

Shang Artefacts

Craftsmen Information

How Shang craftsmen worked with jade:

Firstly chunks of jade were sliced into smaller pieces. Then coarse sand was made into a paste and rubbed over the jade to smooth and shape it. If patterns or other detail was required a rotating tool was used to carve this onto the object. Finally a finer sand was used to polish up the jade object and make it shine.



How Shang craftsmen worked with clay:

Clay was rolled out into sausage shapes and then coiled round and round from the bottom up to make the shape of the object required. **or**

Wet clay was placed onto a rotating disc and the potter would quickly work the clay up with his fingers into the shape required. The movement of the spinning disc helped keep the object smooth and regular in shape.

Patterns could be inscribed on to the object if required or extra shapes made of clay could be stuck on to create a raised design.

After the clay object was made it was fired in a kiln (an extremely hot furnace) to dry it and make it go hard. The object could then be glazed or painted once dry.



How Shang craftsmen worked with bronze:

Firstly a model of the item was made out of clay. Patterns were inscribed on to the object if required or extra shapes made of clay could be stuck on to create a raised design.

Next wet clay was pressed all around the model to make a mould, then it was cut into sections and removed. The pieces of the clay mould were then fired in a kiln and put back together.

Molten bronze was then poured into the mould. When it was set the mould was broken away to reveal the bronze item inside.

