

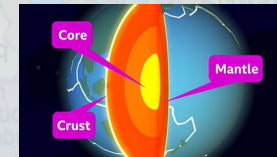
# Let the Adventure Begin! — Geography

Year 6



## Core Knowledge

- Weather changes daily and it is the temperature and conditions for the day. Often we describe the weather as hot, rainy, sunny, humid, overcast, freezing or snowy. On the other hand, climate is the average weather condition of a place over a long period of time. There are six different climate zones in different places on Earth: polar, temperate, arid, tropical, Mediterranean and mountainous. The climate in China is very varied. It is mostly temperate, but varies from tropical in the South to polar in the North.
- A biome is a large area of land with a particular climate, types of plants (flora) and animals (fauna). The biomes in China are varied as well. In general, forests are found more in the east and south, while grasslands, deserts and plateaus dominate the landscape in the north and west. The forests can be divided into taiga, coniferous, deciduous broadleaf, evergreen broadleaf, tropical and mangrove forests.
- The Earth is made up of different layers: the core at the centre, which is mainly metal; the mantle, which is mainly rock; and the crust, which is the part we can see. The crust (together with the upper layer of the mantle) is made up of different pieces, called tectonic plates. These plates fit together like a jigsaw and are moving at a rate of a few centimetres a year, in different directions and at different speeds. As plates move in different directions over long periods of time, friction causes energy to build up. It becomes so great that the energy is released, which creates a shock wave: an earthquake. Because China is in the region where the Eurasian, Pacific, and Indian plates meet, it suffers from frequent earthquakes due to still active tectonic movements.



Firefighters search collapsed buildings for victims of the western China earthquake on April 14, 2010, in Qinghai Province, China

- In parts of the world where earthquakes are common, people take precautions. For example, they don't make buildings very tall, so they won't fall down easily. Sometimes, they use rubber foundations to absorb some of the force coming from the earthquake's tremors. Plastic is used in windows, rather than glass. Schools in these countries practise what to do if an earthquake happens, like sheltering under a desk to protect yourself from falling objects.
- Trade is an important way for countries to make money and has been happening across the world for hundreds of years. The UK imports clothing and computers from China. China's major exports are: data processing machines, clothes and clothing accessories, integrated circuits, and mobile phones. China's main imports are: machinery and apparatus, chemicals, and fuels.

## Key Vocabulary

temperate—moderate, or in the middle; without extremes



plateau—a high, flat piece of land that rises sharply above the surrounding area



tectonic plates—Earth's outer layer is made up of large, moving pieces called plates. All of Earth's land and water sit on these plates. The plates are made of solid rock.



shock wave—a wave formed by the sudden compression of the substance through which the wave travels



foundations—the lowest parts of buildings



trade—buying and selling things



import—buying products from another country



export—sending goods to sell in other countries



# Let the Adventure Begin! — History

Year 6



## Core Knowledge

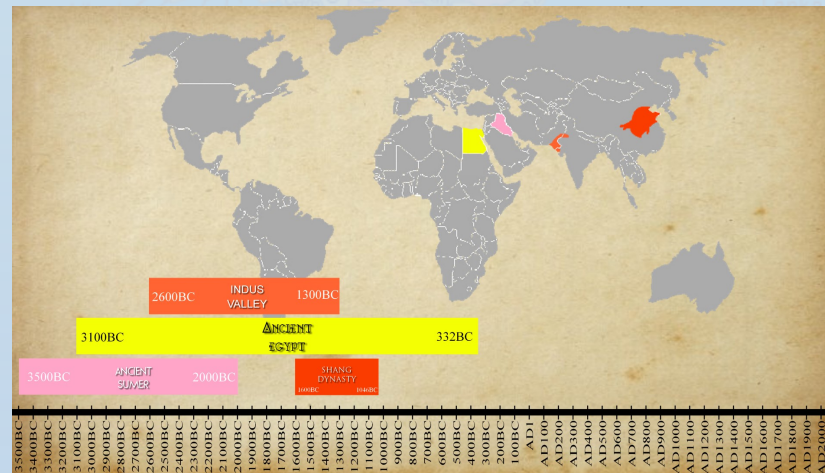
- One of the ancient civilisations of the world was the Shang Dynasty. For 500 years, part of China was ruled by the Shang dynasty during the era 1600 – 1046 BC. Their territory was along the Yellow River which produced fertile farms for the people. These farms were very important to the success of the Shang dynasty.



An artist's impression of Shang Di

- The people of the Shang Dynasty believed in lots of gods, including the gods of wind, clouds, the Sun and the moon. Shang Di was the supreme god and was believed to rule all the other gods. The Shang people performed rituals and prayers, offered food and even human sacrifices to make sure Shang Di was happy. Families would also worship their ancestors. If they were pleased the family would be prosperous, but if the spirits were not pleased terrible things could happen.

- Before cities were built in the Shang Dynasty, people lived in small villages and farmed the land all around them. They didn't know how to make metal and so their tools were made of stone. The time they lived in is called the Stone Age or Neolithic. Cities were built in the Bronze Age. An ancient city was usually surrounded by a high wall and there would be impressive buildings inside it, such as temples, palaces and government buildings.
- The city would probably have been organised in a grid pattern around the palace of the king or noble, or around a temple. Craftspeople who made pottery, bronze and jade objects lived in houses built on the outside wall of the city. The common peasant farmers probably lived outside the city in villages nearby.
- Other ancient civilisations besides the Shang Dynasty included Ancient Sumer, Ancient Egypt and Indus Valley. All these civilisations were located near to rivers. These civilisations all made great achievements, such as creating systems for writing, numbers and time. All of these civilisations lasted for at least 500 years, with the Ancient Egyptian civilisation lasting the longest (over 2,500 years).

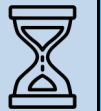


## Key Vocabulary

civilisation—a group of people with their own languages and way of life



era—a period of time beginning with some special date or event



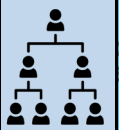
fertile—producing vegetation or crops plentifully



ritual—a ceremony or action performed in a customary way



ancestor—a person who was in someone's family in past times: one of the people from whom a person is descended



peasant—a farm labourer; usually very poor



achievement—the things that people have discovered, invented or created

