

# Lady Fu Hao



An informative PowerPoint

# Who was she?

Lady Fu Hao was one of the many wives of King Wu Ding, but also a general and a high priestess as well as controlling her own territory on the outskirts of the Empire.

She was the first female military leader in known history.

She was clearly held in high regard by the Emperor as it was rare for women to perform ritual ceremonies.

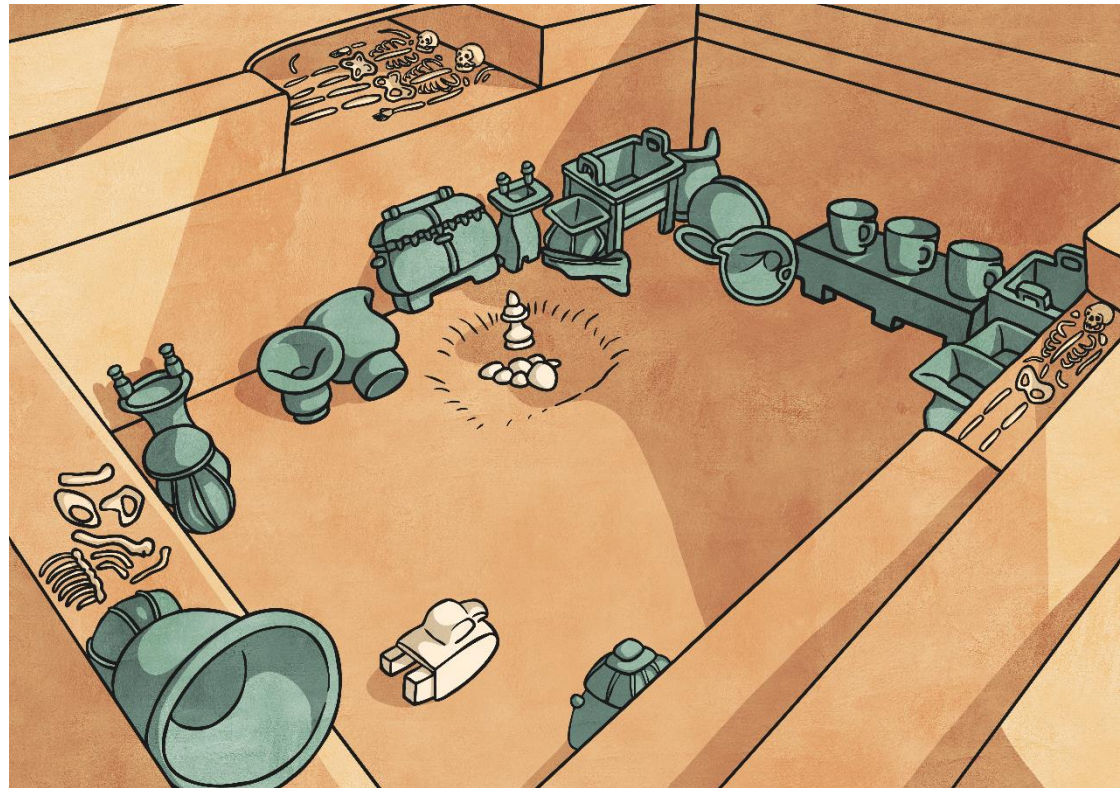
According to oracle bones she led 13,000 soldiers into battle.





# Why is she so important?

Lady Fu Hao was a powerful woman during her life, but also became a very important figure in her death. She died around 1250 BCE. Her tomb, when it was found in 1976, was the only royal tomb from the Shang dynasty that hadn't been looted, and historians have learnt a lot from it.





# What do we know about her tomb?

- It is in modern day Anyang, the location of the last capital city of the Shang.
- It was smaller than other royal tombs, and was situated outside the main royal cemetery.
- It is a large pit measuring around 4 metres by 5 metres at the entrance, and 8 metres long.
- The corpse of Lady Fu Hao was placed in a lacquered coffin within a wooden chamber.
- There may have been something built over the tomb to allow them to hold memorial ceremonies.



