



中國文字博物館  
National Museum of Chinese Writing



中挪建交 · 1954-2023

As the collective wisdom of Chinese ancestors and carrier of Chinese culture, the Chinese characters were also a history of glorious Chinese culture, which demonstrating the unique Chinese culture as well as Oriental civilization.

汉字凝聚了华夏先民的智慧，承载着中华民族的文化与文明。汉字的历史是一部别有风味的中国文化史，为人们展现出一幅幅中国文化的生动图景；也是一部独具东方特色的文明史，为人们呈现出一个个东方文明的伟大成就。

# 汉字与中华文明

CHINESE CHARACTERS AND CIVILIZATION



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# 汉字的历史

The formation and development of the Chinese nation can not be separated from Chinese characters. Developed from the oracle bone inscriptions over 3000 years ago to now, the Chinese characters had emerged into Chinese culture gene, reflecting the unique spirit of each age and traditional philosophical value of Chinese civilization.

MODERN

人

Computer Song Typeface  
计算机宋体

738A. D.

人

Regular Script  
楷书

347-361A.D.

人

Cursive Script  
草书

74B.C.-A.D.8

人

Clerical Script  
隶书

221B.C.-207B.C.

人

Small Seal Script  
小篆

350B.C.-300B.C.

人

The Six Warring States Script  
六国文字

877B.C.-771B.C.

人

Bronze Script  
金文

1300B.C.-1046B.C.

人

Oracle Bone Script  
甲骨文

中华民族的形成和发展离不开汉文字的推系。从3000多年前的甲骨文发展到现在，汉字已经深深融入中华民族的文化基因，不仅体现着每个时代独特的精神风貌，也彰显出中华文明一以贯之的哲学思想和价值体现。

## 汉字的载体



01



02



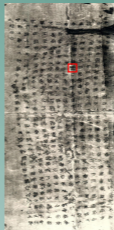
04



03



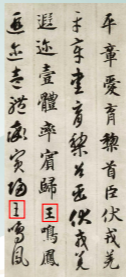
05



06



07



08

Jade Xi (Xi) of Shang Dynasty Unearthed  
in Gao State Tomb  
殷国墓地出土商代玉卣

01

Oracle Bone Scripts

甲骨文

02

Daji Ding (Cao Mu)

大盂鼎

03

Pottery inscriptions of qi state (stamp)

战国齐陶文(盖印)

04

Tongshan Bamboo Slips Xi Nian 127 of

Warring States Period

战国清华简

05

Silk Manuscripts of Chu State

楚帛文

06

Engravings on Mozi Yi of Qin Dynasty (Copy)

秦峰山刻石(翻刻)

07

The Great Character Classic in regular and

cursive script by Zhuang during Sui Dynasty

隋智永真草千字文

08

With carriers developed from tortoise shells, bronze objects to silk and paper till now, Chinese characters had never fade but became more attractive in the change of font style, carrier as well as writing style.

汉字传承至今，其载体从龟甲青铜到绢帛纸张，汉字的魅力在外形、载体、书写方式的更迭中不曾消减，反而历久弥新。



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# 甲骨文

ORACLE BONE SCRIPT



Been inscribed on tortoise shells or bones, the oracle bone script was discovered in Anyang Yinxu Site of Henan province, which was used in Shang Dynasty with a long history of over 3000 years. (a picture of Anyang Yinxu Site)

甲骨文是刻写在龟甲和兽骨上的文字，主要发现于河南安阳殷墟，是中国商朝时期的文字，距今已有3000多年的历史。（配图安阳殷墟）

The oracle bone script was the earliest Chinese mature writing system, which was successfully listed on Memory of the World Register in 2017, demonstrating the highly worldwide appreciation for its significant cultural and historical value. (a picture of tortoise shell with inscriptions)

甲骨文是迄今为止中国发现的年代最早的成熟文字体系，于2017年成功入选《世界记忆名录》，这标志着甲骨文的重要文化价值及历史意义已在世界范围内得到高度认可。（配图甲骨片）







# 汉字与天文地理

To improve the residential environment and agricultural production, ancestors of Chinese nation had a deep understanding of natural phenomenon very early by observing the sky, earth, mountains and rivers.

中华民族的祖先为了寻找更好的居住环境和促进农业生产，仰观星空气象，俯察大地山川，很早就对自然现象有了深刻的认知。



The oracle bone script for the word "tian" described fields criss-crossed.

甲骨文“田”像阡陌纵横的田地的样子。



田 / Tian



焚 / Fen (Burn) ▶



The oracle bone script for the word "fen" described a picture of burning the forest with its upper half refers to the forest while lower half for the fire.

This word then has the meaning of burning now.

甲骨文“焚”上面是树林，下面是火，合起来表示火烧林木的意思。现在表示为焚烧的意思。

Lei refers to an ancient plough with curved wooden handle and two forked plowshares, basically, bending the left or right for its handle would be available. 耒的古字形是象形字，像一种带有两杈的木耒，木耒上部是弯曲的柄，下部是分叉的耒尖，由柄弯曲的方向可以向左，也可以向右。



耒 / Lei (No Oracle Bone Writing)



耜 / Farming ▶



The word "ji" described a man farming with a plough, which has the meaning of farming. “耜”像人举足持耒耕作的样子，表示耕作的意思。

# 汉字与农耕文化

China is a large agricultural country with long history. Chinese characters therefore, could fully presented farming pictures of ancient Chinese people, demonstrating the agricultural civilization of ancient China faithfully.

