

Describe the
significance of the
earliest Chinese
dynasties.

The Earliest Chinese Dynasties

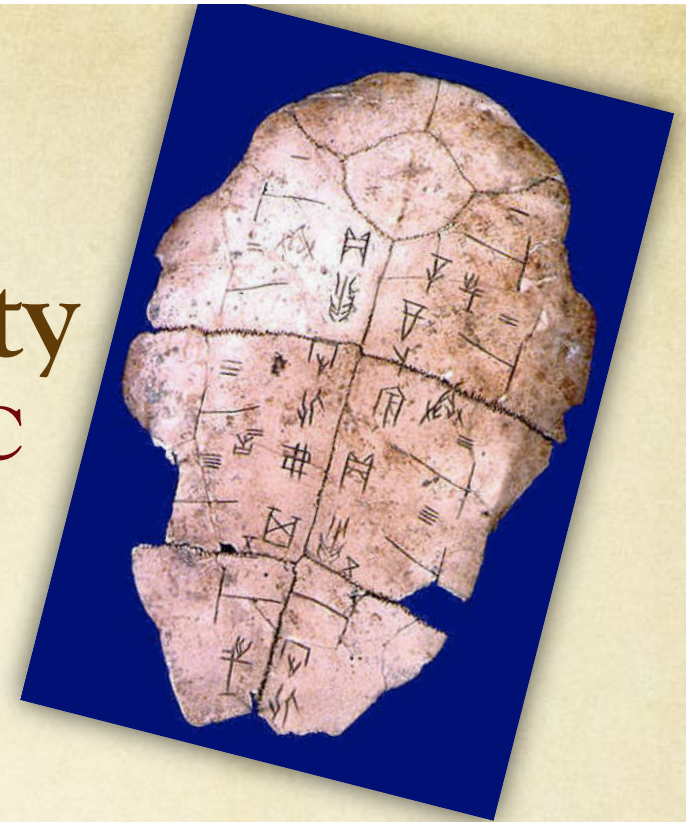
Shang, Zhou and Qin Dynasty

What accomplishments
mark the significance of
the earliest Chinese
Dynasties?



Shang Dynasty

1500s BC - 1100s BC



Advancements

- © China's first writing system
 - © Over 2,000 symbols to express words or ideas
- © Artisans – created bronze containers, axes, knives, and ornaments from jade
- © Soldiers – developed war chariots, powerful bows, and bronze armor
- © Invented a calendar based on the cycles of the moon.



Zhou Dynasty

1100s BC - 771 BC



- Lasted longer than any other dynasty in Chinese history
- The Zhou claimed the mandate of heaven
- Everything in China belonged to the Emperor; everyone must be loyal to him
- Gave land in exchange for loyalty or military service
 - people who received this land became lords
 - below the lords were peasants (in addition to growing their own food, peasants had to grow food for lords)

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2032697/Trip-Zhou-Remains-horses-chariots-unearthed-3-000-year-old-Chinese-Dynastys-tomb.html>

Zhou Funeral Pit

(the horses were not buried alive)



Warring States Period

771 BC

- The Zhou capital attacked - the emperor was overthrown
- China broke apart into many kingdoms
- This was a time of disorder and chaos in China



Qin Dynasty

221 BC – 206 BC



- **Shi Huangdi (first emperor) - Unified all of China under his control**
- **Very strict ruler, but an effective ruler (being late = death)**
 - **Lords lost the rights and privileges they had before**
 - **ordered thousands of noble families to move to his capital (now called Xi'an)**
 - **expanded the size of China both to the north and to the south**

Qin Achievements

- Created a system of laws that applied equally to all
- **New system of money**
- Uniform system of writing

Building Achievements

- Network of roads and canals
- **Built the Great Wall**
 - Protected China's northern border
 - Linked earlier walls
 - Took years of labor from hundreds of thousands of workers

