




Birchfield
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Year 5 Curriculum Overview
Term 1.1

Please see below an overview of the main themes, knowledge and skills we will be covering this half term.

Enquiry Question	How has the Shang Dynasty influenced the development of modern China?
Significant People	Fu Hao (also known as Lady Hao) Jacinda Ardern (linked to the value of respect)
Class Texts	Bronze and Sunflower by Cao Wenxuan (Themes: Community, family, perseverance, effects of poverty, loneliness, power of education) 
Reading	Reading Domains 2b – retrieve and record information/identify key details from fiction and non-fiction. 2e – predict what might happen from details stated and implied. In Reading, the children will be introduced to the new class text for the term and will begin by making predictions about what they think is going to happen. The children will then move onto retrieval, where we will be focussing on our comprehension skills and will explore the themes from the book. We will focus on looking at the choice of language used and the intended effect on the audience.
Writing	In Writing, the children will be writing a narrative based on the class text, they will use a range of descriptive language choices including speech, expanded noun phrases, similes and metaphors. In doing this, the children will learn how to engage the reader and create a descriptive image in the reader's mind. As the term continues, the children will be writing diary entries, these shall be linked to our class text and will teach the children how to write informally, in the first person. They will also teach the children how to write in a chatty style, speaking to the diary as if it was a friend/family member.
Maths	This term Year 5 will focus on place value, we will read and write numbers up to 1 million confidently, round numbers to the nearest 10, 100 and 1000 including decimal numbers. As well as this, the

	children will learn the formal methods of addition and subtraction as well as multiplication and division, this will involve solving real life problems and test style questions.
History	In History, we will focus on the Shang Dynasty, understanding its context in time and where it would be placed on a timeline. We will look at the similarities and differences between ancient and modern China. We will also investigate what the beliefs were of those who lived during the Shang Dynasty. We will look at religion during the Shang Dynasty, the importance of Jade and Silk and how the Shang Dynasty has affected modern China in today's day and age.
Science	This half term, year 5 will be covering two topics in science: 'Plant reproduction' and 'living things and their habitats'. The children will plan different types of scientific enquiries to answer questions, including recognising and controlling variables where necessary. We will record data and results of increasing complexity, using scientific diagrams and labels, classification keys, tables, and bar and line graphs. The children will also report and present findings from enquiries, including conclusions, causal relationships and explanations of results, in oral and written forms such as displays and other presentations.
Art	The children will be working looking at colour theory by studying the colour wheel and exploring mixing tints, shades and tones. They learn about significant landscape artworks and features of landscapes before using this knowledge to create landscape paintings.
Music	This half term the topic is 'Livin' on a Prayer'. Children use Charanga during their music lessons.
Computing	During this half term, the topic is systems and searching. The children will develop their understanding of computer systems and how information is transferred between systems and devices.
PSHE	During this half term, the children will be looking at health and well-being. They will begin by looking at identity and what makes them unique. They will then look at stereotypes and how they can have a negative effect on someone.
RE	This half term we will focus on two topics: Caring for others, animals and then environment as well as Sharing and Being Generous. We will look at Hinduism, Sikhism, Christianity and Islam.
PE	This half term the children will be learning how to play basketball. They will learn the rules, how to travel, pass and play and will then partake in matches against each other. The children will learn how to communicate effectively, how to play in a team and good sportsmanship.

Teaching Team:

Miss Begum, Miss Harrison, Miss Nur, Mrs Patel and Mrs Sayed

SLT: Mr Aldred

PE Day: Tuesday

Homework: Homework is set on Friday and returned by
Wednesday.

Home Learning and Useful Links:

Homework Books

At the end of each week, your child will return home with their homework books in both English and Maths. They will be given two pages to complete based on the learning they have completed that week or the learning they will be doing the following week.

Please encourage your child to complete these to the best of their ability and return to school by Wednesday for them to be marked and any issues to be addressed.

Spellings

These are words your child will be using daily and will need to be familiar with. We will also be sending home words with your children that are key in Year 5 and 6.

Please encourage your child to practise their spellings at the weekend and across the course of the week, as they will be tested on these at the end of each week.

Reading:

At the end of each week, your child will also come home with a reading book.

Please encourage your child to read this book regularly and listen to them read when you can.

Within their reading diary, we ask that you please make a comment on how your child has read, whether they are enjoying their book or even any questions you may have asked them and discussed about their story.

