

## Preface

## 序言

### A Brief Introduction

China has a long history, a huge population, and a vast territory. China is the largest country in Asia. It borders on fourteen countries and faces six countries over the sea. China has various landforms. There are the vast and fertile North China Plain in the east and the rugged, snowcapped peaks of the Himalayas in the far southwest. On China's vast land, there are great mountains, plateaus, deserts, hills, plains, basins, valleys, glaciers, rivers, and lakes.

The Yellow River and the Yangtze River are the two greatest rivers in China. These two mother-rivers flow all the year round from west to east, irrigating the land along their banks and bringing harvest and hope to the descendants of the Chinese nation. It is on this huge and vibrant land that the over 5,000-year-old history and civilization of China slowly unfolds itself.

### 简介

中国历史悠久, 人口众多, 幅员辽阔。中国是亚洲最大的国家, 她与 14 个国家接壤, 与 6 个国家隔海相望。中国地形多样, 东部有辽阔肥沃的华北平原, 西南端有蜿蜒起伏、白雪皑皑的喜马拉雅山。在中国辽阔的大地上, 分布着大山、高原、沙漠、丘陵、平原、盆地、河谷、冰川、河流和湖泊。

黄河和长江是中国的两大河流。两条母亲河常年自西向东流淌, 浇灌着两岸的土地, 为中华民族的子孙带来收获和希望。正是在这片广袤无垠、生机勃勃的土地上, 中国五千多年的历史 and 文明才慢慢地铺展开来。

## 序言



In area, the People's Republic of China (PRC) is the third largest country (after Russia and Canada) in the world. It has a total land area of about 9.6 million square kilometres. Its position on the map, including offshore islands, is roughly  $3^{\circ}51'N$  to  $53^{\circ}34'N$  latitude and  $73^{\circ}38'E$  to  $135^{\circ}5'E$  longitude. China has many places with fantastic landscapes and splendid culture. Pictured is Yangshuo, a tourist resort in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

## New Words

preface /'prefɪs/n. 序言, 前言, 引言  
 brief /brɪf/n. 摘要; 大纲 *adj.* 简短的  
 huge /hʒʊdʒ/*adj.* 巨大的, 极大的  
 population /ˌpɒpjʊ'leɪʃn/n. 人口数; 全体居民  
 vast /vʌst/*adj.* 巨大的; 辽阔的; 大量的  
 territory /'terɪtəri/n. 领土; 版图  
 Asia /'eɪʃə/n. 亚洲  
 border /'bɔːdə/n. 边界, 国界 *v.* (*vt.* & *vi.* 以下同) 接界 (on, upon)  
 various /'veəriəs/*adj.* 不同的; 各种各样的  
 landform /'lændfɔːm/n. 地形  
 fertile /'fɜːtaɪl/*adj.* 肥沃的; 富饶的  
 plain /pleɪn/n. 平原 *adj.* 简单的; 朴素的  
 rugged /'rʌɡɪd/*adj.* 高低不平的, 崎岖的; 粗糙的; 有皱纹的  
 snowcapped /'snəʊkæpt/*adj.* 顶部被雪覆盖着的

peak /piːk/n. 山顶; 顶点 *adj.* 最高的  
 Himalayas /ˌhɪmə'leɪəz/n. 喜马拉雅山脉  
 mountain /'maʊntɪn/n. 山 (脉)  
 plateau /'plætəʊ/n. 高地, 高原  
 desert /'dezət/n. 沙漠  
 basin /'beɪsɪn/n. 盆地; 流域; 水盆  
 valley /'væli/n. (山) 谷; 流域  
 glacier /'glæsjə/n. 冰川, 冰河  
 Yangtze River /'jæŋtsɪ 'rɪvə/n. 长江; 扬子江  
 irrigate /'ɪrɪɡeɪt/*v.* 灌溉  
 harvest /'hɑːvɪst/n. 收获, 收成; 结果  
 descendant /dɪ'sendənt/n. 后代; 晚辈  
 vibrant /'vaɪbrənt/*adj.* 振动的; 有活力的; 激动的  
 civilization /ˌsɪvɪlaɪ'zeɪʃn/n. 文明, 文化, 文明世界  
 unfold /ʌn'fəʊld/*v.* 打开; 显露; 呈现

## Expressions

border on 与……毗邻

all the year round 一年到头

## Dynastic Changes in Ancient Chinese Society

The Chinese created their own civilization in very early times. China's recorded history dates back to sometime between 4000 BC and 3000 BC. Numerous dynasties ruled China over this period of several thousand years.

The Shang was the first dynasty with specific historical records. It started in about 1600 BC, lasting more than 500 years. The last dynasty, the Qing, ruled China from AD 1644 to 1911. These dynasties held their positions for a long or short time. Some of them lasted only a few years; others held power for hundreds of years. Most dynasties, however, went through a cycle that consisted of several stages.

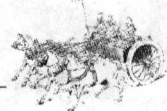
The first stage was the founding of the dynasty. Usually in this stage, a new leader ascended the throne by

## 中国古代社会的朝代更迭

中国人很早就创造了自己的文明。中国有文字记载的历史可追溯到公元前 3000 多年。在这几千年间, 中国经历了许多朝代的更迭。

商朝是第一个有明确历史记载的朝代, 它始于公元前约 1600 年, 持续了 500 多年; 最后一个朝代是清朝, 它的统治时间从 1644 年到 1911 年。这些朝代持续的时间有长有短, 短则几年, 多则数百年。然而, 大多数朝代都经历了一个循环圈, 明显地可以分为几个阶段。

第一阶段是朝代的建立。在这一阶段, 通常都是一位新的首



defeating his rivals in war. After that, he worked hard to strengthen his rule over the country. The throne became hereditary, that is, the right to rule the country was to be handed down within the leader's family from the father to his son and then to his grandson. The new dynasty gradually developed. Then came the second stage, a period of internal peace, expansion, and great power. Construction and development were two major tasks of this stage. The new dynasty collected taxes and labour services from the people. The court used its wealth to improve roads and irrigation systems, to support education and the arts, as well as to build splendid palaces to show its power.

The period of great power was doomed to be followed by a period of decline. During this stage, the rulers never gave a thought to the mass of people. In order to maintain a life of luxury for themselves, they taxed the people too heavily and caused much anger among them. No more money was spent on public construction projects. Floods, droughts, and famine occurred at times, causing endless hardships for the common people. The rulers were no longer able to secure the basic living standard of their people. As a result, chaos and rebellion spread everywhere and finally brought the ruling dynasty to its tomb. At that point, a new emperor took power, and another dynastic cycle began in its wake.

