

dà yǔ zhì shuǐ
大禹治水

Yu Tames the Flood

PAGE 1

hěn jiǔ hěn jiǔ yǐ qián zhōng guó
很 久 很 久 以 前 中 国

fā guò yí cì dà shuǐ
发 过 一 次 大 水

Long, long ago there was a great flood in
China.

PAGE 4

tā máng le jiǔ nián shuǐ hái shì
他 忙 了 九 年 水 还 是

méi yǒu tuì
没 有 退

He laboured nine years, and still the water
did not go down.

PAGE 2

dà shuǐ yān le tián yě yān le
大 水 淹 了 田 也 淹 了

fáng zi
房 子

The water drowned the fields and the
houses.

PAGE 5

hòu lái tā de ér zi yǔ jiē
后 来 他 的 儿 子 禹 接

zhe zuò zhè jiàn shì
着 做 这 件 事

Later his son Yu took the work up.

PAGE 3

yǒu yí gè rén jiào gǔn tā xiǎng
有 一 个 人 叫 鲧 他 想

yòng tǔ bǎ shuǐ dǎng zhù
用 土 把 水 挡 住

A man named Gun tried to hold the water
back with earth.

PAGE 6

yǔ méi yǒu dǎng shuǐ tā bǎ shuǐ
禹 没 有 挡 水 他 把 水

yǐn dào hǎi lǐ qù
引 到 海 里 去

Yu did not block the water; he led it away to
the sea.

PAGE 7

tā dài zhe rén wā le hěn duō
他带着人挖了很多
nián de hé
年的河

He led the people in digging channels for
years.

PAGE 10

dì èr cì tā kàn jiàn ér zi
第二次他看见儿子
zài mén kǒu zhāo shǒu
在门口招手

The second time, he saw his son waving at
the gate.

PAGE 8

yǒu rén shuō tā sān cì jīng guò
有人说他三次经过
zì jǐ jiā mén kǒu
自己家门口

They say he passed his own door three
times.

PAGE 11

dì sān cì ér zi yǐ jīng huì
第三次儿子已经会
pǎo huì shuō huà le
跑会说话了

The third time, the boy could already run and
talk.

PAGE 9

dì yī cì tā tīng jiàn qī zi
第一次他听见妻子
zài shēng hái zi
在生孩子

The first time, he heard his wife giving birth.

PAGE 12

kě shì sān cì tā dōu méi yǒu
可是三次他都没有
jìn qù
进去

But all three times he did not go in.

shí sān nián yǐ hòu shuǐ zhōng yú
十三年以后水终于
tuì le
退了

After thirteen years the water finally fell.

shùn bǎ wèi zi chuán gěi le yǔ
舜把位子传给了禹
bú shì chuán gěi ér zi
不是传给儿子

Shun passed the throne to Yu, not to his own son.

bǎi xìng kě yǐ huí tián lǐ zhòng
百姓可以回田里种
dōng xi le
东西了

The people could go back to their fields and plant.

nà shí hòu de guī jù shì shéi
那时候的规矩是谁
zuò de hǎo shéi jiù dāng wáng
做得好谁就当王

The rule then was that whoever did best became king.

dà jiā dōu hěn gǎn xiè yǔ
大家都感谢禹

Everyone was grateful to Yu.

zhè ge guī jù yǔ de ér zi
这个规矩禹的儿子
hòu lái gǎi le
后来改了

That rule, Yu's son later changed.

大禹治水 · Writing Practice

Yu Tames the Flood

Name: _____

Date: _____

儿子

ér zi
son

儿	子				
---	---	--	--	--	--

没有

méi yǒu
haven't

没	有				
---	---	--	--	--	--

三次

sān cì
third

三	次				
---	---	--	--	--	--

大水

dà shuǐ
flood

大	水				
---	---	--	--	--	--

后来

hòu lái
afterwards

后	来				
---	---	--	--	--	--

传给

chuán gěi
to pass on to

传	给				
---	---	--	--	--	--

规矩

guī jǔ
lit. compass and set sq...

规	矩				
---	---	--	--	--	--

以前

yǐ qián
before

以	前				
---	---	--	--	--	--

Trace the gray word in the first group, then practise writing it in the rest. Keep each stroke inside the dashed lines.

xià cháo
夏朝

The Xia

PAGE 1

yǔ sǐ le yǐ hòu tā de ér
禹死了以后他的儿
zi qǐ dāng le wáng
子启当了王

After Yu died, his son Qi became king.

PAGE 4

xià cháo yí gòng sì bǎi duō nián
夏朝一共四百多年
yǒu shí qī gè wáng
有十七个王

Xia lasted more than four hundred years and
seventeen kings.

PAGE 2

cóng nà shí hòu qǐ wáng wèi jiù
从那时候起王位就
chuán gěi ér zi le
传给儿子了

From then on the throne passed to sons.

PAGE 5

qián miàn de wáng duō bàn hái bú
前面的王多半还不
cuò
错

Most of the earlier kings were not bad.

PAGE 3

zhè yàng kāi shǐ de dì yī gè
这样开始的第一个
cháo dài jiào xià cháo
朝代叫夏朝

The first dynasty to begin this way was called
Xia.

