



'The Shang Dynasty'

For the next 5 weeks we will be doing all things Chinese! Our focus will be on 'The Shang Dynasty', its place in history and the beliefs of the people that lived in those times. To introduce the topic children will be locating China on a world map, placing the Shang Dynasty on a timeline and discussing what they would like to find out about 'The Shang Dynasty'.

History

We will focus on the beliefs of the Shang people, including Ancestor Worship, The Role of the King, Ceremonies and Sacrifices, Tombs and Burial Customs and Gods.

Art

Children will develop ideas and mastering techniques by making Oracle Bones detailed with Chinese writing

Design and Technology

Children will be using practical skills to improve and master a range of cooking skills used in Shang times and Chinese cooking. This may involve steaming, stir frying, deep frying.

Geography

Children will locate China on a globe and world map looking at its location in relation to the UK. We will look at trends in population and relate this to maths and data handling. We will ask the question, 'Why do we build settlements around rivers?'

Literacy

'A Tale Unfolds'. Children will be completing their 'productions' over the next few weeks. They are beginning to write detailed scene scripts which they will then film. They will learn about different types of camera shot and taking on different roles in performing the scripts. In addition to script writing we also be looking at narratives and diary entries in relation to 'A Tale Unfolds'.

Maths

In maths this term we will be focussing on multiplication and division. We will discuss different methods of working including the grid method for multiplication and chunking for division. We will compare and classify geometric shapes, including

quadrilaterals and triangles, based on their properties and sizes, identify acute and obtuse angles and compare and order angles up to two right angles by size and identify lines of symmetry in 2-D shapes presented in different orientations.

Home Learning

Here are a few things you can do at home to support our learning in school.

- Chinese cooking! Following on from our last topic, children should be more aware of a 'balanced' plate and the different food groups. Can they create a healthy Chinese dish for us to try??
- Create a presentation or fact file about a God from the Shang Dynasty.
- Create bar charts and line graphs to show differences in population between the UK and China
- Write a secret message to your teacher using Chinese writing, can they figure out your message?!

Dates for your diary

Friday 4th November – Reports out to parents

Sunday 6th November – Y4 Sponsored 'Walk for Babies'

Monday 7th November – Fireworks display, 6.30 start, gates open at 5pm

Wednesday 16th November – Parent's evening

Friday 18th November – Children in Need

Wednesday 23rd November – Spelling workshop 5.30pm

Tuesday 6th December – Bedtime stories 6pm-7pm

Thursday 15th December – Christmas jumper day

Please keep an eye on the school website for any additional diary dates

Many thanks

The Year 4 team