We must remember that this dynastic cycle can only describe the political history of China. In the case of China's history, there are still many other aspects, such as the structures of the family, the farm, and the village. With the development of history, a nation's culture also evolves from the primitive to the mature. Culture follows its own pattern of change. During some stages of the dynastic cycle, the pace of cultural evolution quickened; during others, it slowed. All in all, the Chinese civilization always enjoys a high degree of continuity, so the Chinese are often proud of their own "five-thousand-year-civilization".

领通过打败其战争对手，登上王位。之后，他竭力巩固其统治地位。王位是世袭的，即统治权在统治者家庭内部沿袭，先由父亲传给儿子，再由儿子传给孙子。新的朝代逐渐壮大。然后是第二阶段，这个时期内部安定，势力不断扩张，国力强盛，建设和发展是此时的两大任务。新的朝代从民众中征税和招募劳动力。朝廷动用财富改善道路和灌溉设施，资助教育和艺术，同时也修筑豪华宫殿来显示自己的威权。

强盛阶段过后注定是衰落阶段。这时，统治者对民众漠不关心，为了维持自己的奢华生活，他们横征暴敛，惹得民怨沸腾。再也没有资金投入到公共建设项目，水灾、旱灾和饥荒不时发生，给百姓带来无尽的苦难。统治者再也无力保障人民的基本生活水准。结果，到处是骚乱和反叛，最终将该朝代送入坟墓。此时，一位新的皇帝执政，又一个朝代的循环周期随之开始。

我们必须记住，这个朝代循环圈描述的只是中国的政治历史。就中国历史而言，还有许多方面，例如家庭、农舍和村落的构成。随着历史的发展，一个民族的文化也从原始走向成熟，文化遵循自己的变化模式。在朝代循环圈内，文化发展的步伐时快时慢。总之，中华文明一直保持着高度的连续性。因此，中国人常常为自己“五千年的文明”而自豪。



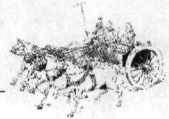


## New Words

dynastic/di'næstɪk/*adj.* 朝代的, 王朝的  
 ancient/'eɪnfənt/*adj.* 远古的; 旧的  
 create/kri:'eɪt/*vt.* 创造; 创作; 引起; 造成  
 record/'rekərd/*n.* 记录/rɪ'kɔ:d/*vt.* 记录, 记载  
 sometime/'sʌmtaɪm/*adv.* (过去或将来) 某个时候  
 BC/缩/Before Christ 公元前  
 numerous/'nju:mərəs/*adj.* 众多的, 无数的  
 dynasty/'dɪnəstɪ/*n.* 朝代, 王朝  
 rule/ru:l/*n.* 规则; 惯例; 统治 *vt.* 规定; 统治; 支配  
 period/'pɪərɪəd/*n.* 时期; 学时; 周期  
 specific/spɪ'sɪfɪk/*adj.* 明确的; 特殊的  
 historical/hɪ'stɒrɪkəl/*adj.* 历史(上)的; 有关历史的  
 last/lɑ:st/*adj.* 最后的; 临终的; 末尾的 *adv.* 最后; 上一次 *vi.* 持续 *vt.* 够……之用  
 AD/拉/Anno Domini 公元  
 position/pə'zɪʃən/*n.* 位置; 职位; 形势  
 cycle/'saɪkl/*n.* 周期; 循环  
 stage/steɪdʒ/*n.* 阶段; 舞台; 戏剧 *vt.* 上演; 举行; 发动  
 ascend/ə'send/*vt.* 登上; 攀登  
 throne/θrəʊn/*n.* 宝座; 王位  
 defeat/dɪ'fi:t/*n.* 击败; 失败 *vt.* 击败; 战胜; 使失败  
 rival/'raɪvəl/*n.* 竞争者; 对手 *v.* 竞争; 对抗  
 strengthen/'streŋθən/*vt.* 加强; 巩固; 使坚强 *vi.* 变强; 加强; 巩固  
 hereditary/hɪ'redɪtəri/*adj.* 世袭的; 遗传的  
 within/wɪ'ðɪn/*n.* 内部 *adv.* 在内部 *prep.* 在……的内部  
 gradually/'grædʒuəli/*adv.* 逐渐地  
 develop/dɪ'veləp/*v.* 发展; 开发; 产生  
 internal/ɪn'tɜ:nl/*adj.* 内在的; 国内的  
 expansion/ɪk'spænjən/*n.* 扩张; 伸展; 膨胀  
 construction/kən'strʌkʃən/*n.* 建筑; 建筑物  
 task/tɑ:sk/*n.* 任务; 作业  
 tax/tæks/*n.* 税(款); 会费 *vt.* 对……征税; 对……收会费  
 labour/'leɪbə/*n.* 劳动; 努力; 工作  
 service/'sɜ:vɪs/*n.* 服务; 服役 *vt.* 保养; 维修

