Hao was the first woman general in Chinese history, one of King Wu Ding's 60 wives and clearly the most important.

Important figures in the Shang Dynasty	
King Cheng Tang	First Shang Dynasty King.
Lady Fu Hao	One of King Wu Ding's wives.
King Wu Ding	The longest ruling Shang Dynasty king.
King Di Xin	Last Shang Dynasty king.

Vocabulary Dozen	
Archaeologists	Someone who studies history through excavation of sites and analysis of artefacts.
Artefacts	An object made by a human being, typically one of cultural or historical interest.
Empire	an extensive group of states or countries ruled over by a single monarch
Emperor	A ruler of an Empire.
Engravings	The art of cutting something into the surface of wood, stone, or metal.
Hieroglyphs	A writing system, often made up of pictures used by in ancient times to represent their
Li	A three-legged metal pot called a li, which was used by commoners to cook a type of milky stew.
Oracle bones	A group of engraved animal bones and shells discovered in China.
Rule	Having control over an area or people.
Society	Ancient China had different levels of wealth in society (rich and poor).
Tomb	A large vault, usually underground, for burying the dead.
Warrior	A brave or experienced soldier or fighter.

Home Historian:

- Have a go at the activities on BBC bitesize: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z39j2hv/articles/z2ckrwx>
- Learn more about Lady Fu Hao: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z39j2hv/articles/zsr9gdm>





In 1899, Wang Yirong (below on the left) saw some 'dragon bones' for sale in a market in Peking (now Beijing), the capital city of China.



The bones were carved with ancient writing.

Historians in China have now excavated 200,000 bone fragments from the area where the Shang people lived in northern China – in and around the valley of the Hwang Ho (or Yellow River) between 1600 BC and 1046 BC.



These are portraits of the first and last rulers of the Shang Dynasty in China. King Cheng Tang was the first Shang king and King Di Xin was the last.



King Cheng Tang



King Di Xin

Fu Hao, a great warrior general in the army of the famous Shang king, Wu Ding. However, what was a great shock to archaeologists was that Fu Hao was not only a woman, but one of King Wu Ding's many wives.

