

The Shang Dynasty

What do Shang artifacts reveal about this civilization?

P R E V I E W

You are an archaeologist in the year 3000. You have recently unearthed several artifacts. Each relates to one characteristic of the civilization of the United States.

In the chart, draw a simple sketch of an artifact for each characteristic of American civilization. Then tell what you think the artifact reveals about the characteristic it relates to. For example, if you found a crown, you could write this statement: “This civilization might have been governed by a king or a queen.”

Characteristic of the Civilization	Artifact	What This Artifact Reveals
Government		
Social Structure		
Religion		
Writing		
Art		
Technology		

READING NOTES

Key Content Terms

As you complete the Reading Notes, use these terms in your answers.

Anyang	clan	ancestor worship
Shang dynasty	bronze	oracle bone

Section 2

1. Where were the ruins of a Shang city discovered?
2. Describe what archaeologists have discovered about Shang cities.

Section 3

For the sensory figure below, complete the statements to describe four important things a Shang warrior would have seen, heard, touched, and felt (emotions) as a member of the Shang army. In your statements, include and underline all the words from the Word Bank. Use each word at least once.

Word Bank

king
clan
bronze
chariot

With my ears, I hear . . .

With my eyes, I see . . .

With my heart, I feel . . .


With my hands, I touch . . .



Section 4

Complete the chart below by writing the name of the appropriate social class in each box. Then draw an artifact that an archaeologist might find relating to this social class and write a caption about it. The first box is completed as an example.

Social Classes in the Shang Dynasty

<p>King</p>  <p>Kings used oracle bones to ask ancestors' advice</p>	

Section 5

For the sensory figure below, finish the statements to describe four important things a Shang king would have seen, heard, touched, and felt (emotions) about religion. In your statements, include and underline all the words from the Word Bank. Use each word at least once.

Word Bank

ancestor
offerings
duty
oracle bone

With my ears, I hear . . .

With my eyes, I see . . .

With my heart, I feel . . .

With my hands, I touch . . .

**Section 6**

1. On what objects were the first examples of Chinese writing found?
2. What is a logograph?
3. Why was a written language important in Chinese history?

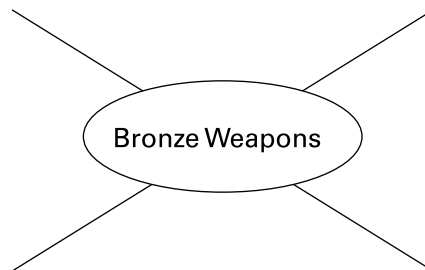
Section 7

1. Identify two materials used by Shang artists. For each material, list an example of an art piece that might be created using it.

2. Describe some ways that Shang artisans decorated vessels and other objects.

Section 8

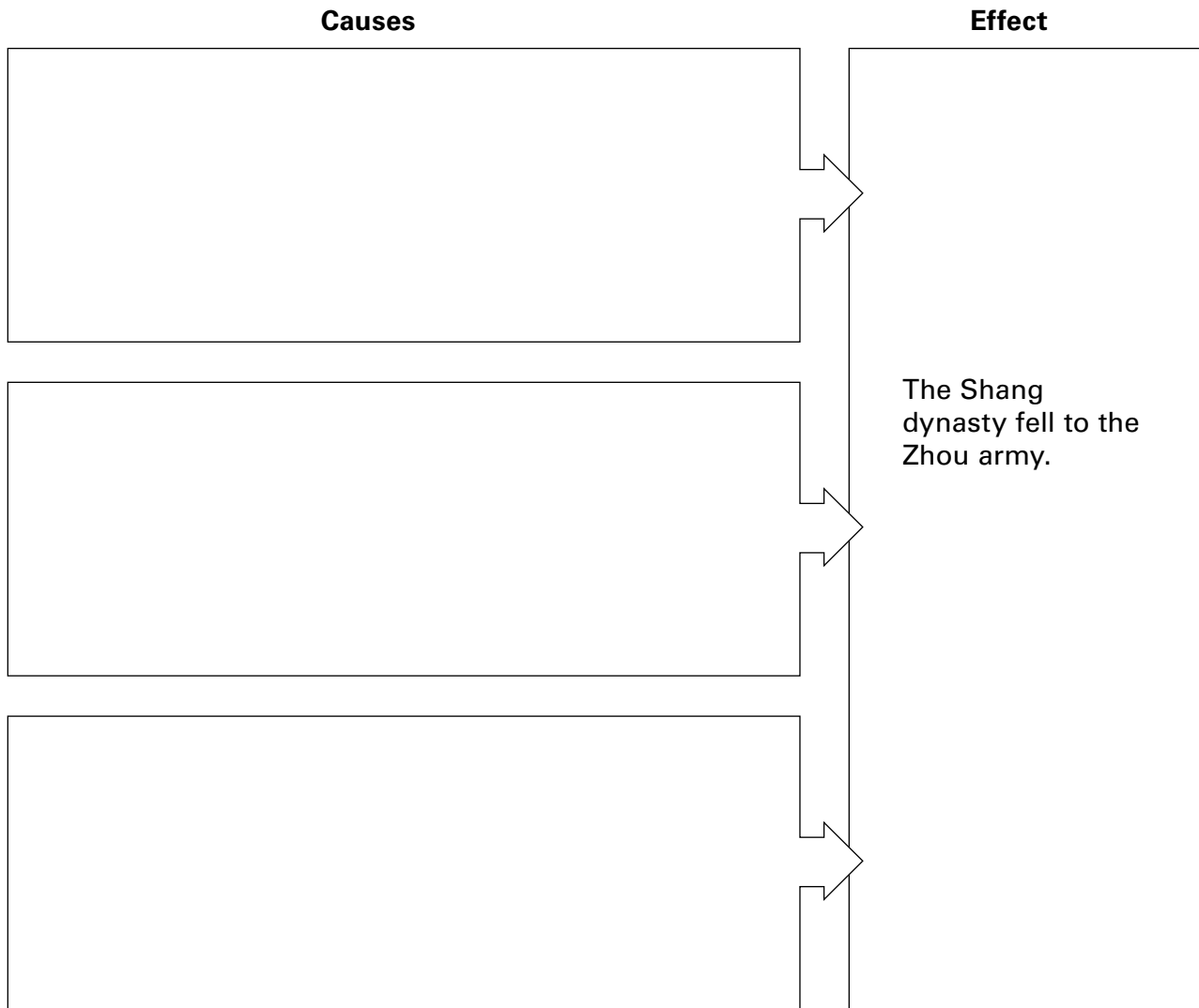
1. Complete the spoke diagram below by naming the types of bronze weapons made by Shang artisans. Put a star next to the weapon you think most helped strengthen the Shang army, and explain why you chose this weapon.



2. Why were bronze-making skills important to the Shang dynasty?

Section 9

In each box of the flowchart below, explain one reason why the Shang dynasty fell.



P R O C E S S I N G

On a separate piece of paper, design a museum exhibit about the Shang dynasty. For your exhibit, select *one* of the characteristics of civilization (*government, social structure, religion, writing, art, or technology*), and include the following elements:

- a catchy exhibit title to draw visitors' attention
- a drawing of three artifacts that relate to the chosen characteristic
- a label to identify each of the three artifacts
- a plaque that summarizes what the three artifacts reveal about the characteristic in Shang society
- any other creative touches that make the exhibit more realistic