court/kɔ:t/*n.* 朝廷; 法院; 庭院  
 wealth/weθ/*n.* 财富, 财产  
 improve/ɪm'pru:v/*v.* 改善; 改进  
 irrigation/ɪrɪ'geɪʃən/*n.* 灌溉; 水利  
 system/'sɪstəm/*n.* 系统, 体系; 制度; 体制  
 support/sə'pɔ:t/*n.* 支持; 支撑; 支援; 赡养 *vt.* 支持; 经受; 资助; 赡养; 忍受  
 splendid/'splendɪd/*adj.* 壮丽的; 辉煌的; 极好的  
 palace/'pælis/*n.* 宫殿  
 doom/dum/*n.* 厄运; 毁灭; 死亡 *vt.* 注定; 判决  
 decline/dɪ'klaɪn/*n.* 下降; 衰落 *v.* 下降, 下垂; 衰落; 谢绝  
 mass/mæs/*n.* 群众; 大多数; 块; 大量; 质量; 弥撒 *adj.* 群众的; 大规模的; 集中的 *vt.* 集中  
 maintain/meɪn'teɪn/*vt.* 维持; 维修; 继续  
 luxury/'lʌksjəri/*n.* 奢侈; 华贵  
 anger/'æŋɡə/*n.* 怒火 *vt.* 激怒  
 public/'pʌblɪk/*n.* 公众; 公共场所 *adj.* 公众的; 公共的  
 project/'prɒdʒekt/*n.* 方案; 计划; 工程; 科研项目/prə'dʒekt/*vt.* 设计; 规划; 投掷; 突出 *vi.* 伸出  
 drought/draʊt/*n.* 干旱; 缺乏  
 famine/'fæmɪn/*n.* 饥荒  
 endless/'endlɪs/*adj.* 无止境的, 无穷的  
 hardship/'hɑ:dʃɪp/*n.* 受苦; 苦难  
 secure/sɪ'kjʊə/*adj.* 安全的; 可靠的 *vt.* 保证; 使安全  
 standard/'stændəd/*n.* 标准; 水准; 规范 *adj.* 标准的; 符合规定的  
 result/rɪ'zʌlt/*n.* 结果; 成果  
 chaos/'keɪs/*n.* 混乱  
 rebellion/rɪ'beljən/*n.* 谋反, 叛乱  
 spread/spred/*n.* 伸展; 展开; 传播 *v.* 伸展; 展开; 铺开  
 tomb/tu:m/*n.* 坟墓 *vt.* 埋葬  
 emperor/'empərə/*n.* 皇帝; 君主  
 wake/weɪk/*n.* 尾流; 航迹





describe/dɪs'kraɪb/vt. 描写; 记述; 形容  
 aspect/'æspekt/n. 样子; 外表; 方面  
 structure/'strʌktʃə/n. 结构; 构造 vt. 建造;  
 构造  
 culture/'kʌltʃə/n. 文化; 文明  
 evolve/'ɪvəlv/v. (使) 发展; (使) 进化  
 primitive/'prɪmɪtv/adj. 原始的; 远古的  
 mature/mə'tjʊə/adj. 成熟的

pattern/'pætən/n. 模式; 模范; 式样; 到期的 v.  
 (使) 成熟  
 pace/peɪs/n. (一) 步; 速度; 步调; 步法  
 evolution/ɪvə'lʊʃən/n. 进展; 发展; 演化  
 quicken/'kwɪkən/v. 加快; 刺激  
 continuity/ˌkɒntɪ'nju(:)ɪti/n. 连续(性); 连贯  
 (性); 剧情说明

## Expressions

date back to 追溯到  
 go through 经历; 通过; 仔细检查  
 consist of 由……组成  
 hand down 流传; 传下来; 宣布  
 as well as 也; 又; 和  
 be doomed to (后接名词或动词原形) 注定要  
 at times 有时; 不时

no longer 不再  
 as a result 作为结果  
 in its wake 尾随  
 in the case of 就……而言  
 such as 例如  
 all in all 总之

## Exercises

## I. Listen carefully, and then fill in the blanks with what you hear. Each sentence will be read twice.

- China has \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ was China's last historic dynasty.
- Most dynasties went through a cycle that consisted of \_\_\_\_\_ stages.
- In ancient China, the right to rule the country became \_\_\_\_\_ within the leader's \_\_\_\_\_.
- China is a country with a long history, so the Chinese are often proud of their own \_\_\_\_\_.

## II. Speak about the following subjects in English.

- Please give a brief account of (简述) the dynastic cycle.
- Please list (列举) all subjects you have learnt and tell us something about the subject history.

## III. Read the article first, and then choose the right answer for each blank.

The term (术语) 1 refers to (涉及) the record of 2 since people first developed writing, about 5,000 years ago. 3, evidence (证据) indicates (表明) that people 4 on Earth 5 before the 6 of writing. We 7 the period before writing prehistory (史前史).

8 we have no written records of prehistoric (史前的) times, many of the

events of that remote (遥远的) 9 remain a mystery (秘密) to us. 10, we know that prehistoric people 11 tools, 12 beautiful art, 13 cities, and 14 governments (政府). They gradually created 15 we call 16.

As it 17, different civilizations advanced, and the first forms (形式) of writing also developed, 18 ending prehistory. 19 we call history, our main 20, began.

- |                     |                   |                 |                  |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. A. mathematics   | B. geography      | C. history      | D. politics      |
| 2. A. things        | B. events         | C. times        | D. period        |
| 3. A. And           | B. Thus           | C. However      | D. So            |
| 4. A. stood         | B. lived          | C. were         | D. inhabited     |
| 5. A. far           | B. very           | C. quite        | D. long          |
| 6. A. beginning     | B. start          | C. development  | D. usage         |
| 7. A. say           | B. talk about     | C. think        | D. call          |
| 8. A. Even if       | B. If             | C. While        | D. Because       |
| 9. A. times         | B. history        | C. past         | D. story         |
| 10. A. Nevertheless | B. Even so        | C. But          | D. And           |
| 11. A. created      | B. made           | C. invented     | D. used          |
| 12. A. produced     | B. made           | C. developed    | D. did           |
| 13. A. developed    | B. organized (组织) | C. built        | D. needed        |
| 14. A. created      | B. built          | C. made         | D. developed     |
| 15. A. that         | B. which          | C. what         | D. how           |
| 16. A. culture      | B. cultures       | C. civilization | D. civilizations |
| 17. A. went on      | B. went ahead     | C. moved up     | D. moved in      |
| 18. A. and          | B. thus           | C. so           | D. with          |
| 19. A. That         | B. What           | C. Which        | D. When          |
| 20. A. idea         | B. story          | C. record       | D. experience    |

**IV. Answer the following questions in English by gathering information (信息). Each answer should include at least 50 English words.**

- How should one define the term history?
- Please introduce briefly the dynastic cycle.

