



Shang People Sorting Cards



Read the descriptions about the different people living during the Shang dynasty. Can you identify who is who? Write or cut out and stick the information next to the correct character.

King 	
Priest 	
Government Worker 	
Noble Warrior 	
Craftsmen 	
Peasant Farmers 	
Slave 	



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I am responsible for growing food for the kingdom.	I write on bamboo sheets using a brush and ink.	I live a privileged life inside the city walls because my written work helps the king to rule in an organised manner.
I have no rights. If my master dies, I may be buried alive with him.	I live in a grand palace which is ornately decorated with the finest bronze sculptures.	I have to pay taxes to the landowner to be able to live and work here.
I am responsible for performing sacrificial ceremonies for the gods.	I control land given to me by the king.	I carve the king's questions onto oracle bones.
I am a skilled fighter and I defend the city walls from attack.	I wear a basic tunic and trousers made of linen.	I am responsible for recording details about land that is bought and sold.
I wear clothes made from the purest silk that is embroidered with beautiful patterns.	I am paid with food for the work I do.	I make all the important decisions about how to run the land.
I may be offered as a sacrifice for the gods.	I heat up oracle bones and present the cracked messages to the king so he can interpret them.	I was captured during a war and made to work for the Shang rulers.