

★ An unfinished story ...

Excavation (digging) at the site of the First Emperor's tomb complex continues today, and every day new treasures are found.

Keep watch on the internet and in the news for reports of the latest discoveries as they happen.



**THE FIRST EMPEROR: CHINA'S ENTOMBED WARRIORS**  
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Written by Victoria Collings, edited by Jennifer Blunden

Warrior Images reproduced with kind permission from the Shaanxi Cultural Heritage Promotion Centre and the Qin Shihuang Terracotta Warriors and Horses Museum cover: Charioteer (detail cat no 88)

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CHILDREN'S TRAIL

# THE FIRST EMPEROR

CHINA'S  
ENTOMBED  
WARRIORS

始皇帝



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# CHINA'S ENTOMBED WARRIORS

★ Go on a journey through the exhibition.

★ Look, discover and have fun!

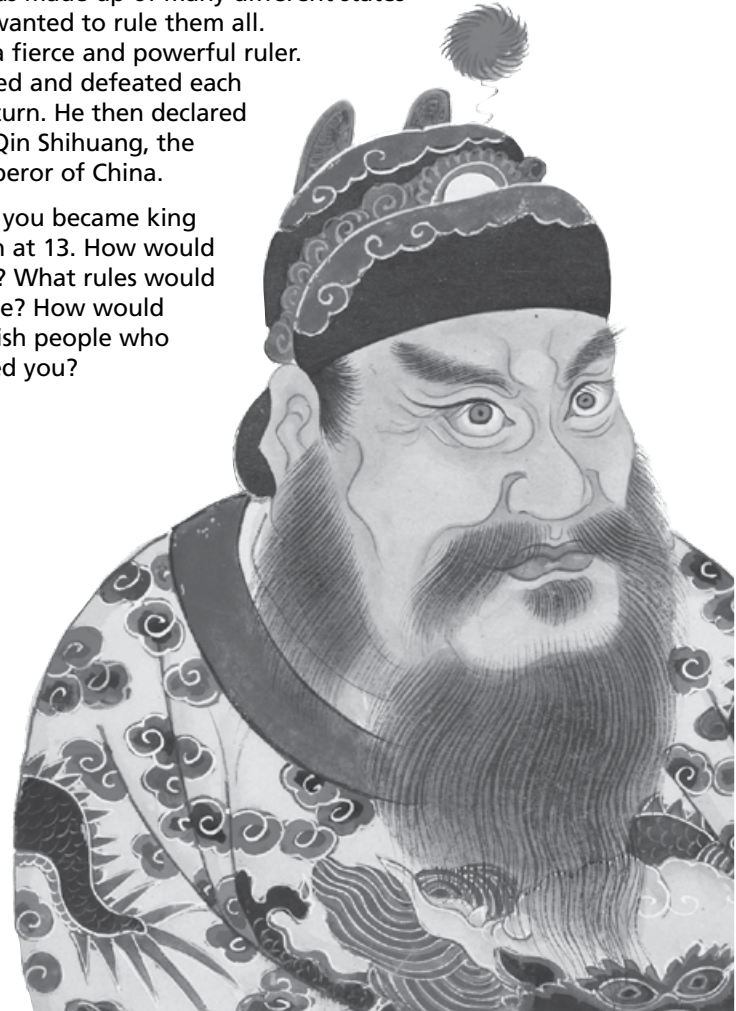
Come face to face with the guardian warriors of China's First Emperor, Qin Shihuang (say *chin sh-wung*), hidden underground for over 2000 years. This vast underground army was made to protect the tomb of the First Emperor. It was discovered completely by chance by a group of villagers digging in a field near the modern city of Xi'an (say *she-an*) in China.

★ Meet the First Emperor of China, Qin Shihuang.

China's First Emperor became king of the small state of Qin (say *chin*) when he was only 13 years old.

When this young king came to power, China was made up of many different states and he wanted to rule them all. He was a fierce and powerful ruler. He battled and defeated each state in turn. He then declared himself Qin Shihuang, the First Emperor of China.

**Imagine** you became king or queen at 13. How would you feel? What rules would you make? How would you punish people who disobeyed you?



## ROOM 1

### ★ Visit the Great Wall of China.



Long before the First Emperor came to power, the various states in northern China had built fortresses and walls to keep their enemies out.

After the First Emperor had conquered all these states, he sent his general with thousands of men to join together and rebuild the existing towers and walls to form one great, long wall that stretched right across northern China.

**Follow the Great Wall of China** as it stretches along the giant photo in Room 1 of the exhibition.

**Find** a spot on the Great Wall. Imagine you are standing there. Look all around. What can you see?

**Imagine** you are one of the 300 000 workers who laboured to build the wall, with only simple tools and bare hands.

**Think about** how many loads of dirt and gravel you would need to dig and carry and pound.

**At home: Build** your own wall or watchtower to guard your bedroom using cardboard boxes, tubes and paper. How big can you build it?

Image © Getty images: John Woodworth



## ROOM 2

### ★ Journey into the afterlife.

In ancient China, people believed that when they died, they began another life. They were often buried with things they might need in this next life, called the *afterlife*.

Many of the objects in this room were found in graves, put there thousands of years ago by the friends and family of the person who had died for that person to use in the afterlife.

#### Find this beautiful incense burner.

(in the big showcase along the back wall)

**What** creature is perched on top? This treasure was found completely by accident just poking out of the ground by a boy on his way home from school.

Have you ever found something very special lying on the ground?

#### Look closely at this bell.

In ancient China, bells were used to signal orders in battle as well as to make music.

**Imagine** the sound this bell would make. Would it be a deep, loud *dong* or a softer *ding*? Would it be played for music or in battle?

