

# DYNAMIC DYNASTIES

Our topic this term teaches children about the history of ancient China, focusing on the Shang Dynasty, and explores the lasting legacy of the first five Chinese dynasties, some of which can still be seen in the world today.

Please complete at least 3 of these tasks by the end of term on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March.



- Use your existing knowledge and research skills to write a few sentences about each of the following Chinese dynasties and periods. Present your sentences on a timeline.
  - Xia Dynasty (c2070–c1600 BC)
  - Shang Dynasty (c1600–c1046 BC)
  - Western Zhou Dynasty (c1046–c771 BC)
  - Eastern Zhou Dynasty (c771–c256 BC)
  - Qin Dynasty (c221–c207 BC)
  - Han Dynasty (c206 BC–cAD 220)
- Look online for pictures of oracle bones from the Shang Dynasty. Use your existing knowledge, information books or the internet to answer the questions: What is an oracle bone? What were oracle bones used for? Why are oracle bones an important source of evidence for archaeologists and historians to learn about the Shang Dynasty?
- Create a fact file about the Great Wall of China. When was it made? How far is it from one end to the other? How long does it take to walk the whole thing? Make a poster or a Google slide show to share with the class.
- Find images of ancient bronze artefacts from the Shang Dynasty that feature taotie designs. Create a piece of art by copying or tracing one or more taotie designs onto paper. Colour your design using paints, felt pens or crayons, using a combination of black, blue and green colours to recreate the patina of the bronze.
- Use a range of sources to find out about the Silk Road. Record your findings and provide information about the purpose of the Silk Road, its length, the route it took, the countries involved, items that were traded and the origin of the name.
- Look at the incredible detail that goes into each of the symbols of Chinese writing. Copy these symbols to spell your name or write a short sentence.