

An illustration of a warrior, likely a Chinese general, wearing a silver helmet with a red plume and a green robe over a silver scale-like tunic. The warrior holds a large battle-axe with a silver head and a dark handle. The background is a warm, orange-brown gradient. The name 'Fu Hao' is written in a large, bold, yellow font with a black outline, centered over the warrior's chest.

Fu Hao

twinkl

Shang Artefacts

Can you remember some of the Shang artefacts you have learnt about?
Make a list of these with the other children in your group.

1. What are the artefacts called?
2. What are they used for?
3. What are they made of?
4. Where do you think they were found?

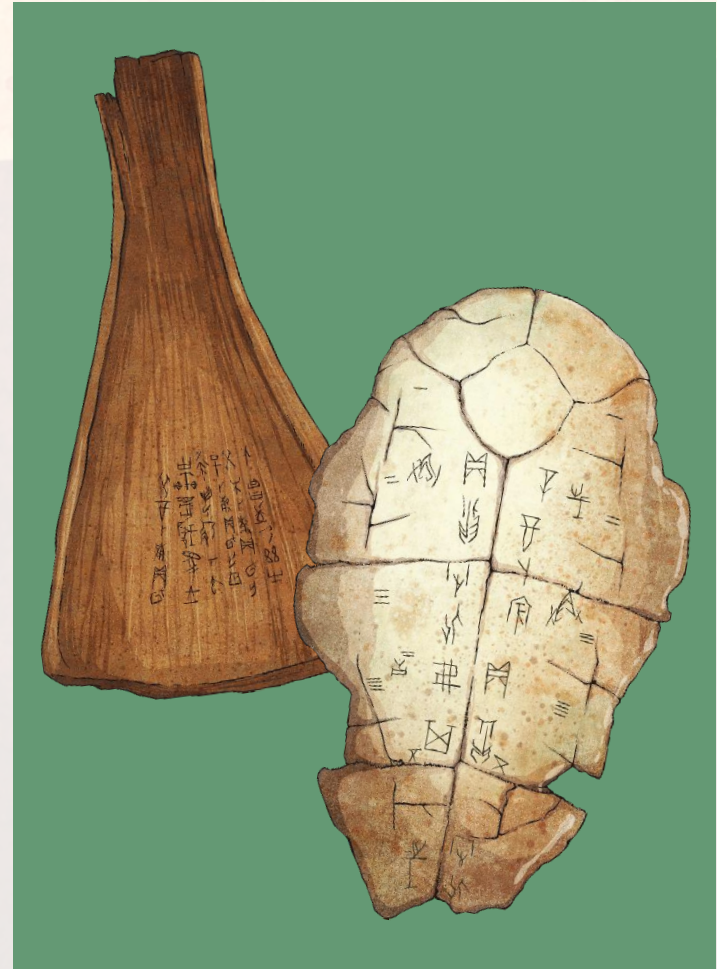


Lost Evidence

Archaeologists working in China discovered a lot of artefacts and other remains inside royal tombs. However, these tombs had been looted for many years and a large percentage of the contents were already missing, sold on the black market to collectors.

Oracle bones, which contained valuable information about the Shang dynasty, had also been sold as 'dragon bones' and used in traditional Chinese medicines until a Chinese bronze collector, Wang Yirong, realised their true nature and function in 1889.

Historians used the evidence they had collected to piece together information about the Shang dynasty. They revealed a lot about this ancient civilisation, but some parts of the picture were not completely clear.



Studying Evidence

1. If evidence is limited, how does this affect knowledge and understanding?
2. Why is it important to be able to study evidence in the place it was buried?



The Tomb of Fu Hao

In 1976, a team of archaeologists made a remarkable discovery at the site of the ancient Shang capital, Yinxu, in modern day Anyang. They found the tomb of the Shang military general and high priestess, Fu Hao.

Fu Hao's tomb is particularly important because it is the only Shang tomb that has been found intact.

The discovery of Fu Hao's tomb had a significant impact on our knowledge and understanding of the Shang dynasty and some of its people. It helped archaeologists and historians develop a deeper appreciation of Shang history.



The site of Yinxu, situated in modern day Anyang

The Tomb of Fu Hao

Inside the Burial Pit

Have good look around Fu Hao's tomb. What can you see?

