

# Shang People

## Peasant Farmers

Most of the people living during the Shang dynasty belonged to this class. They lived out in the countryside, farming areas of land which were controlled by the noble warriors. Life as a farmer was very labour intensive and the farmers lived in harsh conditions, often in holes dug out of the ground and covered with make-shift roofs.

The farmers were allowed to keep a small amount of the crops they produced, and if they were found to be keeping more than their share they were severely punished.



Some of the crops they harvested included millet, wheat, barley and rice. They used oxen to plough the land and chickens were kept for their eggs and to provide meat for the aristocracy. The only meat the peasant farmers would get to eat was fish they caught themselves.



The peasant farmers wore tunics and trousers made of rough linen.