PAGE 6

kě shì zuì hòu yí gè wáng hěn
可是最后一个王很
huài tā jiào jié
坏他叫桀

But the last one was cruel, and his name was
Jie.

jié lì qì hěn dà néng kōng shǒu
桀力气很大能空手

dǎ sǐ lǎo hǔ
打死老虎

Jie was strong enough to kill a tiger bare-handed.

yǒu rén quàn tā tā jiù bǎ nà
有人劝他他就把那

ge rén guān qǐ lái
个人关起来

When anyone advised him, he had them shut away.

kě shì tā cóng lái bù guǎn bǎi
可是他从来不管百

xìng de sǐ huó
姓的死活

But he never cared whether the people lived or died.

tā shuō wǒ shì tài yáng tài yáng
他说我是太阳太阳

bú huì méi yǒu
不会没有

He said: I am the sun, and the sun does not disappear.

tā zào le hěn dà de gōng diàn
他造了很大的宫殿

yòng le hěn duō nián
用了很多年

He built an enormous palace that took years.

bǎi xìng tīng jiàn le jiù wèn zhè
百姓听见了就问这

ge tài yáng shén me shí hou sǐ
个太阳什么时候死

The people heard, and asked when this sun would die.

nà shí hòu dōng biān yǒu yí gè
那 时 候 东 边 有 一 个
xiǎo guó jiào shāng
小 国 叫 商

In the east there was a small state called
Shang.

tā ràng nà ge rén bǎ sān miàn
他 让 那 个 人 把 三 面
de wǎng dōu dǎ kāi
的 网 都 打 开

He told him to open the nets on three sides.

shāng de wáng jiào tāng zuò shì gēn
商 的 王 叫 汤 做 事 跟
jié wán quán bù yí yàng
桀 完 全 不 一 样

Its king was Tang, who behaved nothing like
Jie.

zhè jiàn shì chuán chū qù yǐ hòu
这 件 事 传 出 去 以 后
hěn duō xiǎo guó lái zhǎo tā
很 多 小 国 来 找 他

When that story spread, many small states
came to him.

yǒu yí cì tāng kàn jiàn yǒu rén
有 一 次 汤 看 见 有 人
sì miàn zhāng wǎng zhuā niǎo
四 面 张 网 抓 鸟

Once Tang saw a man netting birds from all
four sides.

bǎi xìng kāi shǐ xiǎng yě xǔ tiān
百 姓 开 始 想 也 许 天
yǐ jīng bú yào jié le
已 经 不 要 桀 了

People began to think heaven might be done
with Jie.

夏朝 · Writing Practice

The Xia

Name: _____

Date: _____

百姓

bǎi xìng
common people

百	姓				
---	---	--	--	--	--

太阳

tài yang
sun

太	阳				
---	---	--	--	--	--

以后

yǐ hòu
after

以	后				
---	---	--	--	--	--

儿子

ér zi
son

儿	子				
---	---	--	--	--	--

多年

duō nián
many years

多	年				
---	---	--	--	--	--

那时候

nà shí hou
at that time

那	时	候			
---	---	---	--	--	--

开始

kāi shǐ
to begin

开	始				
---	---	--	--	--	--

可是

kě shì
but

可	是				
---	---	--	--	--	--

Trace the gray word in the first group, then practise writing it in the rest. Keep each stroke inside the dashed lines.

tiān mìng
天命

The Mandate

PAGE 1

tāng dài bīng qù dǎ jié de shí
汤带兵去打桀的时

hou xiān shuō le yí duàn huà
候先说了一段话

Before Tang marched against Jie, he made a
speech.

PAGE 4

tiān mìng de yì sī shì lǎo tiān
天命的意思是老天

ràng nǐ dāng wáng
让你当王

The Mandate means that heaven lets you be
king.

PAGE 2

tā shuō wǒ bú shì xiǎng dǎ zhàng
他说我不是想打仗

shì lǎo tiān ràng wǒ lái de
是老天让我来的

He said: I do not want war — heaven has sent
me.

PAGE 5

kě shì lǎo tiān yě kě yǐ bǎ
可是老天也可以把

zhè ge wèi zi shōu huí qù
这个位子收回去

But heaven can also take that seat back.

PAGE 3

zhè shì zhōng guó lì shǐ shàng dì
这是中国历史上第

yī cì shuō dào tiān mìng
一次说到天命

That was the first time the Mandate of
Heaven was spoken of.

PAGE 6

shén me shí hou shōu huí qù bǎi
什么时候收回去百

xìng guò de tài kǔ de shí hou
姓过得太苦的时候

And when does it take it back — when the
people suffer too much.

PAGE 7

suǒ yǐ tiān mìng bú shì gěi yí
所以天命不是给一
gè rén shì gěi yí gè zuò fǎ
个人是给一个做法

So the Mandate is not given to a man but to a way of behaving.

PAGE 10

jié zuì hòu táo dào nán biān sǐ
桀最后逃到南边死
zài nà lǐ
在那里

Jie fled south in the end and died there.

PAGE 8

jié de bīng yí kàn jiàn tāng de
桀的兵一看见汤的
qí hěn duō rén jiù pǎo le
旗很多人就跑了

The moment Jie's soldiers saw Tang's banners, many ran.

PAGE 11

xià cháo jiù zhè yàng jié shù le
夏朝就这样结束了

And so the Xia came to an end.

PAGE 9

yǒu de bīng hái huí guò tóu lái
有的兵还回过头来
bāng tāng dǎ zì jǐ de wáng
帮汤打自己的王

Some turned round and helped Tang fight their own king.

