



Learning Exploration: Dynamic Dynasties

Having learnt about the history of the UK during the Early Middle Ages, children will be broadening their understanding of World history through the exploration of the achievements of Early civilisations and how these have shaped the World today.

We will start our journey in Modern Day China to celebrate Chinese New Year. During the celebration, we will explore the history behind this. We will then travel back in time to Ancient China where we will learn about the five Ancient Chinese Civilisations and then an in-depth study of the Chinese Shang Dynasty. We will explore the key legacies of this civilisation and period of history: the invention of writing and the use of chariots and bronze weapons in warfare.

Linked to this, in Art, the children will explore Shang Dynasty bronze vessels. After studying the design and decorative features, the children will design and make their own 'bronze' clay vessel.

Hook into learning: Chinese New Year

Children will take part in activities that enable them to learn about the festival of Chinese New Year, before recreating the moment where Wang Yirong discovered 'dragon bones' and exploring the significance of this finding.

Journey through the exploration

Children will:

- Study a timeline and overview of the first five Chinese dynasties for a deep dive of the Shang Dynasty to be meaningful. We will compare to recently studied periods in history (Anglo-Saxons, Vikings, Scots) using a visual timeline on display.
- Explore achievements of Shang Dynasty - development of a stratified government; the advancement of bronze technology; and the use of the chariot and bronze weapons in warfare.
- Continue their exploration through Ancient China in the 2nd half of the Spring Term.



Linked subjects

Through this exploration, learning will be linked where appropriate, including in the following subjects:

Global Learning – discover ways in which their lives are similar to the lives of children in other countries. Develop their ability to see how the rights of others are considered in different ways around the world and link this to the way they treat people within their own lives.

History – study the achievements of early civilisations, including where and when they appeared, with a focus on the Shang Dynasty. Learn about important historical figures and their influence on history.

Geography – use maps and atlases to locate a variety of countries. Study a range of geographical features and be able to identify these on maps. Learn about the physical characteristics of China.

Art – Design, plan and create a sculpture.



Writing

Children will explore the following genres of writing:

- Explanation Text, such as Anatomy by Helene Druvert.
- Hybrid instruction text, such as How to Live Like a Stone Age Hunter by Anita Ganeri.

Opportunities for writing across the curriculum:

- Biography of a significant person from the Shang Dynasty.

Maths

Children will explore:

- multiplication and division
- fractions
- decimals and percentages
- perimeter and area
- statistics





Opportunities to build cultural capital

Cultural capital is the essential knowledge that pupils need to be educated citizens, introducing them to the best that has been thought and said, and helping to engender an appreciation of human creativity and achievement.

At NCSPA, we aim to build cultural capital through experiences such as trips, visitors, music and providing local links.

For Year 5, options this term may include:

- Trip to the Museum of Barnstaple and North Devon
- Sciencedipity Workshop
- Visitor from China



Opportunities for shared outcomes

Children will have the opportunity to produce or take part in one or more of the following:

- Creating a timeline of Chinese history.
- Experiencing a re-enactment of the discovery of oracle bones and the significance of these findings, before making their own oracle bones for excavation.

Further curriculum information

If you would like any further information regarding the curriculum, please:

- Speak to Mrs McGuire, Mrs Williams or Mrs Vine.
- See your child's class information on Seesaw.
- Contact Mrs Louisa Buttel (Curriculum Leader), through the school office.
- Visit the Curriculum pages on our website.