Both the reading book and reading diary need to be returned to school by Wednesday.

Bronze and Sunflower

Sunflower has moved to the countryside in China with her father. As her father works all day, Sunflower feels lonely. She watches the river and the people across it who live in a village called Damaidi. She meets a boy called Bronze from Damaidi and the two become friends. When a tragic event brings Sunflower into Bronze's home, the two children must work together to survive the hardships of village life.

Author

Cao Wenxuan was born in a village called Longgang, in 1954. He is one of the most read and translated children's authors in China. *Bronze and Sunflower* has won various awards and Cao Wenxuan has written many books for children. In China, surnames are written first, so Cao is the author's surname. Helen Wang translated *Bronze and Sunflower* from Chinese into English. She has been translating books for a long time and has written and edited many books.

Historical context

Bronze and Sunflower is set in the late 1960s and early 1970s in rural China. The Cultural Revolution was happening, which was when a Chinese political leader called Mao Zedong wanted to promote communism (a system where the community, rather than individuals, owns property). Professional people who were used to working in offices were sent to labour camps in rural China called Cadre Schools. By the mid-1970s, the Cultural Revolution was over, and many people returned to cities.



Characters

Bronze

Bronze has been unable to speak since a fire when he was five. He doesn't attend school and finds it hard to interact with other children. He spends a lot of time alone, with his family or with their buffalo until he meets Sunflower.

Sunflower

Sunflower is a sweet, gentle child who is very lonely at the start of the book. When Bronze's family take her in, she feels like one of them. Sunflower loves learning and is keen to share what she has learned with Bronze.

Nainai

Nainai is Bronze's grandmother and immediately treats Sunflower like her grandchild. She is selfless and does whatever she can to earn money for the family, even though she is elderly and her health is fading.

Gayu

Gayu is a boy in the village who sometimes makes things difficult for Sunflower and Bronze. He accuses Bronze of a crime he has not committed and teases Sunflower. By the end of the book, his attitude towards them changes.

Themes

- community
- family
- perseverance
- effects of poverty
- loneliness
- power of education

Settings

Damaidi

Damaidi is a small village in China where Bronze lives with his family. The village has a strong sense of community, but it is not always easy to live there. The people are reliant on crops for their survival, and they work very hard to buy the things they need.



Bronze's family home

Bronze and his family welcome Sunflower into their home and treat her like Bronze's sister. The family are poor, but their home is full of love. Although they find it difficult to afford food and other necessities, they make sacrifices so that Sunflower can go to school.



The river

Sunflower is drawn to the river from the beginning of the book. It is described as a beautiful, peaceful place: *'She watched it flow, she followed the ripples and waves... watched the midday sun paint it gold and setting sun stain it red.'* The river is also a significant place because it is where Sunflower first meets Bronze.



Story timeline

These are some of the key chapters in the novel. When you read the chapters, use the questions as starting points for discussion. This book has long, unnumbered chapters that are split into sections.

A Little Wooden Boat

Sunflower spends a lot of time alone while her father is working until she meets Bronze. How are both children presented?

Plaited Reed Shoes

Bronze's family take Sunflower into their home. She fits in very well, but they realise they can't afford to send both children to school. Do you think they make the right decision? Why do you think that?

Golden Thatch

A natural disaster strikes Damaidi and the family's home. How do they respond to the tragedy?

A Plague of Locusts

Another hardship affects the village when a locust swarm destroys the crops. What are the consequences?

The Big Haystack

City people arrive and want to take Sunflower back with them. What do you think of the ending of the book?

Language

Bronze and Sunflower is written using a lyrical, descriptive style that evokes settings and characters in detail. It also uses figurative language effectively, such as similes. For example, the author uses a vivid simile to describe the devastation after a plague of locusts destroy a field: *'The locusts passed over like a barber's knife, razing everything to the ground.'*

Historical novel

Bronze and Sunflower is an example of historical fiction. It is set during a real time period, the Chinese Cultural Revolution, but many of the events and characters did not exist. The novel captures the relationship between village and city people at that time, as well as how difficult it was to live in the countryside and make a living.

Symbolism

At the beginning of the book, the reader learns that Sunflower's father used to make sunflowers from bronze: the two main characters that give their names to the book. Bronze is often used for sculptures because it can be sculpted in detail and withstand outdoor conditions. Bronze and Sunflower endure many hardships in the book, and their relationship offers strength and support to both characters.