PAGE 12

tāng dāng le wáng dì yī jiàn shì
汤当了王第一件事
shì jiǎn qīng bǎi xìng de shuì
是减轻百姓的税

Tang's first act as king was to lighten the people's taxes.

tā shuō rú guǒ wǒ zuò cuò le
他说如果我做错了
qǐng lǎo tiān fá wǒ yí gè rén
请老天罚我一个人

He said: if I do wrong, let heaven punish me alone.

měi yí gè wáng dōu zhī dào tiān
每一个王都知道天
mìng zhè liǎng gè zì
命这两个字

Every one of them knew those two words.

tā yòu shuō qǐng bú yào fá bǎi
他又说请不要罚百
xìng
姓

And he said: do not punish the people.

yě měi yí gè wáng dōu jué de
也每一个王都觉得
tiān mìng bú huì lí kāi zì jǐ
天命不会离开自己

And every one of them felt the Mandate would never leave him.

shāng cháo yí gòng chuán le sān shí
商朝一共传了三十
yí gè wáng
一个王

Shang passed through thirty-one kings in all.

liù bǎi nián yǐ hòu tā men cái
六百年以后他们才
míng bai zì jǐ cuò le
明白自己错了

Six hundred years later they learned they were wrong.

天命 · Writing Practice

The Mandate

Name: _____

Date: _____

老天

lǎo tiān
God

老	天				
---	---	--	--	--	--

百姓

bǎi xìng
common people

百	姓				
---	---	--	--	--	--

自己

zì jǐ
oneself

自	己				
---	---	--	--	--	--

时候

shí hou
time

时	候				
---	---	--	--	--	--

不是

bù shì
no

不	是				
---	---	--	--	--	--

收回

shōu huí
to regain

收	回				
---	---	--	--	--	--

一个人

yī gè rén
by oneself (without ass...)

一	个	人			
---	---	---	--	--	--

带兵

dài bīng
to lead troops

带	兵				
---	---	--	--	--	--

Trace the gray word in the first group, then practise writing it in the rest. Keep each stroke inside the dashed lines.

shāng cháo de zì
商朝的字

The Writing of Shang

PAGE 1

shāng cháo de rén hěn xǐ huan wèn
商朝的人很喜欢问

lǎo tiān wèn tí
老天问题

The Shang were fond of asking heaven
questions.

PAGE 4

tā men bǎ zì kè zài guī ké
他们把字刻在龟壳

hé niú gǔ shàng
和牛骨上

They carved characters into turtle shell and
ox bone.

PAGE 2

tā men wèn míng tiān xià bu xià
他们问明天下不下

yǔ wèn dǎ zhàng yíng bu yíng
雨问打仗赢不赢

They asked whether it would rain, whether
they would win.

PAGE 5

rán hòu yòng huǒ shāo kàn gǔ tóu
然后用火烧看骨头

liè chéng shén me yàng zi
裂成什么样子

Then they burned it and watched how the
bone cracked.

PAGE 3

wèn de bàn fǎ hěn tè bié yòng
问的办法很特别用

de shì gǔ tóu
的是骨头

Their way of asking was unusual: they used
bone.

PAGE 6

liè kāi de yàng zi jiù shì lǎo
裂开的样子就是老

tiān de huí dá
天的回答

The shape of the crack was heaven's answer.

nà xiē zì hòu lái jiào jiǎ gǔ
那些字后来叫甲骨
wén
文

Those characters are called oracle bone script.

bǐ rú rì zì jiù shì yí gè
比如日字就是一个
yuán zhōng jiān yì diǎn
圆中间一点

The character for sun, for instance, is a circle with a dot.

jiǎ gǔ wén shì zhōng guó zuì zǎo
甲骨文是中国最早
de zì
的字

It is the earliest Chinese writing.

yuè zì huà de shì yí gè wān
月字画的是一个弯
wān de yuè liang
弯的月亮

The character for moon is a curved moon.

sān qiān duō nián yǐ qián de zì
三千多年以前的字
xiàn zài hái kàn de dǒng yì xiē
现在还能看懂一些

Some of it, written over three thousand years ago, can still be read.

rén zì huà de shì yí gè rén
人字画的是一个
zhàn zài nà lǐ
站在那里

The character for person is a person standing.

shāng cháo de rén hái huì zuò hěn
商朝的人还会做很
hǎo kàn de tóng qì
好看的铜器

The Shang also made beautiful bronzes.

wǒ men jīn tiān zhī dào shāng cháo
我们今天知道商朝
de shì duō bàn kào zhè xiē zì
的事多半靠这些字

Most of what we know about the Shang
comes from these characters.

nà xiē tóng qì shàng miàn yě kè
那些铜器上也刻
zhe zì
着字

Those bronzes had characters carved on
them too.

yīn wèi nà shí hòu hái méi yǒu
因为那时候还没有
zhǐ yě méi yǒu shū
纸也没有书

Because there was no paper then, and no
books.

yǒu de tóng qì hěn dà yí gè
有的铜器很大一个
rén bān bú dòng
人搬不动

Some are so large one person cannot lift
them.

yí gè cháo dài néng bù néng bèi
一个朝代能不能被
jì zhù yǒu shí hòu kào jǐ kuài
记住有时候靠几块
gǔ tóu
骨头

Whether a dynasty is remembered can rest
on a few pieces of bone.