# Part I Chinese History

## 上篇 中国历史

Chapter 1 The Beginnings of Chinese Civilization

第一章 中华文明的开篇

Chapter 2 The Qin and Han Dynasties Unified Under a Strong Central Government

第二章 大一统的秦汉时期

Chapter 3 Three Kingdoms, Two Jins, and Southern and Northern Dynasties

第三章 三国、两晋、南北朝

Chapter 4 The Sui and Tang Dynasties: The Development of Feudal Society

第四章 隋唐——封建社会的发展

Chapter 5 China Under the Song and Yuan Dynasties

第五章 宋元时期的中国

Chapter 6 The Ming Dynasty

第六章 明朝

Chapter 7 The Qing Dynasty

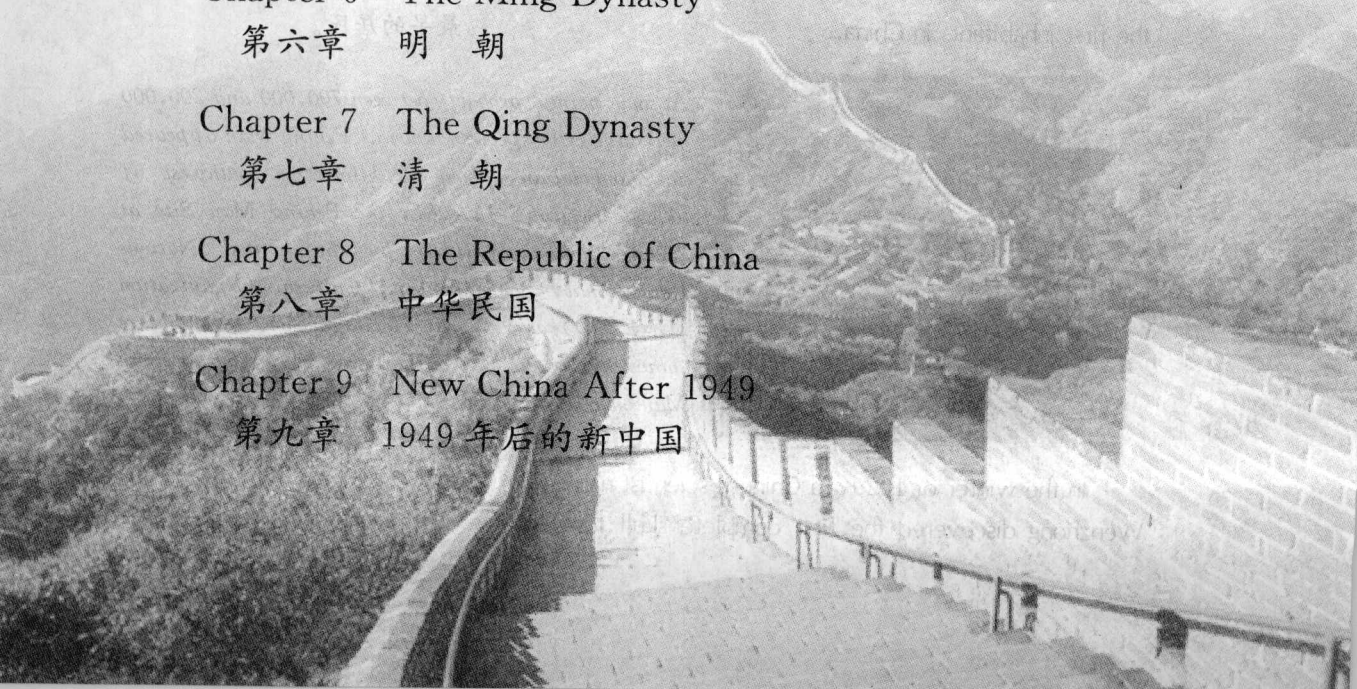
第七章 清朝

Chapter 8 The Republic of China

第八章 中华民国

Chapter 9 New China After 1949

第九章 1949 年后的新中国





## Chapter 1 The Beginnings of Chinese Civilization 第一章 中华文明的开篇

China developed one of the first civilizations in the world. Many of the customs and traditions developed in ancient times still remain a part of Chinese life today. The Chinese culture is one of the oldest in the world. Yandi and Huangdi, two first legendary rulers of China, are always considered respectfully as two of the original ancestors of the Chinese nation. Today, the Chinese still refer to themselves as Yan Huang Zisun — descendants of Yandi and Huangdi.

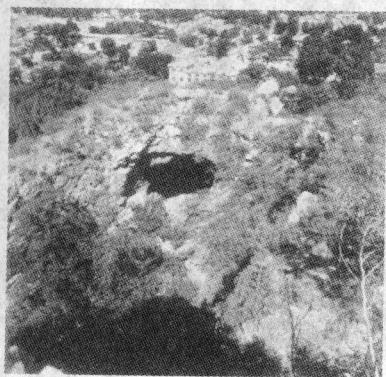
中国是世界上最早的文明发祥地之一。中国古代形成的很多风俗和传统至今仍是中国人生活的一部分。中国文化是世界上最古老的文化之一。传说中的炎帝和黄帝是中国最早的两位统治者，他们一直被尊奉为中华民族的祖先。今天，中国人仍称自己为炎黄子孙。

### Section 1 The Ape-Man

According to archaeological findings, primitive men lived in China as early as over one million years ago. Yuanmou Man, the earliest human yet known in China whose tooth fossil was found in Yuanmou county, Yunnan province, inhabited that part of China some 1.7 million years ago. Next came the Lantian Man, who lived approximately between 1,000,000 and 650,000 years ago in Lantian, Shaanxi province. As far as we know at the moment, these two groups of primitive people were the first inhabitants in China.

### 第一节 猿人

根据考古发现，早在 100 多万年以前中国就有原始人生存。元谋人是我国境内目前已知的最早的原始人类。其牙齿化石在云南省的元谋县被发现，约 170 万年前，元谋人就生活在元谋一带。随后是距今约 100 万年至 65 万年生活在陕西的蓝田人。就目前所知，这两组原始人是中国境内最早的居民。



*At some point, probably between 700,000 and 200,000 years ago, the species known as Peking Man appeared at Zhoukoudian, about 48 kilometres southwest of today's Beijing. In 1987, the Peking Man Site at Zhoukoudian was listed by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) as a World Heritage Site. The picture shows the largest cave on Dragon Hill, where Peking Man once lived.*

In the winter of 1929, a Chinese scientist named Pei Wenzhong discovered the first complete skull fossil of

1929 年冬天，中国科学家裴文中 (1904—1982 年) 在北京西南约



Peking Man in a natural cave on Dragon Hill, about 48 kilometres southwest of modern Beijing, where Peking Man lived probably between 700,000 and 200,000 years ago. Peking Man had the basic characteristics of a human being, could walk upright, and was able to make and use simple labour tools. More important, these prehistoric people, who lived near what is today the city of Beijing, knew how to use natural fire and keep it. They usually lived in small groups, and made a living mainly by gathering fruits and hunting animals.