# Until Death do us Part – or not?

If you worked for an Emperor or another important person such as Fu Hao you might end up being worked to death, but not necessarily in battle or from physical labour. The human skeletons found in her grave were probably those of her advisers, who were buried with her.





# What did they find in her tomb?

- The remains of 6 dogs and 16 humans.
- Over 450 bronze objects (including 130 weapons, 23 bells, 27 knives, 4 tigers and 4 mirrors). The total weight was 1.6 metric tons, a massive amount, showing how rich the family were.
- Over 750 jade objects
- 63 stone objects
- 5 ivory objects
- Over 550 bone objects (mainly bone hairpins and some arrowheads)
- 11 pottery objects
- Almost 7,000 cowry shells



# How successful was she as a general?

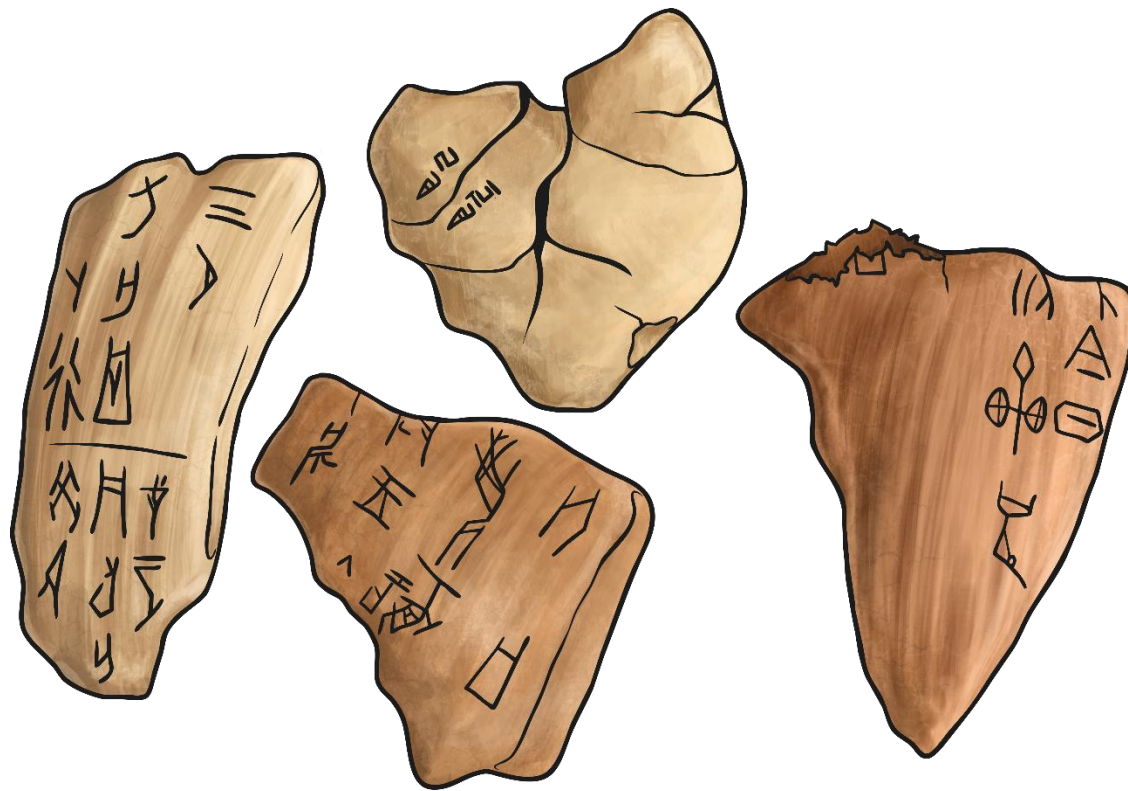
She led many military campaigns. The Tu-Fang had fought against the Shang for a great many years, through the reign of various leaders. It was only when Fu Hao took charge that the Tu-Fang were defeated. She had important generals such as Zhi and Hou Gao serving under her, as well as 13,000 soldiers. She was not only the first known female military leader, she was the most successful and powerful military leader of her time, male or female.





# Did she have any children?

We know from oracle bones showing concern for her in childbirth that she had a child. He was Prince Jie.





**What do you think of Lady Fu Hao?**

THE END