商朝的字 · Writing Practice

The Writing of Shang

Name: _____

Date: _____

骨头

gǔ tou
bone

骨	头				
---	---	--	--	--	--

铜器

tóng qì
copper ware

铜	器				
---	---	--	--	--	--

老天

lǎo tiān
God

老	天				
---	---	--	--	--	--

他们

tā men
they

他	们				
---	---	--	--	--	--

就是

jiù shì
exactly

就	是				
---	---	--	--	--	--

那些

nà xiē
those

那	些				
---	---	--	--	--	--

甲骨文

jiǎ gǔ wén
oracle script

甲	骨	文			
---	---	---	--	--	--

字画

zì huà
the strokes of a charac...

字	画				
---	---	--	--	--	--

Trace the gray word in the first group, then practise writing it in the rest. Keep each stroke inside the dashed lines.

wèi shuǐ biān de lǎo rén
渭水边的老人

The Old Man by the Wei River

PAGE 1

shāng cháo zuì hòu yí gè wáng jiào
商 朝 最 后 一 个 王 叫

zhòu
纣

The last king of Shang was called Zhou.

PAGE 4

tā zào le yí gè chí zi lǐ
他 造 了 一 个 池 子 里

miàn zhuāng de shì jiǔ
面 装 的 是 酒

He made a pool and filled it with wine.

PAGE 2

zhòu hěn cōng míng lì qì yě hěn
纣 很 聪 明 力 气 也 很

dà
大

He was clever and very strong.

PAGE 5

tā ràng rén zài shù shàng guà mǎn
他 让 人 在 树 上 挂 满

le ròu
了 肉

He had meat hung all over the trees.

PAGE 3

kě shì tā bǎ cōng míng yòng zài
可 是 他 把 聪 明 用 在

le bié de dì fang
了 别 的 地 方

But he used his cleverness on other things.

PAGE 6

yǒu rén quàn tā tā jiù bǎ nà
有 人 劝 他 他 就 把 那

ge rén shā le
个 人 杀 了

When anyone advised him, he had them
killed.

PAGE 7

xī biān yǒu yí gè xiǎo guó jiào
 西边有一个小国叫
 zhōu wáng jiào jī chāng
 周王叫姬昌

In the west lay a small state called Zhou,
 whose lord was Ji Chang.

PAGE 10

yǒu yì tiān tā chū qù dǎ liè
 有一天他出去打猎
 zǒu dào wèi shuǐ biān
 走到渭水边

One day he went hunting and came to the
 Wei River.

PAGE 8

jī chāng kàn jiàn bǎi xìng tài kǔ
 姬昌看见百姓太苦
 kě shì méi yǒu mǎ shàng dòng shǒu
 可是没有马上动手

Ji Chang saw how the people suffered, but
 did not act at once.

PAGE 11

tā kàn jiàn yí gè lǎo rén zuò
 他看见一个老人坐
 zài nà lǐ diào yú
 在那里钓鱼

He saw an old man sitting there fishing.

PAGE 9

tā zhī dào zì jǐ hái bú gòu
 他知道自己还不够
 qiáng
 强

He knew he was not yet strong enough.

PAGE 12

nà ge lǎo rén de gōu zi shì
 那个老人的钩子是
 zhí de yě méi yǒu fàng dōng xī
 直的也没有放东西

The old man's hook was straight, and there
 was no bait on it.

jī chāng jué de hěn qí guài jiù
姬 昌 觉 得 很 奇 怪 就
zǒu guò qù wèn tā
走 过 去 问 他

Ji Chang thought this strange and went over
to ask.

jī chāng huí qù de shí hòu bǎ
姬 昌 回 去 的 时 候 把
lǎo rén yì qǐ dài huí qù le
老 人 一 起 带 回 去 了

When Ji Chang went home, he took the old
man with him.

lǎo rén shuō wǒ bú shì zài diào
老 人 说 我 不 是 在 钓
yú wǒ zài děng rén
鱼 我 在 等 人

The old man said: I am not fishing. I am
waiting for someone.

nà ge lǎo rén xìng jiāng hòu lái
那 个 老 人 姓 姜 后 来
dà jiā jiào tā jiāng tài gōng
大 家 叫 他 姜 太 公

The old man's surname was Jiang; he
became known as Jiang Taigong.

liǎng gè rén zài hé biān shuō le
两 个 人 在 河 边 说 了
hěn jiǔ de huà
很 久 的 话

The two of them talked a long time by the
river.

jī chāng sǐ le yǐ hòu rén men
姬 昌 死 了 以 后 人 们
jiào tā zhōu wén wáng
叫 他 周 文 王

After Ji Chang died, he was called King Wen
of Zhou.

渭水边的老人 · Writing Practice

The Old Man by the Wei River

Name: _____

Date: _____

老人

lǎo rén
old man or woman

老	人				
---	---	--	--	--	--

聪明

cōng míng
intelligent

聪	明				
---	---	--	--	--	--

可是

kě shì
but

可	是				
---	---	--	--	--	--

看见

kàn jiàn
to see

看	见				
---	---	--	--	--	--

没有

méi yǒu
haven't

没	有				
---	---	--	--	--	--

钓鱼

diào yú
to fish (with line and ...)

