Hi, welcome to the "Ancient Chinese Civilization: Treasures of the Xia, Shang and Zhou Dynasties from Henan Province" exhibition to explore the cultural heritage of the pre-Qin period. To learn about the lives of the ancient people thousand years ago, we have to rely on the archaeologists to unearth artefacts from the historical sites. As an archaeologist, I have to work under the sun most of the time; however, I’ll be very much satisfied once an object is found. Do you want to be my helper? Let's solve the following problems together.

**Learning the Xia, Shang and Zhou Dynasties**

要成為考古學家，首先要對古代史有豐富的認識，否則你找到了一件古物，也不能了解它的來龍去脈。夏商周三朝合共存在約1,800多年，歷史悠久，為後世發展奠下穩固的基礎。以下四條問題，就考考你對夏商周三代的歷史知道多少：

To be an archaeologist, you should have good knowledge of ancient history, or you will not understand the origins of the objects. The Xia, Shang and Zhou dynasties lasted for a total of about 1,800 years, laying solid foundation for the later development. The following 4 questions are meant to test your knowledge about this period of history:

1. 夏朝由_________建立，但最終被_________消滅。
   The Xia dynasty was founded by __________________________ and was overthrown by __________________________.

2. 盤庚在位期間，商朝都城由商邑遷至_________（今河南省安陽市）。
   In the reign of King Pangeng, the capital of the Shang dynasty moved from Xingyi to __________________________ (now Anyang city, Henan province).

3. 周成王繼位後，由_________輔政，並制禮作樂。
   When King Cheng of Zhou ascended the throne, __________________________ assisted him in governing the state and formulated the ritual and musical systems.

4. 戰國時期北方諸侯國為抵抗北方遊牧民族的入侵，曾修築什麼設施？_________
   During the Warring States Period, what did the northern states build to resist the invasion from the northern nomadic tribes? __________________________

**Historical Hints:**

夏商周時期有文字嗎？
暫時仍未發現夏朝的文字，目前已知中國最古老的的文字是商代的甲骨文，刻在龜甲、獸骨上；同一時間亦有在青銅器上的鐘鼎文（金文），至春秋戰國時代，又有大篆的出現。

Are there any Chinese characters in the Xia, Shang and Zhou dynasties?
Until now, the archaeologists have not found any relics of the Xia dynasty bearing characters. The oracle bone scripts carved on the turtle plastrons and animal bones during the Shang dynasty were the oldest well-developed Chinese characters. At the same time, there were also inscribed scripts found on bronze vessels (Jinwen). In the Spring and Autumn and the Warring States Periods, big seal scripts prevailed.
Discovering Important Sites

Apart from historical knowledge, archaeologists should also have good geographical sense. The objects on display come from Henan province along the lower Yellow River region. The area was the political, economic and cultural centre of ancient China, thus becoming the focus point of Xia, Shang and Zhou archaeology. Let's try to identify the locations of the following objects and mark them in the blankets.

5. Jade comb with kui pattern (Spring and Autumn Period)
6. Bronze spearhead with a long leaf-like blade and a long joint (Western Zhou Dynasty)
7. Pottery beater (Xia Dynasty)
8. Bronze "Fu Hao" ding rectangular cauldron with kui dragon legs (Shang Dynasty)

Discussion:

Huang He, Kaifeng and other cities were the most significant cities in ancient China. Do you know which federal states established their capitals there during the Xia, Shang and Zhou dynasties? Why?

Historical Hints:

What is a site? It is a place where an ancient village, city, house, workshop, temple or cemetery once stood. Although the buildings are gone, the marks and objects which represented the ancient human activities are left in the site.
In the Xia and Shang dynasties, the handicraft industry developed and the jade craving had its own characteristics. In the Zhou dynasty, jade was most welcomed by the nobles under the hierarchical patriarchy. More kinds of ornaments appeared and some of them even became the ritual vessels. The followings are three ornaments unearthed from the sites. Do you recognize how they were being used? Please place them on the right positions.