**Make up** your own code for the bell – for example, one *dong* could mean ‘attack’, two *dongs* ‘stop fighting’. How many signals can you think of?



Incense burner (cat no 18) Fengxiang County Museum



Bo bell (cat no 1) Baqi Bronze Museum



★ **Live** in the First Emperor's China.

When the First Emperor came to power, he made many changes and many new laws. Some of his laws and ideas were good, and some were bad.

**Good or bad? Rate the emperor's ideas!**

- same money across the empire
- same weights and measures across the empire
- burn all the history books
- build a national road system
- build the Great Wall
- bury alive people who don't agree with him

**Do some shopping in ancient China.**

**Find** these coins. These are some of the different coins used before the First Emperor came to power.



**Imagine** carrying them in your pocket. What would you use them to buy?

The First Emperor ordered that all writing, weights, measures and coins be the same. This made it easier for people throughout his empire to buy and sell goods and to communicate with each other. It also brought unity to all the people of Qin and helped strengthen his empire.

Coins from seven states (cat. no. 105) Terracotta Warriors and Horses Museum

**Discover the writing of ancient China.**

**Look** closely at the writing on this rubbing from a stone marker, called a *stele* (say *steel-e*).

**Imagine** carving the characters into a stone. How long would it take? What if you made a mistake?

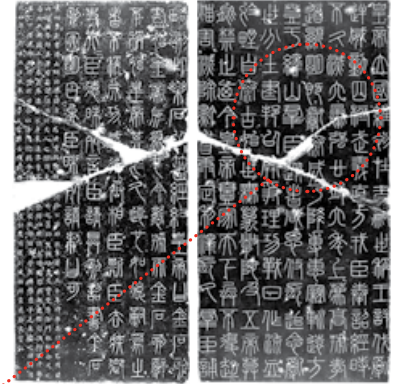
In Chinese language, each letter, or character, has a meaning.

This character means 'mountain'.



**Say** it in Chinese – *shan*. **Find** it on the rubbing.

The character used today is still quite similar.



Some more Chinese: **try out** these simple words and phrases.

*Ni hao ma?* (say *nee how mar*)  
How are you?

*Wo henhao, xie xie.*  
(say *woh hen-how, shear shear*)  
I am fine, thank you.

**At home:** What rules would you create if you were an emperor? **Draw up** a charter (list) of your rules. **Decorate** your charter and design a pattern around the edges. Would you be a cruel leader or a kind one?

Qin Imperial inscription (cat. no. 108) Art Gallery of NSW



★ Meet the First Emperor's terracotta army.

Who am I?

Match the clue to the warrior.



Armoured general

Armoured military officer

Light infantryman

Armoured infantryman

Standing archer

Armoured kneeling archer

Cavalryman

I wear a pleated robe so I can ride a horse.

I have a sideways topknot and you will only find me in Pit 1.

I am an officer and I stand with my arms ready to hold my reins.

I am the bigger of the two horses.

I wear armour and stand second in line to the general.

I always stand in a row of four and am not human.

I am the biggest and most powerful of all the warriors.

I carry a crossbow and stand around the edge of Pit 2 to form a defensive barrier.

I wear a simple robe and no armour.

## ROOM 4 (continued)

**TOP SECRET!** The First Emperor was so keen that his terracotta army and the treasures in his tomb stayed secret that he buried alive everyone who had worked on them.



Cavalry horse

Charioteer

Chariot horse

If you look closely you can see the pattern on the sole of my shoe.

**At home:** Create your own paper army. Cut out these warrior figures and put them in your own battle formation. Or make your own 'terracotta' army using modelling clay or plasticine. Think about how you will decorate your warriors – press patterns into their surface to show detail. Line them up ready for battle.



### TRUE OR FALSE?

Look carefully in Room 4 to find the right answer. (If you lived in the First Emperor's kingdom and chose the wrong answer, he might have you buried alive!)

The terracotta army and horses are revolutionary because:

- they are made of terracotta
- they were kept a secret for 2000 years
- they have real weapons
- they are life-like in size and detail.

### HOW MANY?

Archaeologists have been working for 35 years to excavate the First Emperor's army, and they are still far from finished.

They estimate that the army contains:

- 8000 warriors
- 140 chariots
- 560 chariot horses
- 116 cavalry horses

Archaeologists also think that each warrior took 150 days to make, with 1000 master potters working on the job. Calculate how long it would have taken to make the army.

★ **Live** forever and ever.

The First Emperor wanted to live forever (to be immortal). He searched throughout China for special potions that would extend his life.

He also built a vast tomb so that when he died he would have all the things he would need in the afterlife. His tomb was like an underground city, with a palace, stables, offices, an armoury and even an imperial zoo. He also had a number of his palace officials buried with him so they could serve him in his afterlife.

Look closely at this crane and chariot.

Why do you think the Emperor may have wanted to include these things in his tomb?



(top) Crane with fish in its beak (cat no 90) Terracotta Warriors and Horses Museum  
(below) No 2 Chariot (replica, cat no 128) Terracotta Warriors and Horses Museum



Find this armour suit and helmet.

This armour was made especially for the First Emperor's tomb. It's made from pieces of stone laced together with copper wire. It would have been far too heavy for real warriors to wear.

The armour worn by real warriors in battle was made of leather, coated with varnish to make it stronger and harder to pierce. Their helmets would have been made of bronze.



**Imagine** you are going into battle. How would you feel wearing armour made of leather? Would you feel protected? Would it be easy to fight? What material would you choose for your armour?

**At home:** Design your own suit of armour based on the stone armour on display or the armour worn by the terracotta warriors. **Make** your final design out of cardboard. **Put on** your armour and **prepare** for battle.