钓	鱼				
---	---	--	--	--	--

那个

nà ge
that one

那	个				
---	---	--	--	--	--

最后

zuì hòu
final

最	后				
---	---	--	--	--	--

Trace the gray word in the first group, then practise writing it in the rest. Keep each stroke inside the dashed lines.

mù yě zhī zhàn
牧野之战

The Battle of Muye

PAGE 1

zhōu wén wáng de ér zǐ jiào jī
周文王的儿子叫姬
fā jiù shì zhōu wǔ wáng
发就是周武王

King Wen's son was Ji Fa, who became King
Wu of Zhou.

PAGE 4

tā shuō shí hòu hái méi yǒu dào
他说时候还没有到

He said: the time has not come.

PAGE 2

tā děng le hěn duō nián yì zhí
他等了很多年一直
méi yǒu dòng shǒu
没有动手

He waited many years and did nothing.

PAGE 5

hòu lái zhòu lián zì jǐ de shū
后来纣连自己的叔
shu yě shā le
叔也杀了

In time Zhou killed even his own uncle.

PAGE 3

yǒu rén wèn tā wèi shén me hái
有人问他为什么还
bù dǎ
不打

People asked him why he still would not
strike.

PAGE 6

yòu yǒu dà chén táo dào zhōu qù
又有大臣逃到周去
dài lái hěn duō xiāo xī
带来很多消息

Then ministers fled to Zhou, bringing news.

PAGE 7

wǔ wáng shuō xiàn zài kě yǐ le
武王说现在可以了

King Wu said: now we can.

PAGE 10

tā men shuō wǒ men gēn nǐ yì
他们说我们跟你一
qǐ qù
起去

They said: we are coming with you.

PAGE 8

nà nián dōng tiān zhōu de jūn duì
那年冬天周的军队
wǎng dōng zǒu
往东走

That winter the army of Zhou marched east.

PAGE 11

dì èr nián èr yuè liǎng biān zài
第二年二月两边在
mù yě yù shàng le
牧野遇上了

In the second month the two armies met at
Muye.

PAGE 9

zǒu dào mèng jīn de shí hòu bā
走到孟津的时候八
bǎi gè xiǎo guó de rén lái le
百个小国的人来了

At Mengjin, men from eight hundred small
states arrived.

PAGE 12

zhòu de rén bǐ zhōu duō hǎo jǐ
纣的人比周多好几
bèi
倍

Zhou the king had several times as many
men.

kě shì nà xiē rén lǐ miàn hěn
可是那些人里面很
duō shì zhuā lái de nú lì
多是抓来的奴隶

But many of them were captured slaves.

zhòu kàn jiàn yǐ hòu huí dào chéng
纣看见以后回到城
lǐ fàng huǒ shāo le zì jǐ
里放火烧了自己

Seeing it, he went back into the city and
burned himself.

dǎ qǐ lái yǐ hòu qián miàn de
打起来以后前面的
rén zhuǎn shēn jiù wǎng huí pǎo
人转身就往回跑

Once the fighting began, the front rank
turned and ran back.

shāng cháo liù bǎi nián jiù zài nà
商朝六百年就在那
yì tiān jié shù
一天结束

Six hundred years of Shang ended that day.

tā men bú shì táo tā men shì
他们不是逃他们是
qù dǎ zì jǐ de wáng
去打自己的王

They were not fleeing. They were going to
fight their own king.

wǔ wáng zhàn zài mù yě dì yī
武王站在牧野第一
cì jué de tiān mìng hěn zhòng
次觉得天命很重

Standing at Muye, King Wu felt for the first
time how heavy the Mandate was.

牧野之战 · Writing Practice

The Battle of Muye

Name: _____

Date: _____

自己

zì jǐ
oneself

自	己				
---	---	--	--	--	--

他们

tā men
they

他	们				
---	---	--	--	--	--

时候

shí hou
time

时	候				
---	---	--	--	--	--

没有

méi yǒu
haven't

没	有				
---	---	--	--	--	--

以后

yǐ hòu
after

以	后				
---	---	--	--	--	--

儿子

ér zi
son

儿	子				
---	---	--	--	--	--

就是

jiù shì
exactly

就	是				
---	---	--	--	--	--

多年

duō nián
many years

多	年				
---	---	--	--	--	--

Trace the gray word in the first group, then practise writing it in the rest. Keep each stroke inside the dashed lines.

zhōu gōng

周公

The Duke of Zhou

PAGE 1

wǔ wáng dāng le wáng kě shì zhǐ
武王当了王可是只
huó le jǐ nián
活了几年

King Wu took the throne, but lived only a few years.

PAGE 4

yǒu rén shuō zhōu gōng zì jǐ xiǎng
有人说周公自己想
dāng wáng
当王

People said the Duke wanted the throne himself.

PAGE 2

tā sǐ de shí hòu ér zǐ chéng
他死的时候儿子成
wáng cái shí jǐ suì
王才十几岁

When he died his son King Cheng was barely into his teens.

PAGE 5

nà jù huà chuán de dào chù dōu
那句话传得到处都
shì
是

The rumour spread everywhere.

PAGE 3

wǔ wáng de dì dì zhōu gōng tì
武王的弟弟周公替
chéng wáng guǎn guó jiā
成王管国家

King Wu's brother, the Duke of Zhou, governed in his place.

