

Aim: How did the Shang Dynasty influence China?

Notes

I Geography

1. Chinese civilization forms near Huang He (Yellow) and Yangtze rivers
2. Huang He or Yellow river located in northern China
 - Has yellow silt that fertilizes land naturally
3. Yangtze River located in central China
4. Mountains and deserts cover the country
5. Ethnocentric- superior belief system

II Xia Dynasty

1. First isolated dynasty (2200-2100 BCE)
2. agrarian people, with bronze weapons and pottery
3. Very little evidence exists
4. This dynasty is NOT accepted as a true dynasty
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III Shang Dynasty

1. 1750-1122 BCE
2. Government was an aristocracy, upper class based on wealth
3. First major Chinese dynasty
4. Capital was Anyang and was similar to city-state
5. Strong central government, ruled by a king
6. SOCIAL STRUCTURE
 - King
 - Nobles and aristocrats
 - Warriors + landowners
 - Artisans, merchants
 - Peasants
 - Slaves
7. RELIGIOUS BELIEFS
 - Polytheistic
 - Shang Di (chief God)
 - Gods answered prayers, but only greatest mortals are answered
 - Ancestral worship and sacrifices of food
 - Shaman: priest talks to gods
 - Oracle Bones: fortune telling
 - used by king to ask questions, heated & cracked to give answers
8. Writing use pictographs and ideographs (signs that expressed thoughts or ideas)
 - 10,000 symbols and use Calligraphy
9. Art- Used bronze vessels
10. Decline Zhou seized Shang Dynasty