

Name: _____

Date: _____

Main ideas

Reread the main text from Screen 3 of the eBook. Summarise the main ideas using no more than four sentences.

REMEMBER!

Use the heading and sub-headings to help you.

Messages from the past

News soon got out that the dragon bones were very valuable. Archaeologists needed to get hold of them before they were stolen!

Chinese writing

In 1928, archaeologists began to **excavate** the site of the last Shang capital of Yinxu near the present day city of Anyang. They found thousands more bones and other Shang artefacts with writing on them. This writing was the earliest written language of China.

Bones as messages

Archaeologists learnt that the writing on the bones were messages from the Shang people to their gods and dead **ancestors**. The king would ask an important question, which a priest carved onto an animal bone. The priest then held a hot rod against the bone until it cracked. The cracks were believed to show the ancestor's or god's answers.

At last there was some real evidence of the existence of the Shang Dynasty. The writing on the bones revealed lots more about Shang society, customs and government.

