



Year 4

Who were the Shang Dynasty?

Spring term



Literacy

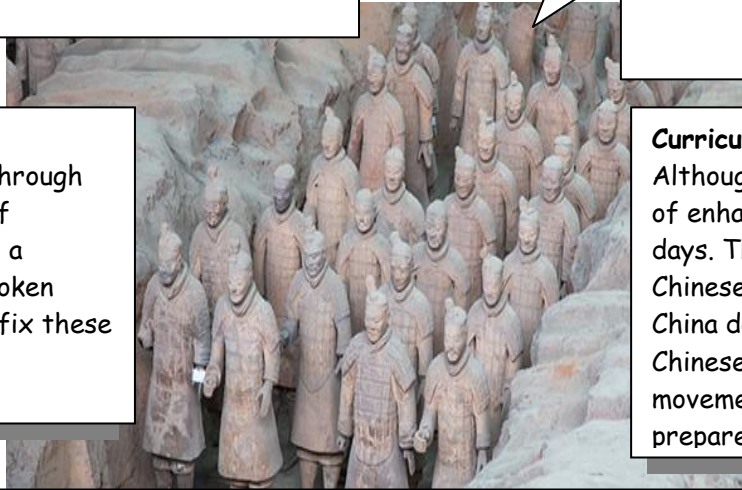
During this half term the children will be looking at stories from other cultures within history, focussing closely on the story of Mulan. They will explore the traditional version of the tale, as well as elements of the Disney version making comparisons between the two. Through the unit the children will also look at how stories from other cultures set the scene to the story through vivid description as well as how to appropriately add speech to a story. Later on in the term the children will look at the genre of recounts, where they will explore the features of this type of writing first of, then move onto writing about their experience on Chinese New Year day in school. Throughout the units learning will take place on Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar particularly focussing on the correct use of tense within writing, the use of conjunctions to link sentences together as well as the correct use of using paragraphs within longer pieces of writing.

Maths

During the spring term the children will continue to secure their understanding of place value of numbers, through understanding of each digit's value and ordering numbers. After this the children will develop their ability of counting on and back in multiples of 6, 7, 9, 25 and 1000 as well as securely rounding numbers to the nearest 10, 100 and 1000. Later on in the term the children will secure their understanding of multiplication, through using multiple facts and mental strategies to aid their ability to multiply, they will also apply division facts to division questions. Throughout the topic the children will also explore and gain a deeper understanding of how mental strategies can help them. Additionally they will investigate a range of

Computing-

This term the children will be investigating coding through code studio. They will look at how creating a chain of commands affects specific actions with elements of a programme. Additionally to this they will explore broken series of codes, gaining an understanding of how to fix these broken elements.



Curriculum enhancement-

Although China may be too far to visit, there will be a number of enhancements to the topic through a number of themed days. The children will experience the culture and rituals of Chinese New Year through a range of different workshops on China day. Later in the topic they will experience traditional Chinese dance and understand the symbolism of different movements. Finally, the children will experience how to prepare, make and taste Chinese cooking.

Art / DT -

During the first half of the term the children will research and understand the importance of the Terracotta army. They will create their own designs which they will then turn into their own clay figurine. Later in the term the children will investigate Chinese water colour paintings. They will explore the artists and painting techniques that they will then turn into a Chinese style fan.

Topic - Shang Dynasty and Modern Day China

This term the children will explore the historic Shang Dynasty, one of the founding ruling systems of China. The children will explore where the Shang lived, what life was like during this period as well as how the Shang people began to record using oracle bones and symbols. Additionally to this, they will explore and gain an understanding of the important rulers and people of the time. During the second half of the term the children will be completing a comparative study of modern day China to the UK. They will be investigating a range of information about both countries from language to religions and from key sights to traditional cuisines. Throughout the topic the children will have the opportunity to experience Chinese New Year, traditional Chinese dance as well as Chinese cooking.

Science -

Our Science topic will focus with children looking at appliances that run on electricity and exploring the components of a simple electrical circuit. The children will develop their understanding of these through a number of practical lessons. The children will explore what components are required to make a complete circuit and some common insulators and conductors of electricity. Throughout the unit there will be opportunities for the children to plan, carry out and evaluate practical investigations, which aim to enhance and develop their understanding of the topics covered.

Key questions driving learning

- **Who were the Shang dynasty?**
- **Why is this period of history important?**
- **What were the legacies of the Shang dynasty?**
- **What is China like today?**
- **How is China different to the United Kingdom?**

Music -

This term the children will begin by exploring pentatonic dragons and the music of China. They will have the opportunity to explore the culture of China and create/compose music for a moving image. Later in the term the children will be learning and practising the music and songs for our Year 4 Easter Production.

Physical Education -

This term the children will experience a number of different areas of PE, starting the term with gymnastics and tennis. During these units the children will learn the skills and rules of tennis, before putting these into play during matches. Within our gymnastics unit the children will develop their skills, thinking carefully about control and balance. Later in the term the children will have the opportunity to explore some Paralympic sports and take part in fitness training.

Living and Reflecting -

This term the children will be looking into their class cathedral discovering why there are cathedrals, the types of festival and worship that goes on within them and famous saints related to the cathedral. The children will culminate this work by turning it into a class assembly for the rest of the school. Later in the term the children will explore founders and leaders that they know such as Jesus or Moses. They will consider the qualities of leaders they know as well as drawing qualities from leaders of faiths. This will then end in the children investigating and building up a profile about Jesus with what type of leader he was. Additionally to this, the children will explore the faith of Buddhism through our topic lessons on China.