PAGE 6

zhōu gōng de liǎng gè xiōng dì tīng
周公的两个兄弟听
jiàn le jiù dài bīng fǎn le
见了就带兵反了

Two of his brothers heard it and rose in revolt.

zhōu gōng zhǐ hǎo dài bīng qù dǎ
周 公 只 好 带 兵 去 打
zì jǐ de gē ge
自 己 的 哥 哥

The Duke had no choice but to march
against his own brothers.

kě shì chéng wáng dào le nián jì
可 是 成 王 到 了 年 纪
tā jiù bǎ guó jiā jiāo huí qù
他 就 把 国 家 交 回 去

But when King Cheng came of age, he
handed the state back.

nà yí zhàng dǎ le sān nián tā
那 一 仗 打 了 三 年 他
yì tiān yě méi yǒu qīng sōng guò
一 天 也 没 有 轻 松 过

That war took three years, and not one day
of it was easy.

tā zuò wán zhè jiàn shì jiù bú
他 做 完 这 件 事 就 不
zài guǎn guó jiā de shì le
再 管 国 家 的 事 了

Having done that, he took no further part in
government.

dǎ wán yǐ hòu hěn duō rén jué
打 完 以 后 很 多 人 觉
de tā huì liú xià wáng wèi
得 他 会 留 下 王 位

When it was over, many expected him to
keep the throne.

zhōu gōng hái zuò le yí jiàn gèng
周 公 还 做 了 一 件 更
zhòng yào de shì
重 要 的 事

The Duke did one more important thing.

tā bǎ tiān mìng zhè ge xiǎng fǎ
他把天命这个想法
xiě chéng le guī ju
写成了规矩

He wrote the idea of the Mandate down as a rule.

tā shuō bǎi xìng guò de kǔ tiān
他说百姓过得苦天
mìng jiù zǒu
命就走

He said: when the people suffer, the Mandate leaves.

tā shuō lǎo tiān kàn de bú shì
他说老天看的不是
wáng shì bǎi xìng
王是百姓

He said: heaven watches not the king but the people.

zhè ge xiǎng fǎ zhōng guó yòng le
这个想法中国用了
sān qiān nián
三千年

China used that idea for three thousand years.

tā shuō bǎi xìng guò de hǎo tiān
他说百姓过得好天
mìng jiù zài
命就在

He said: while the people live well, the Mandate stays.

hòu lái měi yí gè cháo dài jié
后来每一个朝代结
shù de shí hòu dōu huì xiǎng qǐ
束的时候都会想起
tā
它

At the end of every dynasty afterwards, people remembered it.

周公 · Writing Practice

The Duke of Zhou

Name: _____

Date: _____

国家

guó jiā
country

国	家				
---	---	--	--	--	--

百姓

bǎi xìng
common people

百	姓				
---	---	--	--	--	--

可是

kě shì
but

可	是				
---	---	--	--	--	--

自己

zì jǐ
oneself

自	己				
---	---	--	--	--	--

时候

shí hou
time

时	候				
---	---	--	--	--	--

带兵

dài bīng
to lead troops

带	兵				
---	---	--	--	--	--

这个

zhè ge
this

这	个				
---	---	--	--	--	--

想法

xiǎng fǎ
way of thinking

想	法				
---	---	--	--	--	--

Trace the gray word in the first group, then practise writing it in the rest. Keep each stroke inside the dashed lines.

fēn fēng tiān xià
分封天下

Dividing the Land

PAGE 1

zhōu cháo de dì fang bǐ shāng cháo
周朝的地方比商朝

dà de duō
大得多

Zhou's territory was far larger than Shang's.

PAGE 4

tā bǎ tǔ dì fēn gěi zì jǐ
他把土地分给自己

de qīn rén hé gōng chén
的亲人和功臣

He divided the land among his kin and his loyal officers.

PAGE 2

yí gè wáng guǎn bú guò lái zhè
一个王管不过来这

me dà de dì fang
么大的地方

One king could not govern so much land.

PAGE 5

měi yí kuài dì fang jiào yí gè
每一块地方叫一个

guó guǎn de rén jiào zhū hóu
国管的人叫诸侯

Each piece was called a state, and the man who held it a lord.

PAGE 3

yú shì zhōu gōng xiǎng le yí gè
于是周公想了一个

bàn fǎ
办法

So the Duke of Zhou thought of a plan.

PAGE 6

zhū hóu zài zì jǐ de guó lǐ
诸侯在自己的国里

shuō le suàn
说了算

In his own state a lord's word was final.

PAGE 7

kě shì tā men yào tīng zhōu wáng
可是他们要听周王
de huà
的话

But they had to obey the king of Zhou.

PAGE 10

nà shí hòu de rén jué de zhè
那时候的人觉得这
ge bàn fǎ hěn hǎo
个办法很好

People then thought it an excellent plan.

PAGE 8

měi nián yào sòng dōng xī gěi zhōu
每年要送东西给周
wáng dǎ zhàng yào dài bīng lái bāng
王打仗要带兵来帮
máng
忙

Each year they sent tribute, and in war they brought troops.

PAGE 11

yīn wèi qīn rén bú huì fǎn zì
因为亲人不会反自
jǐ jiā
己家

Because family would never rebel against family.

PAGE 9

yí gòng fēn le qī shí duō gè
一共分七十多个
guó
国

In all, more than seventy states were made.

PAGE 12

kě shì tā men wàng le yí jiàn
可是他们忘了一件
shì
事

But they had forgotten one thing.

PAGE 13

qīn rén guò le jǐ dài jiù bù
亲人过了几代就不
qīn le
亲了

After a few generations, kin are no longer kin.