Bronze ding –
for storing food

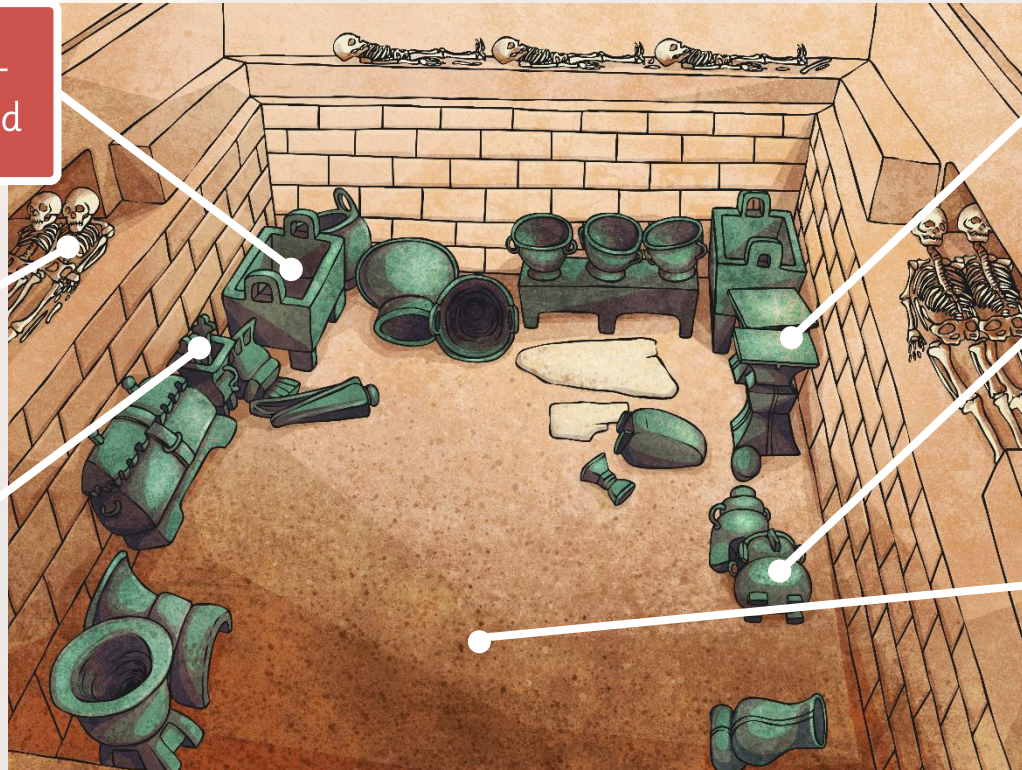
Human
skeletons

Jue – wine
drinking
vessel

Zun – for
storing wine

Owl-shaped
wine vessel

Red lacquer



The Tomb of Fu Hao

Contents of the Tomb

All of this was found inside Fu Hao's tomb:

- The remains of 6 dogs and 16 humans
- Over 420 bronze objects (including 130 weapons, 23 bells, 27 knives, 4 tigers and 4 mirrors). The total weight was 1.6 metric tons, a massive amount, showing how rich the family were
- Over 750 jade objects
- 63 stone objects
- 5 ivory objects
- Over 550 bone objects (mainly bone hairpins and some arrowheads)
- 11 pottery objects
- Almost 7000 cowrie shells



Jade phoenix

Questions about Fu Hao



Questions

1. Who do you think Fu Hao was?
2. Why do you think she was buried with all these things?
3. Which items do you think were her most important, or precious to her?
4. What do you think people thought of her?
5. What else would you like to know about Fu Hao?



Your task: Read the research file on Fu Hao and the discovery of her tomb. Once you have done this, answer the questions in as much detail to form your own research pack.

Read the research file on Fu Hao and the discovery of her tomb. Once you have done this, answer the questions in as much detail to form your own research pack.

- Where was Fu Hao's tomb located?
- When was the tomb discovered and by whom?
- Why was the discovery of Fu Hao's tomb particularly significant?
- How do we know that King Wu Ding trusted and respected Fu Hao?
- Why is Fu Hao regarded as the most influential military leader of her time?
- Describe what you think might have happened in a memorial service for Fu Hao outside her tomb?
- Why do you think Fu Hao was buried with so many bronze and jade items?
- Why do historians think that Fu Hao was a collector of antiques?
- Why is the discovery of Fu Hao's tomb of such historical significance?
- Can you think of any other ancient civilizations who also buried their dead in elaborate tombs? How are they similar and different from the Shang Dynasty? Explain in a paragraph using "because" as well as contrasting conjunctions to compare.

Fu Hao Review

1. Who was Fu Hao?
2. Why was the discovery of Fu Hao's tomb so significant?

