

Name: _____ Date: _____



Find out about the tomb of Fu Hao, then use what you know to draw a reconstruction of what the tomb would have looked like before it was covered over with earth in 1200 BC.

Some things to think about...

- Remember Fu Hao's coffin was wood covered with red lacquer.
- Were the cowry shells laying on the floor or in a bag?
- Remember bronze, when new, is shiny like gold, not dark green like in the photos.
- Would the vessels all have been upright?
- Was there food and drink in all the bronze vessels?
- Remember the slaves wouldn't have been skeletons then. What would the slaves have been wearing?

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Find out about the tomb of Fu Hao, then use what you know to draw a reconstruction of what the tomb would have looked like before it was covered over with earth in 1200 BC.

Why do you think Fu Hao was buried with so many things?

It was unusual for a woman to be a military general. Why do you think this was?

Why do you think dogs were sacrificed to her?

What did King Wu Ding hope Fu Hao could do after her death?

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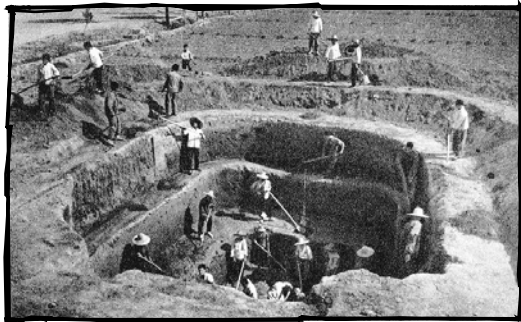
Why do you think Fu Hao was buried with so many things?

Do you think it was unusual for a woman to be a military general or a High Priestess? Why?

What do you think mourners did at her funeral?

Did the Shang people believe in an afterlife? How do you know?

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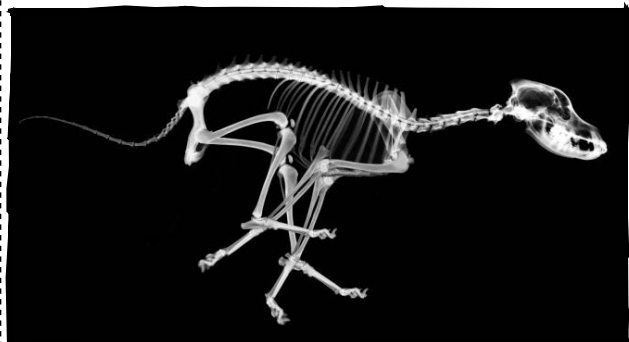
The burial pit of the tomb measured 5.6m long by 4m wide. Inside it was evidence of a large wooden chamber 5m long, 3.5m wide and 1.3m high.



Inside the burial chamber the skeleton of a woman was found buried inside a wooden coffin that had since rotted away. The coffin was covered with red lacquer (a kind of paste that hardens and becomes shiny).



Under the coffin in the grave was another smaller pit with the remains of six dogs that had been sacrificed for the burial.



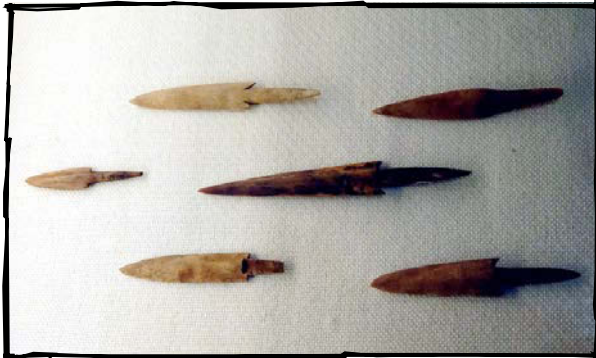
Cut into the wall above the main chamber of the tomb were little shelves on which sixteen dead slaves had been placed after being sacrificed for the burial too.



Inside the tomb, 755 jade objects were found, including older objects from the Stone Age which she had probably collected.



Inside the tomb, 564 bone objects were found, including 500 hairpins and 20 arrowheads.



Inside the tomb, 468 bronze objects were found, including over 200 ritual bronze vessels, 130 weapons, 23 bells, 27 knives, 4 mirrors and 4 tiger statues.



Inside the tomb, 6,900 cowry shells were found. Cowry shells were used as currency during the Shang Dynasty.



Many of the objects were inscribed with the woman's name, which was Fu Hao. When archaeologists read the inscriptions they realised that she was the same woman described on about 170 oracle bones as being the wife of Wu Ding and she had died about 1200 BC.



The woman in the tomb, Fu Hao, had been one of the King Wu Ding's 60 wives but, according to the history books, also became High Priestess as well as a military general, leading several campaigns.

King Wu Ding built a hall above Fu Hao's tomb and held many ceremonies there, including sacrifices, to ask her to help him win more battles after her death.



The Tomb of Fu Hao

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The woman was buried with many objects which included:

- 755 jade objects (including older Stone Age artefacts that she had probably collected)
- 564 bone objects (including 500 hairpins and 20 arrowheads)
- 468 bronze objects, including over 200 ritual bronze vessels, 130 weapons, 23 bells, 27 knives, 4 mirrors, and 4 tiger statues.
- 6,900 cowry shells (used as currency during the Shang Dynasty)



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Fu Hao had been one of the king's 60 wives but, according to the history books, also became High Priestess as well as a military general, leading several campaigns. King Wu Ding built a hall above Fu Hao's tomb and held many ceremonies there, including sacrifices, to ask her to help him win more battles after her death.

Make your own dǐng

A dǐng is usually a rounded vessel with three legs and two handles (see bottom image). The top image is a fāngdǐng with a square body, four legs and two handles. Clay was used to make a mould that the molten bronze would then be poured into. The patterns on these vessels are often faces with big eyes, a nose, eyebrows, ears, fangs and horns. They can also have birds, dragons, cows and geometric patterns like zigzags and shapes. They were used to carry food and drink in tombs.