9. 青玉鳥形翡  
Bird-shaped jade pendant  
(商代 Shang Dynasty)

10. 鷲首形骨簪（音「鴻」）  
Bone hairpins in the shape of phoenix head  
(商代 Shang Dynasty)

11. 七璜（音「黃」）組玉佩  
Multi-jade pendant with seven huang  
(西周 Western Zhou Dynasty)

小討論 Discussion:
展覽展出多件古代佩飾，你最喜歡哪件？和現代佩飾比較又有什麼分別呢？
There are some ornaments on display. Which one do you like most? What's the difference between them and the present ones?

歷史錦囊 Historical Hints:
什麼是禮器？
禮器是指古代貴族進行祭祀、喪葬、朝聘、征伐和宴會等儀式時所用的器具，不少玉器、陶器、銅器都屬於禮器。
What are ritual vessels?
Ritual vessels are those used by aristocrats in the rituals or ceremonies that accompanied funerals, receptions, warfare and banquets. Some jade, pottery and bronze vessels are regarded as ritual vessels.
用具知多少
Know More about Utensils

飲食文化是人類生活的重要元素。人類很早已經懂得利用器皿燒煮及盛載食物及飲品，夏商周時期多用陶器，以炊煮器為主，而青銅飲食器的使用也日漸普遍，在遺址中也經常可以找到。試觀察以下用具，並幫我完成文物登記表吧！

Culture on food and drink is the main element of human beings. People learned how to make use of utensils to cook and contain food and drink. In the Xia, Shang and Zhou dynasties, pottery vessels, mainly cooking vessels, were widely used, whereas the bronze food vessels, which are often found from the sites, became more popular. Please take a look at the following vessels and help me to fill in the object record forms.

12. 名稱 Name:
   朝代 Dynasty:
   物料 Material:
   用途 Usage:

13. 名稱 Name:
    朝代 Dynasty:
    物料 Material:
    用途 Usage:

14. 名稱 Name:
    朝代 Dynasty:
    物料 Material:
    用途 Usage:

15. 名稱 Name:
    朝代 Dynasty:
    物料 Material:
    用途 Usage:

小討論 Discussion:
你知道當時平民和貴族所使用的器具有什麼分別嗎？
Do you know the differences of the utensils used by the common people and nobles?

歷史補充 Historical Hints:
什麼是陶器及青銅器？
陶器是人類用泥土製作、以火燒煮而成的器皿，於新石器時代開始出現；青銅器則是由銅經過熔製而成的器物，在夏代已經出現。
What are pottery and bronze vessels?
Pottery vessels are made by clay fired with great heat, which first appeared in the Late Neolithic Period. Bronze vessels are made by copper through melting, which was first seen in the Xia dynasty.
武器任縱横

Choice of Weapons

中國歷史上經常有戰爭發生，對內有朝代更替，對外有外族的侵擾，於是需要軍隊及武器。夏商周時期，武器起初以石製及木質為主，後來銅器武器普遍使用，而且還不斷改良及創新，種類繁多。試試根據路線找出這些出土武器的名稱吧！

The history of China has witnessed frequent and numerous wars. Owing to the change of dynasties and the invasion of other tribes, the importance of army and weapons is thus realized. During the Xia, Shang and Zhou dynasties, weapons were firstly made of stone and wood. Later, bronze weapons were widely used and modified with innovative design. Please find out the names of these unearthed weapons by following the routes.

A. 銮鋬（音「兩鐵」）紋銅鋬（音「越」）
   Bronze yue battle-axe with taoie pattern
   (商代 Shang Dynasty)

B. 石矛
   Stone spearhead
   (商代 Shang Dynasty)

C. 「卅四年銘」銅戈
   Bronze ge dagger-axe with inscription
   (戰國 Warring States Period)

D. 寬脊薄格銅劍
   Bronze sword with a wide ridge and a thin guard
   (春秋 Spring and Autumn Period)

小討論 Discussion:
你知道當時軍隊的編制及兵種如何？
Do you know the military establishment and the types of army at that time?

