

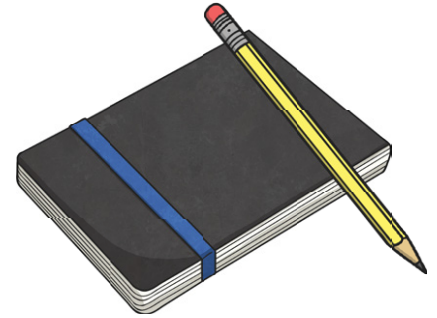
# ★ Shang Religion Presentation

## The Role of the King

Your challenge is to research and put together a presentation all about **the role of the Shang king**.

**Your presentation could contain one, some or all of the following:**

- A poster
- A leaflet/booklet
- A news report or newspaper article
- Role play or drama
- Drawings and paintings
- PowerPoint or Flipchart presentation
- A model



These are just suggestions. You may have more exciting ideas about how best to present your work.

**Your presentation needs to include the following information:**

- Why the Shang king was so important in Shang religion.
- What special jobs the king did.
- Who helped the king and how.
- What oracle bones were and how the king used them.

However, you may also find more interesting information about the king that you wish to include as well.

Have fun putting together your presentation!



# Shang King Information

The Shang king was the most important person in Shang society. He was responsible for making all the important decisions, like how much tax to charge and when to go to war. The people believed and trusted in the king to rule fairly as they believed that he was the person chosen by god to be their leader.

Thirty kings ruled during the Shang dynasty. Cheng Tang was the first Shang king and Di Xin was the last.

The Shang kingship did not always pass down to the next generation in the way you might expect. Instead of the kingship always passing from father to son, it sometimes also passed from brother to brother or brother to nephew.

The way the king ruled was closely linked to the Shang religion. It was believed that the king was the only person who could talk to his dead royal ancestors. These ancestors, in turn, were believed to be able to talk to Shang Di – the Shang supreme god. This meant that the Shang king was the closest human being to the gods.



Shang Di



Shang king with priest