48 千米处的龙骨山的天然洞穴里, 发现了第一个完整的北京人头盖骨化石。距今约 70 万年至 20 万年之间, 北京人就生活在那里。北京人具有人的基本特征, 可以两腿直立行走, 会制造和使用简单的劳动工具。更重要的是, 这些史前的北京人知道如何使用天然火并保存火种。他们通常过着群居生活, 主要以采集果实和打猎为生。

### New Words

custom /'kʌstəm/n. 风俗, 习惯  
tradition /trə'dɪʃən/n. 传统; 惯例  
remain /rɪ'meɪn/vi. 剩下; 继续存在; 保持  
legendary /'ledʒəndəri/adj. 传说中的  
respectfully /rɪs'pektfʊli/adv. 尊敬地; 谦恭地  
original /ə'rɪdʒənəl/adj. 最初的, 原始的  
ancestor /'ænsɪstə/n. 祖先, 祖宗  
section /'sekʃən/n. 部分; 节; 截面  
ape /eɪp/n. 猿 *vt.* 模仿  
archaeological /ˌɑ:kɪə'lɒdʒɪkəl/adj. 考古学的  
fossil /'fɒsl/n. 化石 *adj.* 化石的; 守旧的  
county /'kaʊnti/n. 县; 郡  
province /'prɒvɪns/n. 省  
inhabit /ɪn'hæbɪt/vt. 居住于  
approximately /ə'prɒksɪmətli/adv. 近似地, 大约地  
inhabitant /ɪn'hæbɪtənt/n. 居民, 居住者

complete /kəm'pli:t/adj. 完整的; 圆满的 *vt.* 完成  
skull /skʌl/n. 头盖骨  
natural /'nætʃərəl/adj. 自然界的; 天然的  
cave /keɪv/n. 山洞; 地窖  
dragon /'dræɡən/n. 龙; 凶暴的人  
kilometre /'kɪlə'mɪtə/n. 千米 (略作 km.)  
characteristic /ˌkærɪktə'rɪstɪk/n. 特性, 特征  
*adj.* 特有的; 典型的  
upright /'ʌp-raɪt/n. 垂直; 竖立 *adj.* 笔直的; 竖立的; 正直的 *adv.* 垂直地, 竖立着  
prehistoric /'pri:his'tɒrɪk/adj. 史前的; 陈旧的  
mainly /'meɪnli/adv. 大体上; 主要地  
gather /'ɡæðə/vt. 积聚; 使聚集; 搜集; 推断 *vi.* 集合; 聚集; 增长; 化脓  
hunt /hʌnt/v. 猎取

### Expressions

be considered as 被认为是  
refer to sb. (sth.) as 称某人 (某物) 为  
according to 按照, 根据  
as early as 早在

as far as 至于; 远到  
at the moment 在 (这) 那时  
make a living 谋生

## Section 2 Legends of Ancient China

In very early times, the world remained a mystery to the Chinese. Like other cultures, there were many old legends passed on in China about the beginnings of the world and about ancient China and its people.

## 第二节 中国远古的传说

在远古时代, 世界对于中国人来说是一个谜。像其他文化一样, 中国流传有许多解释世界的起源和介绍古代中国及其民族的古老传说。



This picture shows Nüwa patching up the sky.

The story of God, who created the universe, is on everyone's lips in the West. In China, there are also legends about Pangu, the first man on earth who separated heaven from earth, and Nüwa, a Chinese goddess who patched up the sky and created human beings. Besides these, some other stories about the legendary rulers of China's remote antiquity, such as Yandi, Huangdi, Yao, Shun, Yu and others, have also been handed down to this day. They lived in the Yellow River valley over 4,000 years ago and all of them were outstanding leaders of their respective allied tribes. Then, the tribal alliance meeting, attended by chieftains from all the allied tribes, had the right to decide on the major events within the alliance. Yao, Shun and Yu are said to have been elected leaders of the alliance by the tribal alliance meeting.

Yu was especially respected by the Chinese masses. The legend says that Yu had a noble personality. He spent 13 years in regulating the wild Yellow River, and finally put it under control. During this period, Yu passed by his home three times but never stepped in.



The Mausoleum of Huangdi, located in Huang Ling county, Shaanxi province

在西方，上帝创造世界的故事家喻户晓。在中国，同样有“盘古开天辟地”和“女娲补天造人”的传说。除此之外，关于炎帝、黄帝、尧、舜、禹等中国远古时期的统治者的传说也一直流传至今。他们居住在 4000 多年前的黄河流域，都是各自部落联盟的杰出首领。当时，由参加联盟的各部落首领组成部落联盟会议，决定联盟中的重大事情。据说，尧、舜、禹都是由部落联盟会议推选为联盟首领的。

禹尤其受到中国百姓的尊敬。相传他品德高尚，花了 13 年的时间来治理奔流不驯的黄河，最终获得成功。在此期间，禹曾三过家门而不入。

### New Words

legend/'ledʒənd/n. 传说

mystery/'mɪstəri/n. 神秘

God/gɒd/n. /宗/上帝

universe/'juːnɪvɜːs/n. 宇宙，世界

lip/lɪp/n. 嘴唇；唇状物

separate/'sepəreɪt/adj. 分开的，分离的；个别的；单独的 v. 分开，隔离；分散

heaven/'hevn/n. 天，天空





goddess/'gɒdɪs/n. 女神

patch/pætʃ/n. 补丁; 小块地 *vt.* 补缀

remote/rɪ'məʊt/adj. 相隔遥远的; 偏僻的

antiquity/æn'tɪkwɪti/n. 古代; 古人们/常用复/; 古迹, 古物

outstanding/aʊt'stændɪŋ/adj. 杰出的; 突出的; 显著的

respective/rɪs'pektɪv/adj. 各自的, 各个的

allied/ə'laid/adj. 联合的, 同盟的; 联姻的

tribe/traɪb/n. 部落; 宗族

tribal/traɪbəl/n. 部落的; 宗族的

alliance/ə'laɪəns/n. 联盟, 联合

chieftain/'tʃi:ftən/n. 首领, 族长, 酋长

respect/rɪs'pekt/n. 尊敬; 敬重 *vt.* 尊敬; 尊重

noble/nəʊbl/n. 贵族 *adj.* 高尚的; 贵族的

personality/pɜ:snə'neɪlɪti/n. 个性; 人格; 人物

regulate/'regjuleɪt/*vt.* 管制, 控制; 使有条理

step/step/n. 脚步; 步调; 步骤 *v.* 走; 踏

### Expressions

pass on 传送, 流传

on earth 在世上; 究竟

separate... from... 把……与……分开

put... under 使……处于之下

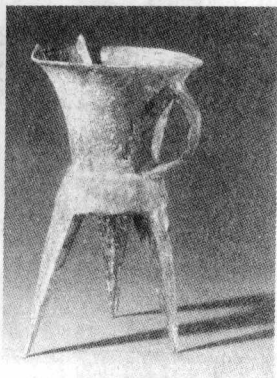
pass by 走过, 经过; (时间) 过去; 忽视

step in 进入; 顺便访问; 干预

## Section 3 The Xia — China's Earliest Slave Dynasty

(c. 2070 BC—c. 1600 BC)