Literary terms

figurative language

Figurative language is a word or phrase that has an imaginative meaning rather than a literal meaning. It is intended to describe something precisely to readers or evoke their senses. Similes and metaphors are examples of figurative language.

historical novel

Historical fiction stories take place at a real time in the past, but the events might not have really happened.

lyrical

A book is lyrical if it expresses emotions using beautiful, imaginative descriptions. For example, this vivid description describes the effect of the sun on Sunflower's father: *'As the golden sun filled the sky, casting its brightness far and wide, he felt intoxicated, invigorated, liberated.'*

simile

A simile compares one thing to another, often using like or as. For example, *'A gentle breeze blew past her, like softly flowing water.'*

symbolism

Symbolism is using a character, action, animal or object to represent qualities or ideas.

Dynamic Dynasties

A dynasty is a system of rule where the throne passes from one member of a ruling family to another. Dynasties have ruled China for 4000 years, from c2070 BC until 1912. During that time, around 15 different dynasties have held power. Each dynasty made important changes to the country, but many aspects of life in China started during the first five dynasties.



Shang Dynasty

The Shang Dynasty is the earliest ruling dynasty in the recorded history of China. The Xia Dynasty is thought to have gone before, however there is no recorded evidence to support this. The Shang Dynasty reigned during China's Bronze Age, from c1600 to c1046 BC, and were known for their advances in bronzework, silk manufacture, jade carving and military technology.

Yinxu

Scholar, Wang Yirong, discovered evidence of the Shang Dynasty in 1899, when he found ancient Chinese writing on bones that he had been given to treat malaria. He traced the bones to the modern day city of Anyang. The Shang Dynasty capital of Yin was discovered in Anyang in 1928. Excavations at the site, known as 'Yinxu', or 'Yin ruins', uncovered the remains of palaces, temples and tombs. Archaeologists also found many bronze and jade objects, as well as thousands of oracle bones. These finds provided a wealth of information about how people lived and worshipped.

Oracle bones

Oracle bones are pieces of sheep or cow bone, or turtle shell. Shamans or kings wrote questions on these bones to ask for guidance from the deities. Holes in the bones were then heated until they fractured. The patterns of fractures were interpreted as the answers to the questions. In this way, Shang Dynasty kings consulted the deities about the outcome of harvests, droughts, health issues and military strategies.



Religion

People in the Shang Dynasty worshipped the king of the gods, Shangdi. They also prayed to lesser gods who controlled aspects of the world, such as the sun, wind, rain and moon. People made offerings and sacrifices to please their deceased ancestors. They believed that the soul lived after death, so they buried objects, including ritual vessels containing food and drink, for the dead to use in the afterlife.



Shangdi surrounded by attendants

Bronze

Bronzeworking skills were a major advance during the Shang Dynasty. People learned to smelt copper, tin and lead to make bronze. Skilled craftspeople created vessels that were used for rituals and offerings to the gods. Bronze weapons, such as daggers and spearheads, also gave the Shang Dynasty warriors an advantage over their enemies.



Houmuwu ding from Yinxu

Jade

Jade is a hard and rare stone, made from the mineral nephrite, which is difficult to shape and carve. Jade was used for jewellery, ornaments, weapons, tools and ritual objects. It was precious and a symbol of purity and virtue.



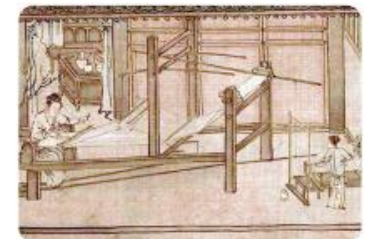
jade plaque, c3500–c2000 BC



jade bi

Silk

Silk was a popular and highly desirable fabric. It was made from threads produced by silkworms. Exquisite fabric was made for clothes and luxury goods, which were worn by the nobility and traded.



