

Name _____ Period _____

Ancient Chinese Bronze Vessels – Research Guide

1. The Bronze Age was the time when men learned how to mine and smelt **copper** and **tin** to make bronze weapons and tools. (2)

2. The Chinese Bronze Age had begun by **1700 BC** in the kingdom of the Shang dynasty along the banks of the **Yellow River** in northern China. (2)

3. In many ways society in Bronze Age China resembles society in **Medieval Europe**. (1)

4. In ancient China, bronze vessels were cast by an *indigenous* process that employed a mold made of sections. Define *indigenous* as it relates to Bronze Vessel Molding **Indigenous means that the people were native to and originated in the land on which they lived. The Bronze Section Mold process was developed and used by the people who were indigenous to the land.** (3)

5. Although there is uncertainty as to when *metallurgy* began in China, there is reason to believe that early bronze working developed *autonomously*, that is, independent of outside influences.
 - a. Define metallurgy **The technique or science of working or heating metals so as to give them certain desired shapes or properties.** (2)

 - a) Define founder as it relates to metallurgy: **a person who works or is in charge of a facility where metallurgy is practiced.** (2)

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6. Shang decor is distinguished by *symmetry*, *frontality*, and *incised ornament*, usually arranged in horizontal bands that complement the vessel contours.

a. Define *Symmetry as it relates to Bronze Vessels* Beauty based on or characterized by such excellence of proportion and repeating patterns. Bronze Vessels usually had a pattern that was repeated and could be viewed similarly from opposing sides (2)

b. Define *Frontality as it relates to Bronze vessels*. the representation of the front view of figures or objects in a work of art. Bronze vessels were not only used in every day life, but were works of art. Frontality refers to the implied view – the front side that should be displayed as a work of art. (2)

c. Define *incised ornament as it relates to Bronze vessels*. Incised means “cut into with a sharp instrument” Incised ornament means a decoration to a work of art that uses cuts made by a sharp instrument. Bronze Vessels were decorated using “incised ornament”. (2)

7. Aside from *bronze*, what other materials were used in the creation of bronze vessels? Clay and Sand (2)