The Yellow River valley is the cradle of Chinese civilization. It is natural that China's first historical dynasty, the Xia, began along the Yellow River. The Xia mainly ruled what is today the west of Henan province, as well as the south of Shanxi province. The Xia dynasty marked the beginning of slave society in Chinese history. It began with Yu the Great and ended with Jie's death, its last ruler, and lasted for more than four centuries. Xia rulers set up armed forces, worked out criminal law, and instituted prisons.



*The earliest of all the dynasties mentioned by traditional Chinese texts is the Xia. Although few proven facts have been discovered in support of its existence, scholars do not doubt that the Xia people of the Yellow River valley existed and that they made great advances over time. As a founder of the dynasty, Yu the Great, who drained away the floodwaters so that people could live on the banks of the river, has always been respected by the Chinese since ancient times. The Xia people began to use bronze vessels for different purposes. This picture shows an unearthed Xia bronze vessel for containing wine.*

The Xia people made great advances in agriculture,

夏朝人在农业上取得了很大

## 第三节 夏——中国最早的奴隶制王朝

(约前 2070—约前 1600 年)

黄河流域是中华文明的摇篮。自然, 中国的第一个历史朝代夏朝就始于黄河流域。夏朝主要统治地区在今河南西部、山西南部一带。夏朝标志着中国历史上奴隶社会的开始。它始自大禹, 以最后一位统治者桀的死亡而终结。夏朝持续了四个多世纪。夏朝统治者建立了军队, 制定了刑法, 设置了监狱。

Part I  
Chinese History

and surplus grain was used to brew wine. They already used drinking vessels made of bronze. The Xia people even began to use written symbols. The legends of ancient China tell of the calendar used in the Xia dynasty. The Chinese lunar calendar used today is still called the Xia calendar. The Chinese took notice of astronomical observation at an early date. According to the historical record, the Xia people began to observe meteor showers and solar eclipses. This was the earliest astronomical record in the world. The Chinese gradually formed a world outlook which comprised an “integration of the universe and humanity” by making astronomical observations and geographical surveys. The Xia paved the way for all the progress made during the Shang dynasty.

## New Words

slave/slerv/*n.* 奴隶 *v.* 辛勤努力; 奴隶般苦干  
 c. /缩//拉/circa/'sɜ:kə/*prep.* 大约  
 cradle/'kreɪdl/*n.* 摇篮; 发源地  
 mark/mɑ:k/*n.* 标志; 分数; 痕迹; 记号 *vt.* 做标记于; 打分数; 标志 *vi.* 做记号  
 armed/ɑ:md/*adj.* 武装的; 有扶手的  
 criminal/'krɪmɪnl/*n.* 罪犯 *adj.* 犯罪的, 犯法的; 罪恶的  
 institute/'ɪnstɪtju:t/*n.* 学会; 学院 *vt.* 创立; 制定; 开始; 提起 (诉讼)  
 prison/'prɪzn/*n.* 监狱  
 advance/əd'vɑ:ns/*n.* 前进, 进展 *vt.* 推进; 提前 *vi.* 前进  
 agriculture/'ægrɪkʌltʃə/*n.* 农业; 农艺; 农学  
 surplus/'sɜ:pləs/*n.* 剩余, 过剩 *adj.* 剩余的; 过剩的  
 brew/bru:/i. 酿造; 饮料 *v.* 酿造; 酝酿  
 vessel/'vesl/*n.* 容器, 器皿; 船  
 bronze/brɒnz/*n.* 青铜; 铜像  
 symbol/'sɪmbəl/*n.* 符号, 记号; 象征  
 calendar/'kælɪndə/*n.* 日历; 历法

进步, 把剩余的粮食用来酿酒, 他们已使用青铜酒器。夏朝人开始使用书写符号。相传在中国夏朝时, 就有了历法。今天在中国使用的农历, 仍被称为“夏历”。中国人很早就注意观察天象, 据史书记载, 夏朝人开始观察流星雨和日食, 这是世界上最早的天文记录。中国人通过仰观天文、俯察地理的活动, 逐渐形成了“天人合一”的宇宙观。夏朝为商朝的发展铺平了道路。

lunar/'ljʊ:nə/*adj.* 阴历的; 月亮的  
 astronomical/æstrə'nɒmɪkəl/*adj.* 天文学的; 天体的  
 observation/ɒbzə'veɪʃn/*n.* 观察, 观测  
 observe/əb'zɜ:v/*vt.* 观察; 遵守; 纪念; 评论  
 meteor/'mi:tɪə/*n.* 流星  
 shower/'ʃaʊə/*n.* 阵雨; 淋浴  
 solar/'səʊlə/*adj.* 太阳的, 日光的  
 eclipse/ɪ'klɪps/*n.* 食; 日食  
 form/fɔ:m/*n.* 形式, 方式 *vt.* 形成; 构成  
 outlook/'aʊtlʊk/*n.* 景色; 观点; 前景; 瞭望  
 comprise/kəm'praɪz/*vt.* 包含, 由……组成  
 integration/ɪntɪ'greɪʃn/*n.* 结合; 综合; 一体化; 积分 (法)  
 humanity/hju:(ɪ)'mænɪti/*n.* 人性; 人类; 博爱  
 geographical/dʒɪə'græfɪkəl/*adj.* 地理 (学) 的; 地区 (性) 的  
 survey/sə'veɪ/*n.* & *v.* 测量; 调查  
 pave/perv/*vt.* 铺; 密布  
 progress/'prɒɡres/*n.* 前进, 进步, 发展 *vi.* 前进, 进步; 进行

## Expressions

begin with 始于; 首先  
 end with 止于; 以……结束  
 set up 建立, 创立

work out 算出; 制定出  
 make advances 前进; 取得进展  
 be used to 被用作; 习惯于 (后接名词、代词或



动名词)

tell of (about) 讲述

take notice of 注意

pave the way for 为……做好准备; 为……铺平道路

## Section 4 The Shang Dynasty

(c. 1600 BC—1046 BC)

Originating along the Yellow River, the Shang dynasty existed between c. 1600 BC—1046 BC. After the death of Jie, Tang established this dynasty and gradually strengthened his rule over the country. At that time, productive tools were very primitive, and the people suffered constantly from natural disasters. The main task of the court was to feed its people. The Shang did a lot of work in building irrigation works, controlling floods, and constructing other public projects. The Shang dynasty saw a growth in the history of China's slave society.

