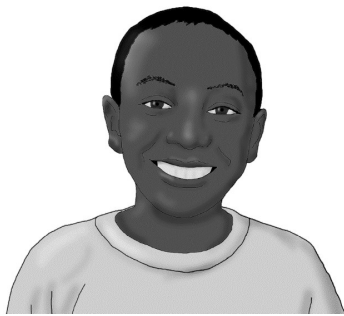


## THE END-OF-YEAR CONCERT

Year 6 have just performed an end-of-year musical covering some of the historical events during and after the Second World War. Look at these speech bubbles and underline the **facts**.

Ten of us in the class were the evacuees. I loved it. I had to trudge round the hall among all the parents. My best friend, Haaruun, thought I looked like a complete and total misery. What was horrible was having to wear the gas mask and squeeze into the cardboard Anderson Shelter.



I enjoyed singing 'We'll Meet Again'. Seemed to set off a few tears among the audience. Maybe it was Karl's tuneless singing that did it. I played Winston Churchill. If Mum and Dad had kept quiet about having a trick cigar at home, I might have been the Queen.



I had two parts. I was in charge of the sound effects and the CD player. I did a pretty good job too. My timing was perfect. I sort of held the whole thing together in a way. I had to stand in for one of the rock 'n roll dancers when Anita was scared by Elvis's wig.



I know I'd make a great astronaut. That's probably why I was picked to play the part of Neil Armstrong. A pity the CD player jumped during the fanfare when I was planting the flag on the Moon. I just improvised a bit of moon walking. Audience loved it.



## WHAT THE ACTORS THOUGHT

Those taking part in the Year 6 concert expressed some views about the show. Next to each person, write down **two** of their **opinions**.



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## THE SHANG DYNASTY

Here is some information about archaeology and the ancient Chinese civilisation known as the Shang Dynasty. Read the following paragraphs and tick the phrase that sums up each main idea.



The role of the archaeologist is to examine evidence of past civilisations. Whether they specialise in coins, weapons or pottery, they are essentially history detectives, gathering clues in order to build up a picture of how people once lived.

past civilisations

history detectives

how people lived

It is very hard to date precisely the rise to power of the Shang Dynasty in northern China. It more or less coincided with what is referred to as the Bronze Age, when the Chinese discovered how to make bronze out of tin and copper. Many 4000-year-old bronze objects have been found.

date of Shang Dynasty

Bronze Age

many objects found

Around this period, another remarkable development was taking place. Evidence of the invention of writing has been provided by the discovery of oracle bones. Similar to Egyptian hieroglyphics, their writing was based on pictures that represented ideas.

discovery of oracle

Egyptian hieroglyphics

invention of writing

The king and his priests or advisers would have had important decisions to make. They would use oracle bones to predict the future or decide on a course of action. They would consult the bones on questions of military action, whether or not the king was likely to have an heir, or if it was likely to be sunny.

kings and priests

oracle bones

predicting the future

A priest would carve the king's question on an oracle bone (often this would be a turtle bone). He then heated a bronze pin and held it against the bone, causing a series of cracks to appear on the surface of the bone. An oracle reader, usually a woman, would be called upon to interpret the pattern of cracks and provide the king with an answer.

the priest's task



the oracle reader



reading the bone



Much of what we know about the Shang Dynasty comes from the archaeological excavations of tombs. It is clear that there was a strong belief in the power of gods, but that the only way of communicating with them and seeking their favour was indirectly through the spirits of the dead. The graves of ancestors had, therefore, to be well tended with the provision of food in bronze vessels and regular ritual sacrifices.

excavation of tombs



power of gods



contacting the gods



ritual sacrifices



From the two pieces of text above, write down a **detail** that supports the following ideas:

1. The priest caused a series of cracks on the oracle bone.

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2. The oracle reader provided the king with an answer to his question.

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3. Archaeologists have discovered a lot about the Shang Dynasty.

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4. The graves of ancestors had to be well tended.

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