PAGE 16

zhōu cháo yì kāi shǐ hěn qiáng hòu
周朝一开始很强后
lái màn màn jiù ruò le
来慢慢就弱了

Zhou was strong at first, and slowly grew weak.

PAGE 14

yì bǎi nián yǐ hòu zhū hóu hái
一百年以后诸侯还
rèn shi zhōu wáng ma
认识周王吗

A hundred years on, would a lord still know the king.

PAGE 17

wáng de dì fang yuè lái yuè xiǎo
王的地方越来越小
zhū hóu de yuè lái yuè dà
诸侯的越来越大

The king's land shrank and the lords' land grew.

PAGE 15

liǎng bǎi nián yǐ hòu shéi hái jì
两百年以后谁还记
de dāng nián shì shéi fēn de dì
得当年是谁分的地

Two hundred years on, who would remember who gave out the land.

PAGE 18

zhè ge wèn tí zhōu cháo yòng le
这个问题周朝用了
jǐ bǎi nián cái kàn qīng chu
几百年才看清楚

It took Zhou centuries to see the problem clearly.

分封天下 · Writing Practice

Dividing the Land

Name: _____

Date: _____

地方

dì fāng
area

地	方				
---	---	--	--	--	--

诸侯

zhū hóu
dukes or princes who ru...

诸	侯				
---	---	--	--	--	--

自己

zì jǐ
oneself

自	己				
---	---	--	--	--	--

亲人

qīn rén
one's close relatives

亲	人				
---	---	--	--	--	--

百年

bǎi nián
hundred years

百	年				
---	---	--	--	--	--

办法

bàn fǎ
means

办	法				
---	---	--	--	--	--

可是

kě shì
but

可	是				
---	---	--	--	--	--

他们

tā men
they

他	们				
---	---	--	--	--	--

Trace the gray word in the first group, then practise writing it in the rest. Keep each stroke inside the dashed lines.

fēng huǒ xì zhū hóu
烽火戏诸侯

The Beacon Fires

PAGE 1

zhōu cháo chuán dào dì shí èr gè
周朝传到第十二个

wáng jiào zhōu yōu wáng
王叫周幽王

The twelfth king of Zhou was King You.

PAGE 4

yōu wáng xiǎng le hěnn duō bàn fǎ
幽王想了很多办法

tā hái shì bú xiào
她还是不会笑

The king tried everything, and still she did not smile.

PAGE 2

yōu wáng yǒu yí gè hěnn xǐ huan
幽王有一个很喜欢

de rén jiào bāo sì
的人叫褒姒

King You had a favourite named Bao Si.

PAGE 5

yǒu yí gè dà chén chū le yí
有一个大臣出了一

gè zhǔ yì
个主意

One minister had an idea.

PAGE 3

bāo sì hěnn hǎo kàn kě shì cóng
褒姒很好看可是从

lái bú xiào
来不会笑

Bao Si was beautiful, and never smiled.

PAGE 6

shān shàng yǒu hěnn duō fēng huǒ tái
山上有很多烽火台

dǎ zhàng de shí hou yòng
打仗的时候用

There were beacon towers on the hills, for use in war.

PAGE 7

yì diǎn huǒ zhū hóu kàn jiàn jiù
一 点 火 诸 侯 看 见 就

huì dài bīng lái jiù
会 带 兵 来 救

Light them, and the lords would bring troops
to help.

PAGE 10

zhū hóu kàn jiàn huǒ lián yè dài
诸 侯 看 见 火 连 夜 带

bīng gǎn guò lái
兵 赶 过 来

The lords saw the fires and rode through the
night.

PAGE 8

nà ge dà chén shuō diǎn qǐ lái
那 个 大 臣 说 点 起 来

kàn kan
看 看

The minister said: light them and see.

PAGE 11

tā men pǎo dào chéng xià fā xiàn
他 们 跑 到 城 下 发 现

shén me shì yě méi yǒu
什 么 事 也 没 有

They reached the walls and found nothing
wrong.

PAGE 9

yōu wáng zhēn de ràng rén bǎ fēng
幽 王 真 的 让 人 把 烽

huǒ diǎn qǐ lái le
火 点 起 来 了

The king really did have the beacons lit.

PAGE 12

jǐ wàn gè rén zhàn zài nà lǐ
几 万 个 人 站 在 那 里

liǎn shàng quán shì huī
脸 上 全 是 灰

Tens of thousands stood there, their faces
grey with dust.

bāo sì zài chéng shàng kàn jiàn hū
褒姒在城上看见忽
rán xiào le
然笑了

Bao Si watched from the wall and suddenly
laughed.

hòu lái zhēn de yǒu dí rén dǎ
后来真的有人打
guò lái fēng huǒ yòu diǎn le
过来烽火又点了

Later a real enemy came, and the beacons
were lit again.

yōu wáng hěn gāo xìng cóng nà yǐ
幽王很高兴从那以
hòu yòu diǎn le hǎo jǐ cì
后又点了好几次

The king was delighted, and lit them several
times more.

zhè yí cì yí gè zhū hóu yě
这一次一个诸侯也
méi yǒu lái
没有来

This time not one lord came.

zhū hóu lái le jǐ cì màn màn
诸侯来了几次慢慢
jiù bù lái le
就不来了

The lords came a few times, and then
stopped coming.

yōu wáng sǐ zài chéng wài xī zhōu
幽王死在城外西周
jiù zhè yàng wán le
就这样完了

King You died outside the walls, and Western
Zhou was finished.

