

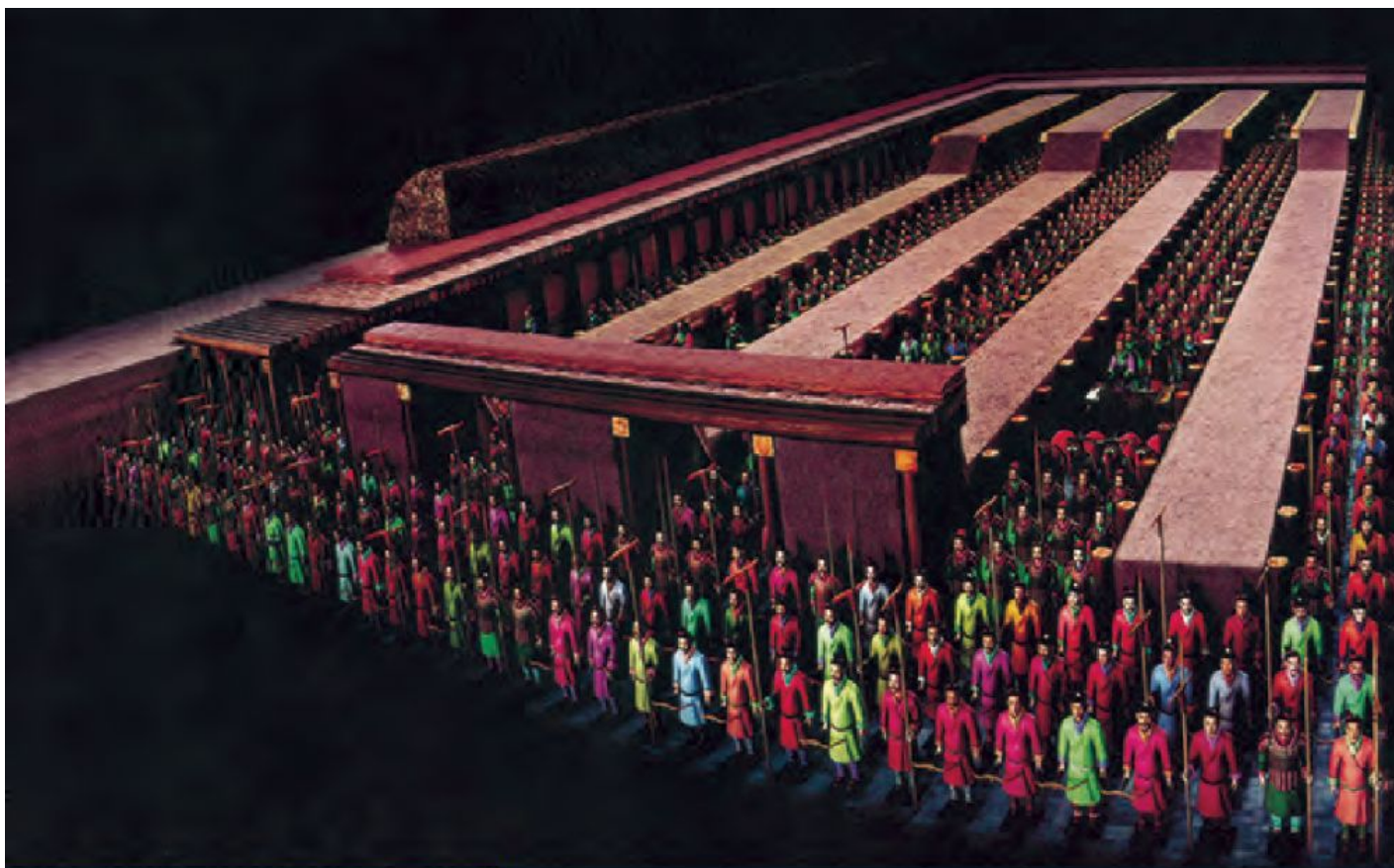
UNCOVERING THE PAST

The famous clay soldiers in Xi'an, China, remained hidden for more than 2,000 years until their discovery in 1974.

