

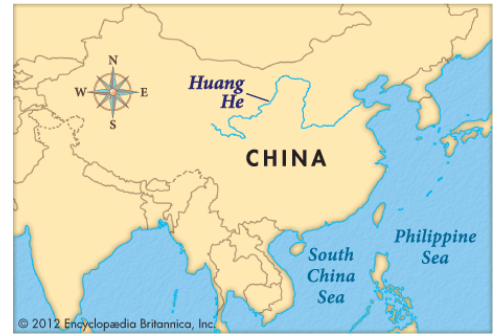
Settling Down

What was it like in settlements around the Yellow River Plain?

Early settlements of the Shang Dynasty developed in the valleys around the Yellow River.

Can you think of any good reasons for settling near a big river?

Are there any disadvantages?



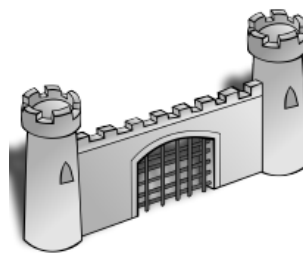
Task 1

Using Resource 2a, match up some of the problems posed to early settlers by the Yellow River with some of the solutions that they might have created.

Along the Yellow River Plains there were numerous Shang settlements. Some were small farming villages and others were thriving cities. Cities had temples and palaces at their centres and everything else, like the fancy wood and clay houses of priests and warriors, was built around them. There were enormous guarded earthen walls around the city that would act both as defences against the unpredictable river and as a way of keeping enemies out. Poorer people like craftsmen and farmers had to live in mud huts outside the city walls as their work was often dirty, noisy or smelly. Farmers and craftsmen would come along dirt roads to deliver their goods to the city through special gates in the city walls.

Task 2

Design a plan of a Shang City near the Yellow River. Use the checklist on Resource 2b to make sure that they have the correct features inside and outside the walls. They will need to label their city and



Did you know?

The walls around Shang cities are thought to have been very thick. They would typically have been 10 metres high and 20 metres thick. Some archaeologists believe that with simple tools, each wall could have taken 10 000 workers up to 18 years to build!

make sure that it includes a large earthen wall with towers and gates. It will also need dirt roads that lead from the city gates to the craftspeople and the farming villages.