

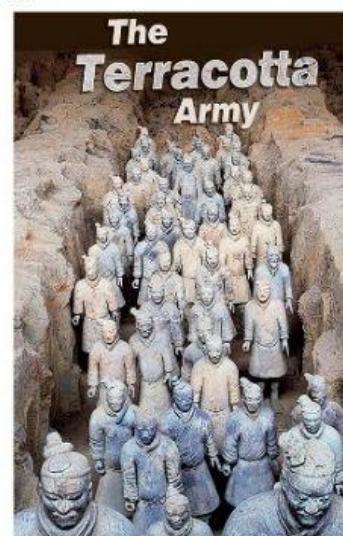
In 1974, a group of farmers in China were digging a well when they uncovered something strange: a life-sized statue of a soldier standing ready for battle. When the area was excavated later by archaeologists, one of the most incredible archaeological finds in history was revealed; a whole army of terracotta soldiers that have been undisturbed for over 2,000 years.

These statues were made to guard the tomb of Qin Shi Huang, the First Emperor of China. In ancient China, the dead were buried with their possessions because people believed that they could be taken into the afterlife with them. Qin Shi Huang wanted to be sure that he took all his belongings with him including his army, so he ordered his men to start working on it when he was just 13 years old. Around 700,000 men worked on building the elaborate treasure-filled tomb surrounded by an army of clay soldiers until the emperor's death.

Each one of the statues is unique. They each have their own individual facial expressions and features. Some have moustaches, others have beards and they are all different heights and builds. Some people believe that each one was modelled on the real soldiers of the First Emperor's personal army. In total, there are around 8,000 soldiers all lined up for battle in different pits alongside bronze horses and chariots and an armoury of weapons spread over 50 square kilometres.

The splendour of the burial site shows just how powerful Emperor Qin Shi Huang was. During his reign he brought the different states of China together to form the first Chinese Empire and he made the written language, the money and the laws the same for everyone. The first great fortresses that would become part of the Great Wall of China were also built during his reign. Strangely though, despite his importance and power, after his death, the emperor's tomb was forgotten and remained untouched for 2,000 years.

Today, the First Emperor's Tomb is a protected UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site. Archaeologists may never uncover all the riches of the tomb, but what has been found so far is a fantastic gift to the world. Any visitor to China will be amazed by the spectacular terracotta army. It is a sight not to be missed.



b) Read the text and choose the best answer A, B, C or D. ☺

Check these words ☺

1 What is the writer's main purpose in writing the text? ☺

- A to say how some farmers discovered the tomb
- B to explain why Qin Shi Huang's men built the tomb
- C to encourage tourists to visit the First Emperor's Tomb
- D to explain how UNESCO chooses its sites

2 What does the reader learn about Qin Shi Huang? ☺

- A He built the tomb to honour his army.
- B He wanted to be taken to the afterlife with his father.
- C He started the construction for the tomb when he was young.
- D He ordered his army to continue guarding the tomb after his death.

3 During Huang's lifetime, he ☺

- A established a single currency.
- B completed the Great Wall of China.
- C increased his army to 8,000.
- D uncovered very old treasures.

4 Which of the following might the writer say about the site? ☺

A The site is in danger of closing so people should visit it soon.

B The site is especially great for students studying archaeology because it has more to reveal.

C The site should be visited only after everything has been uncovered.

D The site is amazing but my favourite part is the red clay soldiers.