Warm Up

Discuss these questions with a partner.

1. What do you think the purpose of the clay soldiers was?
2. Can you think of other famous discoveries in the last 100 years?
3. What are some famous ancient monuments in your country?



Before You Read

- A. Completion.** Read the paragraph. Then match the words in **bold** to the correct definitions below.

Can you imagine digging in your yard one day and finding a life-sized **soldier** made completely of clay? That's what happened several decades ago when farmers in Xi'an, China, were digging wells.

Archeologists have since found about 6,000 more of these soldiers, along with horses, weapons, tools, and other **artifacts**. The huge **army** was meant to protect the **tomb** of the first ruler of China. The image above shows how it might have originally looked.

1. _____ are scientists who study objects from the past.
2. _____ are objects that people made in the past, such as tools.
3. A(n) _____ is a person in a large fighting group, or _____.
4. A(n) _____ is a place where a dead body is kept.

- B. Predict.** Look at the photo on page 136. Why do you think the clay soldiers today are brown, and not in full color? Read the passage to check your ideas.

Warriors in the front and side rows of the Emperor's terracotta army carried long-range weapons such as crossbows. Officers, horses, and foot soldiers stood in the army's central sections.



- 1 The first emperor¹ of China, Qin Shihuang, **accomplished** a huge amount during his rule. Between 221 and 210 B.C., he started the **construction** of the Great Wall. He built a large **network** of roads. He introduced a new writing system, **currency**, and set of measurements. The emperor also ordered the construction of a huge army of life-sized terracotta² soldiers. These, he hoped, would **protect** his tomb after his death.

- 1 An **emperor** is a leader who rules a group of regions or countries.
 2 **Terracotta** is dirt or clay used for pottery and building construction.
 3 **Excavation** is the act of removing objects from the ground.

Lost in Time

- 10 The soldiers in Xi'an's terracotta museum are today light brown, but they weren't always. They began as an army of red, blue, yellow, green, white, and purple. Sadly, most of the colors did not last to the present day. After being **exposed** to air during excavation,³ the coating under the paint began to fall off. The paint disappeared in less time than it takes to boil an egg, taking with it important pieces of history.

New Techniques

- Now new **techniques** are starting to **reveal** the army's true colors. Archeologists have recently discovered an area with more than a hundred soldiers. Many of these still have their painted features, including black hair, pink faces, and black or brown eyes. Chinese and German researchers have developed a special liquid to help preserve the soldiers' colors. After they find a soldier or other artifact, archeologists spray it with the liquid. They then cover it in plastic.

Back to Life

- Archeologists are also finding colors in the dirt around the soldiers. It's important not to disturb the dirt, so the colors won't be lost. "We are treating the earth as an artifact," says archeologist Rong Bo, the museum's leading chemist. The next challenge, says Rong, is to find a way to **apply** the colors to the army again. Once that happens, artists can bring Emperor Qin's army back to life in full, **vivid** color.

- ✓ More than 1,000 warriors have been unearthed in Pit 1, burial ground of the emperor's main army.



Reading Comprehension

Multiple Choice. Choose the best answer for each question.

Gist

1. What is the reading mainly about?
 - a. the death of Emperor Qin
 - b. how the emperor's tomb was built
 - c. the original colors of the terracotta soldiers
 - d. the life of soldiers under Emperor Qin

Detail

2. The terracotta soldiers were constructed to _____.
 - a. show the outside world China's greatness
 - b. be enjoyed by everyday people
 - c. frighten China's enemies
 - d. protect Emperor Qin's tomb

Main Idea

3. What is the main idea of the second paragraph?
 - a. The soldiers lost their colors very quickly.
 - b. The soldiers' paint fell off because of the high temperature.
 - c. Visitors to the museum are not actually seeing the real soldiers.
 - d. Being exposed to water is bad for the soldiers.