中国是一个农业大国，农业有着极其悠久的历史。汉字能充分体现先民们开垦田地、种植五谷的生活场景，忠实地记录着古代农耕文化的信息。





# 汉字与占卜祭祀

CHINESE CHARACTERS AND DIVINATION SACRIFICE

In an era of underdeveloped science, Chinese ancestors were awed by nature, ghosts and gods. Divination and sacrifice therefore, had been a part of daily life, which were used by both the nobles and populaces for seeking solace and good fortune.

在古代科学尚不发达的时代,先民对自然、对鬼神充满了敬畏,占卜和祭祀是人们日常生活中的一部分,无论是王宫贵冑还是平民百姓,都从中寻找答案和慰藉,祈求平安吉祥。



卜 / Bu (Divination) ▶



The word "bu" described cracks after burning the tortoise shells or bones for divination.  
甲骨文“卜”像灼烧龟甲和兽骨后出现的裂纹形。

The oracle bone script for the word "ji" includes elements of meat on the left, hand on the right and different numbers of blood drops in the lower half. It described a picture of sacrificing to the gods with bloody meat.

“祭”字的甲骨文字形,左边像肉,右边像手,下面的点像血滴,点的多少不一,像拿着滴血的肉块祭祀神灵之形。



◀ 祭 / Ji (Sacrifice)



祝 / Zhu (Pray) ▶



The word "zhu" described a man kneeling down faced to the altar and praying to the gods, with the "口" added on top for highlighting the action of praying.

“祝”字像一个人跪在地上,面向神坛向神祷告的形象。跪着的人形上面都加上了“大”口,意在突出其祝祷的动作。



# 汉字与衣食住行

Clothes, food, accommodation and transportation had been basic necessities of life from the beginning of humanity. Through ancient Chinese characters, one can see the picture of life and material civilization more than 3000 years ago.

人类自诞生之日起，衣食住行就作为基本需求而成为不可或缺的存在。透过古文字字形，我们可以看到3000多年前人们的生活图景，了解一个时代物质文明发展的状态。



衣 / Yi (Clothes) ▶



The oracle bone script for the word "yi" described a piece of clothes with its neckline, two sleeves and two overlapped lapels. 甲骨文“衣”字象是衣服的轮廓，上面领口，两旁像袖筒，底下像两襟左右相覆。



酉 / You ▶



The oracle bone script for the word "you" described a jar, which refers to a wine vessel. 甲骨文“酉”字像是麦穗的形状，是一种盛酒器。



门 / Men (Door) ▶



Usually, Hu refers to the door with one leaf while Men for double leaves. The oracle bone script for the word "men" described a door with two leaves.

古人单扇为户，双扇为门。  
甲骨文“门”像是两扇门的形状。



车 / Che (Car) ▶



The oracle bone script for the word "che" vividly described a car with two wheels, axle, shaft and scale.

甲骨文“车”字把马车的两个车轮、车轴、车轴和车衡全画出来了，可谓是非常形象。

Culture of rites and music is the important component in Chinese traditional culture, China thus had been called as a nation of etiquette. The ancient Chinese believed that rites and music could cultivate one's moral character and make people more modest and dignified.

礼乐文化是中国传统文化中非常重要组成部分，因此中国也被称作礼仪之邦。古人认为“礼以修身，乐以化心”，礼乐双修使人修身养性，体悟天道，谦和有礼，威仪有序。

CHINESE CHARACTERS AND CULTURE OF RITES AND MUSIC

汉字与礼乐文化



编钟 / Chimes ▶



The bronze script for the word "zhong" refers to musical instrument such as the chimes.

全文“钟”指奏乐用的钟，一种乐器，如编钟。



磬 / Qing (Stone-Chime) ▶



Qing refers to a percussion instrument made of stone. The oracle bone script and bronze script for it described a picture of string on the upper part, stone-chime (qing) in the middle and one percussing stone with hammer in hand in the lower part.

“磬”是指古代一种用石头制作的打击乐器。甲骨文、金文字形上形象悬挂着的石子，中间是磬，下面是用手拿着锤子击打的样子。



尊 / Zun (Vessel) ▶



The oracle bone script for the word "zun" described a pair of hands holding a goblet. Basically, it originally refers to the sacrificial wine container, and then makes a general reference of honor and respect.

“尊”本是盛酒的礼器，甲骨文字形作双手捧着器皿的形状，后来又尊重、推举、重视的意思。



鼎 / Ding (Cauldron) ▶



Ding refers a cauldron with legs and handles. In ancient China, Ding was not only a cooking utensil but also an important sacrificial vessel.

“鼎”是一种有足有耳的大腹器皿，在古代鼎不仅用来烹煮食物，也是祭祀用的一种非常重要的礼器。





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# 汉字的艺术

ART OF CHINESE CHARACTERS