**Shang rule.** At the height of its power, the Shang empire controlled an area of over 100,000 square kilometres. Due to flood control or consideration of security, during its early period, the Shang moved its capital from one place to another several times. During the last 200 years and more of the Shang dynasty, the capital, Yin, was situated near what is today the city of Anyang, Henan. In addition, Shang rulers created a complex governing system. This system made it clear that the Shang king owned the whole of the land in the country. During the Shang dynasty, bronze weapons were further developed and widely used in the war against enemies on the borders. Strong military force enabled the Shang to get new territory and to spread its culture. The Shang once ruled most of eastern central China.

## 第四节 商 朝

(约前 1600—前 1046 年)

始于黄河流域的商朝存在于约公元前 1600 年到公元前 1046 年之间。桀死后, 汤建立了商朝, 逐渐加强了对国家的统治。那时, 生产工具非常原始, 人们不断遭受自然灾害, 朝廷的主要任务就是养活民众。商朝在兴修灌溉设施、控制水灾和建设其他公共工程方面做了大量工作。商朝是中国奴隶社会的发展时期。

**商的统治** 在其权力的高峰时期, 商帝国统治的疆域超过 10 万平方千米。出于防洪或安全考虑, 商朝前期, 曾经几次迁都。在商朝的最后 200 多年里, 商都殷位于今河南安阳市附近。此外, 商朝统治者还创立了一套复杂的管理制度, 其中明确规定, 商王拥有国家的全部土地。青铜武器在商朝有了进一步的发展, 而且广泛应用于抗击边境敌人的战争中。强大的军事力量使得商朝能够获取新的疆土, 传播自己的文化。它曾一度统治着中国中东部的大部分地区。

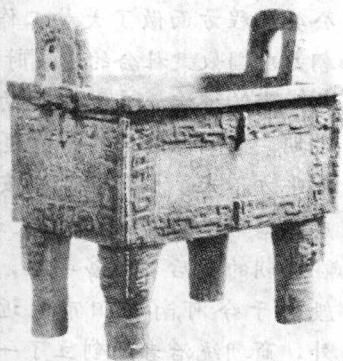


*The palace at Yin Ruins, the ruins of the capital city of the late Shang dynasty near today's Anyang city, Henan province, was built on the ground. This picture shows the restoration of the original Shang's thatched palace at Yin Ruins.*



Shang rulers held power until 1046 BC. During the Shang period, the Chinese people improved the tools and skills of earlier periods. At the same time, they also made new discoveries and developed new skills.

**Economy and handicrafts.** Agriculture was the basis of the Shang economy. Millet, broomcorn, wheat and rice were the main crops. Domestic animals included sheep, pigs, chickens, dogs, oxen and horses. The first three were for edible meat, and the last two for labour. Sometime during the Shang dynasty, the Chinese learned to raise silkworms, spin thread from their cocoons, and weave silk cloth from the thread.



*This huge Si Mu Wu Bronze Ding, weighing 832.84 kg and standing 133 cm high, was unearthed in 1939 at Yin Ruins. The Ding, made of alloy, contains 84.77% of copper, 11.64% of tin and 2.79% of lead. Three Chinese characters 司母戊 were carved in the middle of the interior of the Ding. This ceremonial cast vessel was made to probably commemorate Mu Wu, mother of the Shang King Wen Ding.*

Besides farmers, there were also merchants and artisans. They lived in the capital and in the towns of the Shang realm. Shang people were good at doing business and managing money matters, so the people who do business have been called "Shangren" in Chinese, which means merchants, by later generations. Shang artisans made great contributions to the development of China's handicrafts. They mastered many skills. Shang artisans were able to make beautiful articles from jade, ivory, and bone. Shang potters could use a fine white clay, and glazed some of their pottery to make it shiny and durable. As a result, delicate forms and shapes can be seen in unearthed vases of the Shang dynasty. More important, they also laid down a solid foundation for later Chinese ceramic art.

商朝的统治一直持续到公元前 1046 年。在此期间，中国人改进了早期的工具和手工技能，同时，也获得了新的发现，开发了新的技能。

**经济和手工艺** 农业是商朝经济的基础。粟、黍、麦和稻是主要作物。家畜包括羊、猪、鸡、犬、牛、马，前三种家畜用于食用，牛和马则用于劳作。在商朝的某个时期，中国人学会了养蚕，由蚕茧纺线，再用丝线织绸布。

除了农民，还有商人和工匠，他们住在京城和其他城镇里。商民善于经商理财，所以后世将经商的人称为“商人”。商朝的工匠对中国手工艺的发展做出了巨大的贡献。他们掌握了多种技能，会用玉、象牙和骨头制作精美的器物。商朝的陶工会使用一种上好的白泥，并给一些陶器上釉，使之光亮和经久耐用。正因为如此，我们现在才能从发掘出来的商朝花瓶上看到精美的图案和线条。更重要的是，他们为后来中国的陶瓷工艺奠定了坚实的基础。



The casting of bronze vessels was an important sector of the Shang handicraft industry. Shang artisans attained a high degree of perfection in the crafting of bronze vessels. The bronze castings of Shang artisans had a large variety of shapes, each corresponding to a specific purpose in worship. For example, the *Ding* was used for containing sacrificial food; the *Zun* was employed for offerings of wine. The unearthed *Si Mu Wu Ding* and the *Four-Goat Zun* are two representatives of Shang bronze vessels. The three dynasties, the Xia, the Shang and the Zhou, are called China's Bronze Age. The bronze castings of Shang artisans are still today widely regarded as outstanding works of art by people all around the world.