烽火戏诸侯 · Writing Practice

The Beacon Fires

Name: _____

Date: _____

诸侯

zhū hóu
dukes or princes who ru...

诸	侯				
---	---	--	--	--	--

烽火

fēng huǒ
fire beacon (to give al...

烽	火				
---	---	--	--	--	--

看见

kàn jiàn
to see

看	见				
---	---	--	--	--	--

大臣

dà chén
chancellor (of a monarc...

大	臣				
---	---	--	--	--	--

带兵

dài bīng
to lead troops

带	兵				
---	---	--	--	--	--

起来

qǐ lái
indicating the beginnin...

起	来				
---	---	--	--	--	--

没有

méi yǒu
haven't

没	有				
---	---	--	--	--	--

真的

zhēn de
really

真	的				
---	---	--	--	--	--

Trace the gray word in the first group, then practise writing it in the rest. Keep each stroke inside the dashed lines.

tiān mìng huàn le hěn duō cì
天命换了很多次

The Mandate Changes Hands

PAGE 1

xī zhōu wán le yǐ hòu xīn de
西周完了以后新的
wáng bān dào dōng biān de luò yì
王搬到东边的洛邑

After Western Zhou fell, the new king moved east to Luoyi.

PAGE 4

qián miàn sān bǎi nián jiào chūn qiū
前面三百年叫春秋
hòu miàn liǎng bǎi nián jiào zhàn guó
后面两百年叫战国

The first three centuries are called Spring and Autumn, the next two the Warring States.

PAGE 2

nà yǐ hòu jiào dōng zhōu kě shì
那以后叫东周可是
zhōu wáng yǐ jīng méi yǒu lì liàng
周王已经没有力量

That was Eastern Zhou, but the king had no power left.

PAGE 5

chūn qiū de shí hou hái yǒu yì
春秋的时候还有一
bǎi duō gè guó
百多个国家

In Spring and Autumn there were still over a hundred states.

PAGE 3

zhū hóu zì jǐ dǎ zì jǐ shéi
诸侯自己打自己谁
qiáng shéi shuō huà
强谁说话

The lords fought each other, and the strong did the talking.

PAGE 6

zhàn guó de shí hou zhǐ shèng xià
战国的时候只剩下
qī gè
七个

By the Warring States only seven were left.

zuì xī biān de nà ge guó jiào
最 西 边 的 那 个 国 叫
qín yì kāi shǐ hěn xiǎo
秦 一 开 始 很 小

The westernmost was called Qin, and at first
it was small.

nà nián shì gōng yuán qián èr èr
那 年 是 公 元 前 二 二
yī nián
一 年

That year was 221 BCE.

qín guó de rén hěn néng dǎ yě
秦 国 的 人 很 能 打 也
hěn néng rěn
很 能 忍

The men of Qin could fight, and they could
wait.

qín wáng jué de wáng zhè ge zì
秦 王 觉 得 王 这 个 字
bú gòu dà
不 够 大

The king of Qin felt the word king was not
large enough.

yì bǎi duō nián yǐ hòu qín bǎ
一 百 多 年 以 后 秦 把
lìng wài liù gè guó miè le
另 外 六 个 国 灭 了

A century later, Qin destroyed the other six.

tā bǎ huáng hé dì liǎng gè zì
他 把 皇 和 帝 两 个 字
fàng zài yì qǐ
放 在 一 起

He put the words huang and di together.

PAGE 13

cóng nà tiān qǐ tā jiào zì jǐ
从那天起他叫自己
huáng dì
皇帝

From that day he called himself emperor.

PAGE 16

kě shì qín cháo zhǐ guò le shí
可是秦朝只过了十
wǔ nián jiù méi yǒu le
五年就没有了

But Qin was gone in fifteen years.

PAGE 14

tā jiù shì qín shǐ huáng
他就是秦始皇

He was the First Emperor of Qin.

PAGE 17

cóng xià dào shāng cóng shāng dào zhōu
从夏到商从商到周
yí cì yòu yí cì
一次又一次

From Xia to Shang, from Shang to Zhou,
again and again.

PAGE 15

tā jué de qín cháo huì chuán yí
他觉得秦朝会传一
wàn dài
万代

He believed Qin would last ten thousand
generations.

PAGE 18

hěn duō nián yǐ hòu yǒu rén hǎn
很多年以后有人喊
cāng tiān yǐ sǐ shuō de hái shì
苍天已死说的还是
zhè jiàn shì
这件事

Many years later a man would shout that the
blue sky was dead — and he meant this.

天命换了很多次 · Writing Practice

The Mandate Changes Hands

Name: _____

Date: _____

以后

yǐ hòu
after

以	后				
---	---	--	--	--	--

自己

zì jǐ
oneself

自	己				
---	---	--	--	--	--

百年

bǎi nián
hundred years

百	年				
---	---	--	--	--	--

可是

kě shì
but

可	是				
---	---	--	--	--	--

没有

méi yǒu
haven't

没	有				
---	---	--	--	--	--

时候

shí hou
time

时	候				
---	---	--	--	--	--

觉得

jué de
to think that ...

觉	得				
---	---	--	--	--	--

多年

duō nián
many years

多	年				
---	---	--	--	--	--

Trace the gray word in the first group, then practise writing it in the rest. Keep each stroke inside the dashed lines.