

Name: _____ Date: _____



Can you translate these figures from the oracle bones script into numbers? The first one has been done for you.

<input type="text" value="88"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Now see if you can write these numbers as they would have been written during the Shang Dynasty!



<input type="text" value="12"/>	<input type="text" value="14"/>	<input type="text" value="400"/>
<input type="text" value="62"/>	<input type="text" value="84"/>	<input type="text" value="210"/>
<input type="text" value="570"/>	<input type="text" value="711"/>	<input type="text" value="324"/>
<input type="text" value="165"/>	<input type="text" value="4081"/>	<input type="text" value="3659"/>

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Have a look at some of the pictographs from the writing found on the oracle bones from the Shang Dynasty, then complete these sentences with the pictograph you think fits the phrase the best.

The Shang kings carved questions onto shells to divine the future.

Only the could tell farmers when to plant their crops.

Farmers raised domestic animals, such as sheep, and dogs.

People cooked their food on an open in bronze or clay pots.

Children often helped their parents by collecting from the river.

Now see if you can write translate these figures from the oracle bone script to numbers, or vice versa.



165

83

2411

3659

What do you think the number 14 would have been in the oracle bone script?

What do you think the number 90 would have been in the oracle bone script?

What do you think the number 18 would have been in the oracle bone script?









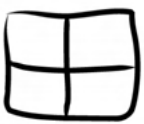















What do you think the number 19 would have been in the oracle bone script?


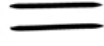

























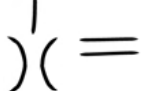


What do you think the number 300 would have been in the oracle bone script?

What do you think the number 800 would have been in the oracle bone script?

Oracle Bones Script

The Shang Dynasty was the first Chinese society to develop a writing system, the evidence for which has been found on the oracle bones. The Shang used pictographs instead of an alphabet. This means that one symbol represents a whole word. Here are some examples of Shang pictographs.

 man	 woman	 child	 king	 person	 eye
 heart	 mountain	 field	 water	 fire	 earth
 sun	 moon	 rain	 cowry shell	 knife	 meat
 cow	 fish	 turtle	 bird	 rabbit	 elephant

 1	 2	 3	 4	 5	 6
 7	 8	 9	 10	 11	 12
 13	 20	 30	 40	 50	 60
 70	 80	 100	 200	 500	 700
 1000	 3000	 5000	 82	 754	 4129