**The calendar and traditional festivals.** The ancient Chinese used the lunar calendar. The lunar calendar was based on the movement of the moon. The Chinese people used the lunar calendar to record private and public events, such as the birthday of a child or the anniversary of the death of a ruler. More important, they planned the farming according to this calendar. China's lunar calendar came into existence as early as the Xia dynasty, and has been in use for several thousand years since then.

青铜铸造业是商代手工业的重要部门。商朝工匠的青铜铸造工艺达到了炉火纯青的程度，其制作的青铜器形状各异，适用于祭拜时的特定用途。例如，鼎为祭祀用的食器；尊为盛酒器。出土的司母戊鼎和四羊方尊是商朝青铜器的代表作。夏、商、周三代被称做中国的青铜时代。时至今日，商朝工匠们制作的青铜器物仍被世界各地的人们公认为是上乘的艺术品。

**历法和传统节日** 古人使用阴历历法，阴历是基于月亮的运动规律而制定的。中国人用阴历记载私事和公事，例如小孩的生日，或者统治者的忌辰。更重要的是，他们根据阴历安排农事。中国的农历早在夏朝就产生了，此后使用了几千年。



*The Boy and Lion Enter Through the Door, a Chinese traditional New Year picture.*



*Joy and Happiness—a traditional theme for Chinese New Year pictures*

There are many traditional festivals in China each year. Based on the Chinese lunar calendar, the main festivals include the Spring Festival, the Pure Brightness Festival, the Dragon Boat Festival, the Mid-Autumn Festival and so on. The Spring Festival falls on the first day of the first lunar month and is the most important and jubilant holiday in a year. It signifies the arrival of spring and the beginning of a new lunar year. The whole family gets together for an annual reunion dinner on Chinese New Year's Eve. During the Spring Festival, relatives and friends visit each other, wishing everybody a happy life, good luck, and prosperity. Pasting up Spring Festival couplets and setting off firecrackers remain a part of Chinese customs and traditions. The Spring Festival is similar to Christmas in the West. China's lunar calendar festivals reflect the long-standing history and culture of the Chinese nation.

**Language and writing.** The Chinese nation is one of the few earliest peoples in the world known to have developed an original written language. For quite a long period of time, because there were only spoken dialects, it was very difficult for the early Chinese to understand each other. Slowly, the Chinese invented a special symbol to stand for every character in their language. At first, they drew objects on stones or bones to represent some words. Today, we call these drawings of objects pictographs. Later, as their culture became more developed, the Chinese invented pictophonetic characters. Many written characters had two parts. One was an idea sign to show the meaning of the character. The other was a sound sign. It told how to pronounce the character. As more and more new characters were invented by combining the two signs, this system of writing proved very effective. However, it was not an easy task to keep these characters in mind. Education cost both time and money. Thus, for many centuries, only a small number of specialists who served the ruling classes could grasp the skill of reading and writing. The Chinese characters used today have evolved from what the Shang

中国每年都有很多传统节日。根据农历,中国的主要节日有:春节、清明节、端午节、中秋节等。农历正月初一是春节,它是一年中最重要、最喜庆的节日,春节意味着春天的到来,新年的开始。除夕夜,全家人聚在一起吃团年饭。春节期间,亲朋好友相互拜年,共祝生活幸福,交好运,发大财。贴春联、放鞭炮仍是中国传统习俗的一部分。春节的气氛跟西方的圣诞节差不多。中国农历节日反映了中华民族悠久的历史和文化。

**语言和文字** 中华民族是世界上最早发明本民族书写文字的少数几个民族之一。在相当长的时期,由于只有口头方言,早期的中国人很难互相交流。慢慢地,中国人发明了独特的记号来代表语言中的每一个文字。最初,他们在石头或骨头上画图案,如今我们称之为象形文字。后来随着文化的发展,中国人又发明了形声字。很多文字有两个部分:一个为表意符号即形旁,代表文字的意义;另一个为声音符号即声旁,告诉该字的读音。通过这两个符号的组合,中国人创造出越来越多的新文字,这个文字系统证明是非常有效的,但要记住这些文字绝非易事。教育是一件既费钱又费时的事,因此,许多世纪以来,只有为统治阶级服务的少数专业人士才掌握了读写的技能。今天使用的汉字,就是从商朝人刻写在龟甲兽骨上的“甲骨文”发展而







people inscribed on tortoise-shells and on animal bones. 来的。



*Chinese characters originated at an early date. Shang people began to inscribe the characters on tortoise shells and on animal bones. These characters are called Jiaguwen in Chinese. This picture illustrates a Shang inscription carved on a piece of oracle bone.*

Ancient Chinese used a brush to write characters. The lines began on the right side and ran from the top to the bottom of a page. Gradually, writing itself became an art, known as calligraphy. Chinese artists used the same kind of brush for calligraphy as was used for painting.

**Religious belief.** Religious belief began when ancient people tried to explain such natural phenomena as storms and lightning. Shang people worshipped their ancestors, and at the same time, they believed that everything on earth had a spirit. According to their belief, some powerful, kind dragons lived in the seas and rivers and they could rise into the clouds. Summer storms were caused by their fighting in the sky. Later, this good dragon became the symbol of Chinese rulers.

The Chinese also worshipped gods of the wind, sun, clouds, and moon. In spring, the planting season, the people held a great religious festival to pray for good crops. Again in autumn after the harvest, another festival was given to thank all the gods in Mother Nature.

The Shang people believed that a supreme god was living in the sky, who watched everything from above, controlled the forces of nature, and determined the fate of all human beings. Rulers in those days tried to please

古时的中国人用毛笔书写, 书写方式是从右至左, 从上到下。逐渐地, 书写本身成为一门艺术, 即书法。中国艺术家在书法绘画中都采用毛笔。

**宗教信仰** 当古人试图解释诸如风雨雷电等自然现象时, 便产生了宗教信仰。商朝人祭拜祖先, 同时, 他们相信世间万物都有灵魂。根据这一信仰, 人们认为, 河海中居住着一些强悍而友善的龙, 它们可以升入云端。夏天的暴雨就是由于它们在天上的打斗所致。后来, 这种友善的龙成了中国统治者的象征。

中国人也敬奉风神、日神、云神和月神。春天是播种的季节, 人们举行盛大的宗教仪式来祈祷丰收。秋天收获后, 又会举行庆典感谢自然诸神。

商朝人认为, 天空中居住着至高无上的神, 他从天上注视一切, 控制着各种自然力量, 决定着整个人类的命运。那时的统治