歷史錦囊 Historical Hints:
夏商周時期發生過哪些著名戰役？
約公元前1046年，周武王在牧野之戰中打敗商軍，紂王自焚而死。公元前632年，晉國在城濮之戰中大敗楚軍後，成為春秋霸主。公元前260年，秦國在長平之戰中大敗趙軍，坑殺降卒40萬。

Any idea of the well-known battles which broke out during the Xia, Shang and Zhou dynasties?
In c.1046 BC, King Wu of Zhou defeated the Shang army at Muye and King Zhou of Shang burnt himself to death.
In 632 BC, Jin state defeated the Chu army at Chengpu and eventually got the hegemony during the Spring and Autumn Period. In 260 BC, Qin state defeated the Zhao army at Changping, killing 400,000 Zhao soldiers.
During the Xia, Shang and Zhou dynasties, with the rise in productivity, agriculture and handicraft industry became more prosperous. As trade and commerce flourished, the mode of transaction changed from barter at the very beginning to the use of natural coins like cowrie at the later stage, and then to the use of bronze for making coins. Do you know which states used the following coins? Please try to link them up.

A. 20. 商代 Shang Dynasty
   秦半兩 Banliang coin

B. 21. 趙國 Zhao state
   「獸面」平肩布 Spade-shaped coin with flat shoulders and inscription

C. 22. 齊國 Qi state
   銀鼻錢 Ant nose coin

D. 23. 楚國 Chu state
   「齊法化」刀幣 Knife-shaped coin with inscription

E. 24. 楚卒 Penny
   銅貝幣 Bronze cowrie

小討論 Discussion:
你知道布幣和刀幣的來源嗎？哪個諸侯國會使用這些貨幣？
Do you know the origin of spade-shaped coins and knife-shaped coins? Which states used these coins?

歷史鉤囊 Historical Hints:
夏商周時期有哪些著名的大商人？
春秋時的范蠡（音「禮」）原是越國大夫，後在陶（今山東定陶）經商致富，別號陶朱公。
戰國時的呂不韋本是陽翟（今河南禹縣）大商人，後輔助秦莊襄王登位，並拜為秦相。
Which famous merchants appeared during the Xia, Shang and Zhou dynasties?
Fan Li in the Spring and Autumn Period was originally an official in Yue state. He became a rich merchant in Tao (now Dingtai, Shandong province) and gained the title of Taozhuangong.
Lu Buwei in the Warring States Period was originally a wealthy merchant in Yangzai (now Yu county, Henan province). He assisted King Zhuangxiang of Qin state in ascending the throne and later became the prime minister of the state.
恭喜你，以上難題終於全部解決，多謝你的幫忙。希望你繼續努力，有朝一日成為出色的考古學家，为我们探索夏商周更多不為人知的歷史！

Congratulations! You have solved all the problems. Thank you for your help. We hope you can keep studying hard and become an archaeologist one day to explore more facts about the Xia, Shang and Zhou dynasties.

觀後活動
Follow-up Activities

參觀展覽後，有以下問題想你們細心思考，並與老師及同學們分享及討論你的答案。

After visiting the exhibition, think about the following questions and discuss your answers with teachers and classmates.

1. 你知道夏商周時期的香港是怎樣嗎？當時人的生活情況如何？
Do you know how Hong Kong was in the Xia, Shang and Zhou dynasties? How about the life of the people at that time?

2. 夏商周時期貴族的生活如何？在各方面與現在富豪的生活又有什么不同？
What was the life of the nobles in the Xia, Shang and Zhou dynasties? What are the differences between the present and the past riches?

3. 你認為夏商周三朝對後世有什麼重要的影響？
What do you think about the impacts of the Xia, Shang and Zhou dynasties in Chinese history?
印印動物紋
Trace the Pattern of the Ancient Animals

為紀念這次參觀旅程，你可到互動遊戲區的「印印動物紋」，在此頁上繪畫動物紋飾。
To make this tour a memorable one, you may draw the patterns of the animals on this sheet in the "Trace the Pattern of the Ancient Animals" section in the Children's Corner.