Detail

4. What have archeologists recently discovered?
 - a. a place with over a hundred soldiers
 - b. a written description of the soldiers' true colors
 - c. a special liquid in the tomb to preserve the soldiers' colors
 - d. a new tomb for Emperor Qin

Vocabulary

5. In line 23, what does the word *preserve* mean?
 - a. identify
 - b. save
 - c. destroy
 - d. enjoy

Reference

6. In line 25, what does *they* refer to?
 - a. soldiers
 - b. visitors
 - c. colors
 - d. archeologists

Inference

7. Which statement would Rong Bo probably agree with?
 - a. The soldiers should stay in their current, brown color.
 - b. Artists should be able to paint the soldiers in any color they want.
 - c. Archeologists can only guess at the soldiers' original colors.
 - d. We should try to restore the army's vivid colors.



Did You Know?

Each of the clay soldiers has different facial features. Emperor Qin ordered that every warrior be completely unique.

Identifying Homonyms

Homonyms are words that have the same spelling and pronunciation, but have different meanings. You can usually tell the correct definition of a word by identifying its part of speech and using the context. For example:

back (n.) a body part: My **back** hurts from moving furniture the whole day.
(adv.) the opposite way from the one you are facing or traveling: She took a step **back** when the dog barked at her.

part (n.) a piece of something that can be combined to make a whole: *The story had many **parts** to it.* (v.) to leave or be separated from each other: *They were very sad to **part** after a long journey together.*

- A. Definitions.** Read these sentences from the reading passage.
Then decide which definition matches the word in **bold**.
1. The first emperor of China, Qin Shihuang, accomplished a huge amount during his **rule**.
a. (*n.*) a law b. (*n.*) a period of control
 2. He built a large **network** of roads.
a. (*n.*) a system of connected lines b. (*n.*) a group of people who work together
 3. The soldiers in Xi'an's terracotta museum were not always **light brown**.
a. (*adj.*) not dark b. (*adj.*) not heavy
 4. Sadly, most of the colors did not **last** to the present day.
a. (*adj.*) most recent or final b. (*v.*) continue to exist
 5. Many of these still have their painted **features**, including black hair, pink faces, and black or brown eyes.
a. (*v.*) contains something important b. (*pl. n.*) parts of the face
 6. We are treating the **earth** as an artifact.
a. (*n.*) land or soil b. (*n.*) the third planet from the sun
 7. **Once** that happens, artists can bring Emperor Qin's army back to life in full, vivid color.
a. (*adv.*) when; as soon as b. (*adv.*) one time only

Critical Thinking Discuss with a partner. Do you think it's a good idea to paint the soldiers again? Why or why not?



Vocabulary Practice

A. Completion. Complete the passage by circling the correct word in each pair.

The tomb of Emperor Qin Shihuang was 1. (**constructed** / **exposed**) more than 2,000 years ago and has never been opened. This is because archeologists, as well as the Chinese government, want to 2. (**apply** / **protect**) what lies inside it.

Many archeologists feel we don't have the 3. (**currency** / **techniques**) right now to preserve whatever is found there. Once the artifacts are 4. (**exposed** / **protected**) to air, they may lose their 5. (**technique** / **vivid**) colors, much like the terracotta soldiers.

Modern tests have also 6. (**accomplished** / **revealed**) high levels of mercury, a liquid metal, in the area. It is thought that Emperor Qin's tomb is surrounded by a 7. (**currency** / **network**) of rivers filled with mercury, which symbolized never-ending life.

B. Words in Context. Read the sentences and circle **T** (true) or **F** (false).

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| 1. If you accomplish something, you do it successfully. | T | F |
| 2. When you reveal something, you keep it secret. | T | F |
| 3. A country's currency refers to its money. | T | F |
| 4. Colors that are vivid are very dull. | T | F |
| 5. Techniques are ways of doing something using special talent or skills. | T | F |
| 6. In a network of roads, the roads are connected to each other. | T | F |
| 7. If you apply paint to something, you remove it. | T | F |
| 8. If you protect someone, you keep the person safe. | T | F |

Word Partnership Use **reveal** with: (n.) reveal **information**, reveal **a secret**, reveal **the truth**, reveal **the reason**.

