

Shang People

The King and Ruling Family

Right at the top of the social hierarchy was the king and his royal family, who lived a life of sheer luxury. They lived in the capital city in ornately decorated palaces made from wood and clay bricks, containing beautiful tiles and intricately carved bronze and jade sculptures. They also grew flowers and spices in walled gardens.

The king and ruling family made all the important decisions on how the kingdom was run. They employed priests and government workers to help them organise and control society and they owned all the land.



Their clothes were made of the finest silk with beautiful, complex embroidery patterns and they were served exquisitely prepared meals consisting of a wide range of delicacies, including a large number of meats like horse, beef, chicken, pork, mutton and deer.

