

My Holiday in China

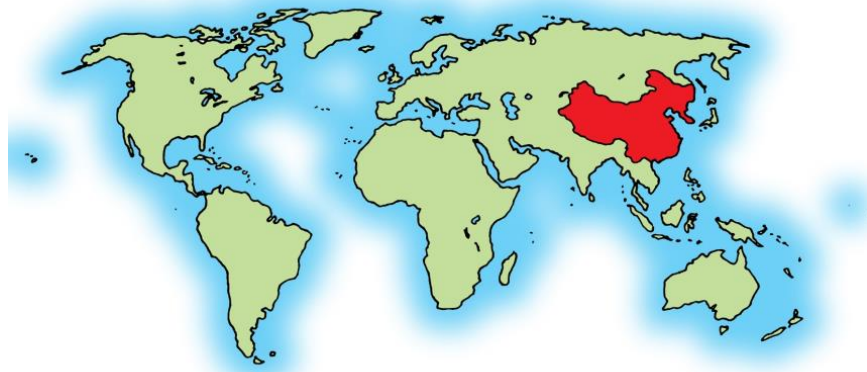
July 25th

Dear Diary,

I can't believe that the summer holidays are actually here. I'm so excited!

The taxi will be here soon to collect my mum, dad and me and take us to the airport. It feels strange that in just over 24 hours we'll be in China. I wonder what it will be like there? It will definitely help me in school next term as we are going to be learning about the **Shang Dynasty**.

Taxi's here, got to go. I'll write soon.



July 27th

Dear Diary,

Wow, that was a long **journey**. Eleven hours on a plane. That gave me plenty of time to read the book my nana bought me about the history of China. I love history.

Did you know that the Shang Dynasty dates back to 1600 BC and

lasted for about 600 years? It was by the Yellow River in North East China but its **capital** did move to different places.

Tomorrow we are going to a museum to find out even more interesting facts.

Now it's time for bed. Goodnight.

July 28th

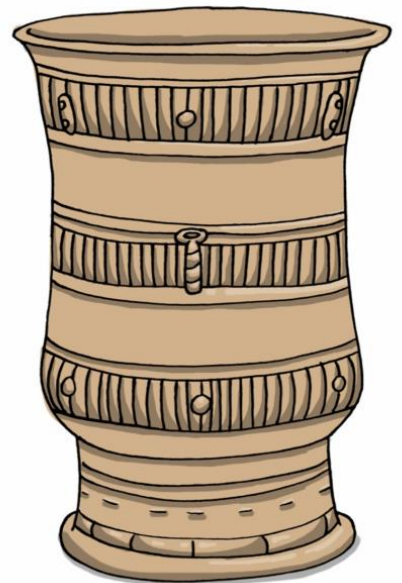
Dear Diary,

If anyone ever tells you that History is boring, you can tell them from me that they are **WRONG!**

I found out today that the Shang Dynasty is famous for its **bronze** and **jade** work. I saw so many beautiful **artefacts** in the museum. They are hundreds of years old and were found by **archaeologists** in **tombs**. I also found out that the Shang people were divided into different **classes**. At the very top were the **ruling class** under the royal family and **slaves** came at the very bottom. Most people were farmers.

The Shang year was 360 days, it was made up of 12 months, just like ours. Each of their months had 30 days (a little bit different to our months). However, the Shang week had 10 days – how strange. I wonder what each day was called?

We're going to visit the Yellow River tomorrow. I wonder what I will see there?



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My Holiday in China – 2b – Text

July 30th

Dear Diary,

Sorry I didn't write yesterday. We had a very early start to get to the Yellow River and didn't get back until after bedtime. It was such a long way, but definitely worth the hot, sticky car ride.

I learned that the Yellow River flooded, a lot, which meant that it was very **unpredictable**. There are still the remains of **flood walls** by the river, This shows us how much the people must have battled to try and keep the water away from their homes and crops during times of flooding. Shang cities were surrounded by high walls and big gates. I think this was to help keep the cities from flooding.

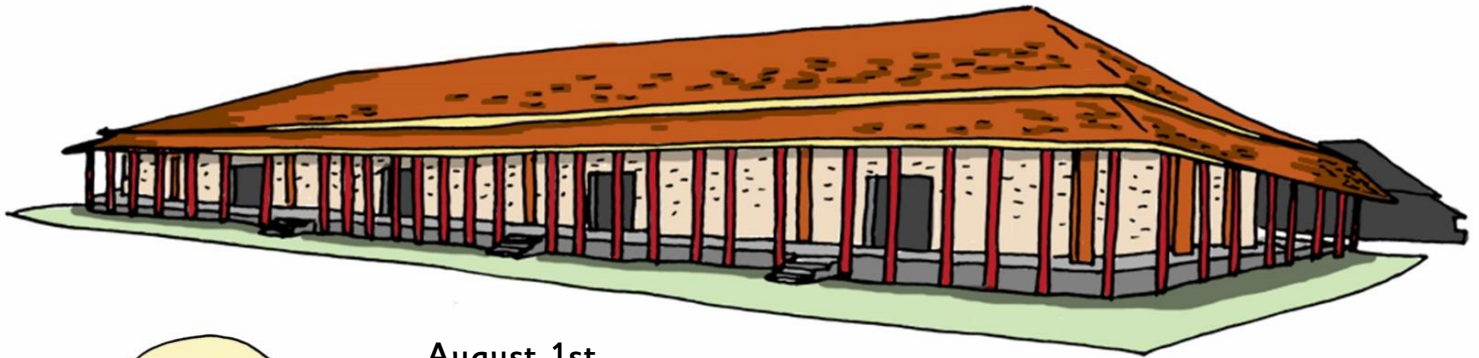


Got to go. Time for dinner. Looking forward to trying some new and **delicious** food.

July 31th

Dear Diary,

Today we visited a Chinese **temple**. It was so beautiful and **decorative**. I took a picture of what **historians** believe a Shang temple might have looked like. It looks very special. Someone very important must have lived there. Most of the houses and buildings during the Shang Dynasty were made out of wood and mud.



August 1st

Dear Diary,

Today, we went on a **guided tour** of where some of the Shang Dynasty **ruled**. I found out that the Shang believed in a **supreme god**, Shang Di, as well as some others. They also believed in life after death. When they died they wanted to be buried with the things, people and animals they thought would be useful to them in the **afterlife**.

I can't believe that our time in China is nearly over. I've had such an amazing time. The best holiday ever! My friends back at school are going to be so jealous.

I'll write again when I'm back at home.

By Lisa Wheatley

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My Holiday in China – 2b – Text