Plants

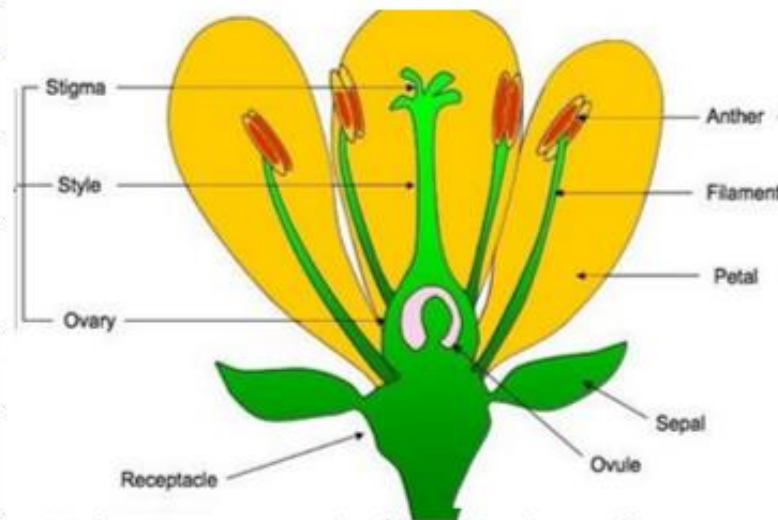
Most plants contain both the male and female cells. Wind and insects help to transfer pollen from one plant to another plant.

The pollen from the stamen of one plant is transferred to the stigma of another. The pollen then travels down a tube through the style and fuses with an ovule.

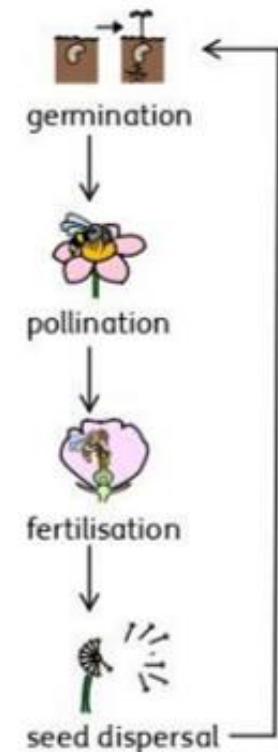
Some plants, such as strawberry plants, potatoes, spider plants and daffodil only need one parent plant to create a new plant. They are identical to the parent plant.

How do plants reproduce?

Subject Specific Vocabulary	
Pollination	The transfer of pollen to a stigma to allow fertilisation.
Fertilisation	When male and female gametes meet to form a seed
Gamete	The name for the two types of male and female cell that <u>join together</u> to make a new creature
Reproduction	The process of new living things being made.
Germination	If a seed germinates or if it is germinated, it starts to grow
Life cycle	The series of changes that an animal or plant passes through from the beginning of its life until its death.
Flowering	Trees or plants that produce flowers.
Anther	The part of the stamen that produces and releases the pollen.



This half term, you will be looking at the different parts of a flower, plant reproduction and the life cycle of a flowering plant.



Reading:

[Oxford Owl for School and Home](#)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zs44jxs/year/zhgppg8>

<https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/category/reading-lists-for-ks2-school-pupils/>

Phonics:

<https://www.topmarks.co.uk/english-games/7-11-years/spelling-and-grammar>

[PhonicsPlay](#)

[Phase 2 Games – Letters and Sounds \(letters-and-sounds.com\)](#)

Writing:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zv48a6f/year/zhgppg8>

<https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/english/primary-writing/writing-year-5-age-9-10/>

[Spelling and Grammar, English Games for 7-11 Years - Topmarks](#)

Maths:

[Key Stage 2 Maths - Topmarks Search](#)

<https://www.timestables.co.uk/multiplication-tables-check/>

Science:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z2pfb9a/year/zhgppg8>

[Home | WowScience - Science games and activities for kids](#)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z6wwxnb/articles/zdvhxbk>

History/Geography:

<https://www.theschoolrun.com/homework-help/shang-dynasty>

https://www.ducksters.com/history/china/shang_dynasty.php

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z39j2hv>

Computing:

[Is my child safe online? Parent's questions answered | Barnardo's \(barnardos.org.uk\)](#)

[Parents and Carers - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

[Parental Controls & Privacy Settings Guides | Internet Matters](#)

PSHE:

[Talk PANTS & Join Pantosaurus - The Underwear Rule | NSPCC](#)

[How to make an emergency 999 call – West Midlands Ambulance Service University NHS Foundation Trust \(wmas.nhs.uk\)](#)

PE:

[Nutrition Based Physical Activity Games - Action for Healthy Kids](#)

[Kids Active Learning & PE at Home – Think Active](#)