

Grade 5 – The Terra Cotta Warriors

- 1- Read the text *The Terra Cotta Warriors* on pages 2 to 4.
- 2- Answer the following comprehension questions:
 - a) Whose tomb was discovered?
 - b) How would you describe the clay figures? Be specific.
 - c) What do you think was the most interesting thing about the terra cotta warriors?
- 3- Think of what the modern soldier now has as a replacement for the ancient warrior's horse, armour and weapon. Fill out a Venn diagram on page 5. Compare the Terra Cotta warriors to today's soldiers. Put what they have in common in the middle part where the two circles meet. Put what is different in the rest of the circles.

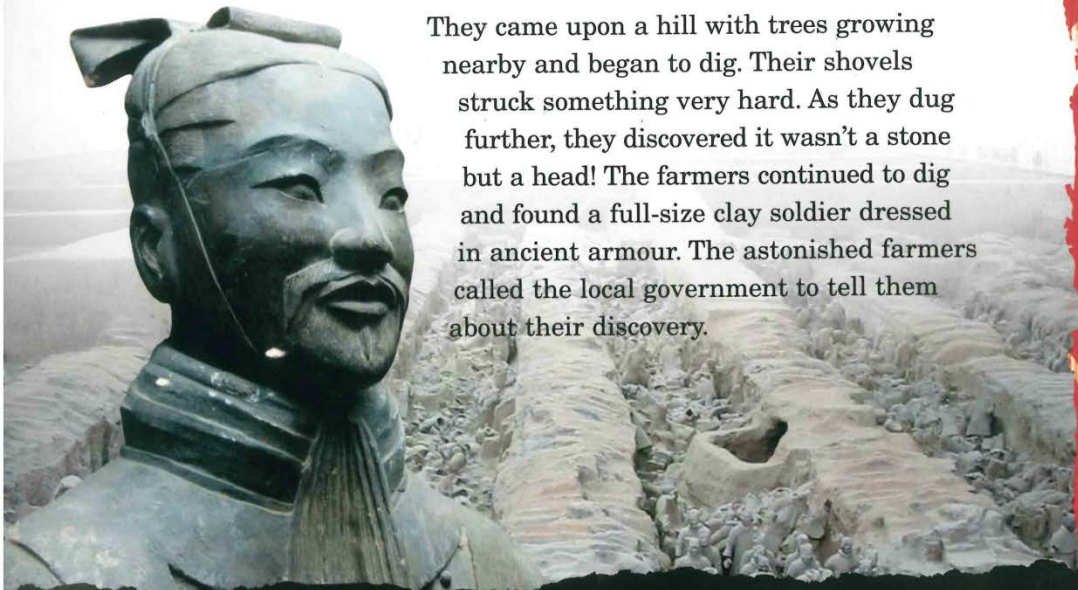
Send me your work at melanie.custeau2@csmb.qc.ca .

warm up

Using modelling clay, make a human face. How will you make it look real?

In 1974, the wells near Shaanxi, China, were drying up. Farmers in the area began to search for a new source of water.

They came upon a hill with trees growing nearby and began to dig. Their shovels struck something very hard. As they dug further, they discovered it wasn't a stone but a head! The farmers continued to dig and found a full-size clay soldier dressed in ancient armour. The astonished farmers called the local government to tell them about their discovery.



THE TERRA COTTA WARRIORS

The Eighth Wonder of the World

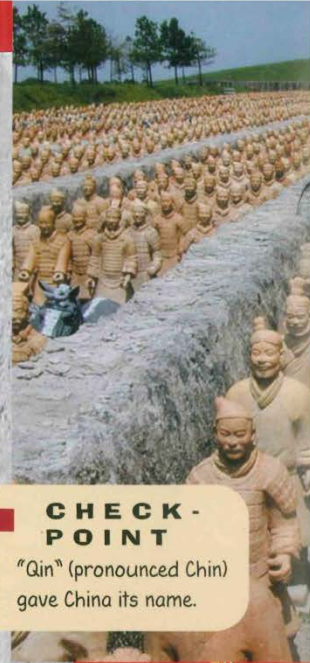


At Attention!

The government officials were amazed as they looked at the full-size clay figure. They called scientists to begin an archaeological dig.

The digging pit was about the size of six football fields. It was two to three stories deep. The archaeologists realized that the farmers had discovered the tomb of the first Emperor of China! The tomb held over 7500 soldiers standing at full attention to protect their leader, Emperor Qin!

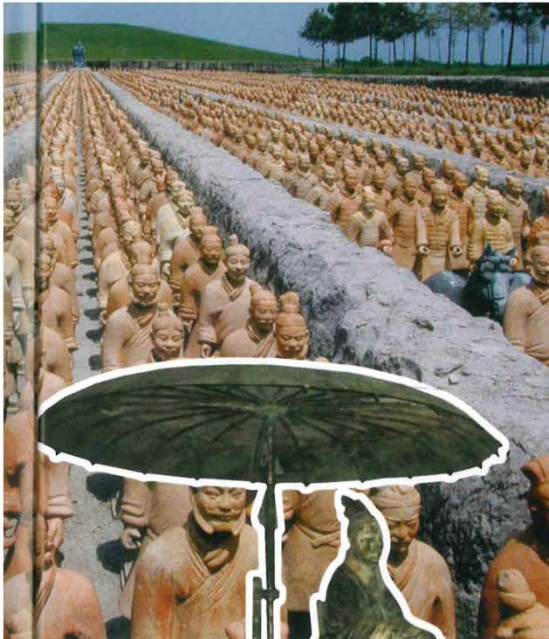
All of the soldiers were in battle position with their hands open to receive a weapon. The weapons were found in another pit. When they were cleaned, it was discovered that all the swords, daggers, arrowheads, and battle-axes were made of bronze and were still sharp enough to split a log.



CHECK-POINT

"Qin" (pronounced Chin) gave China its name.

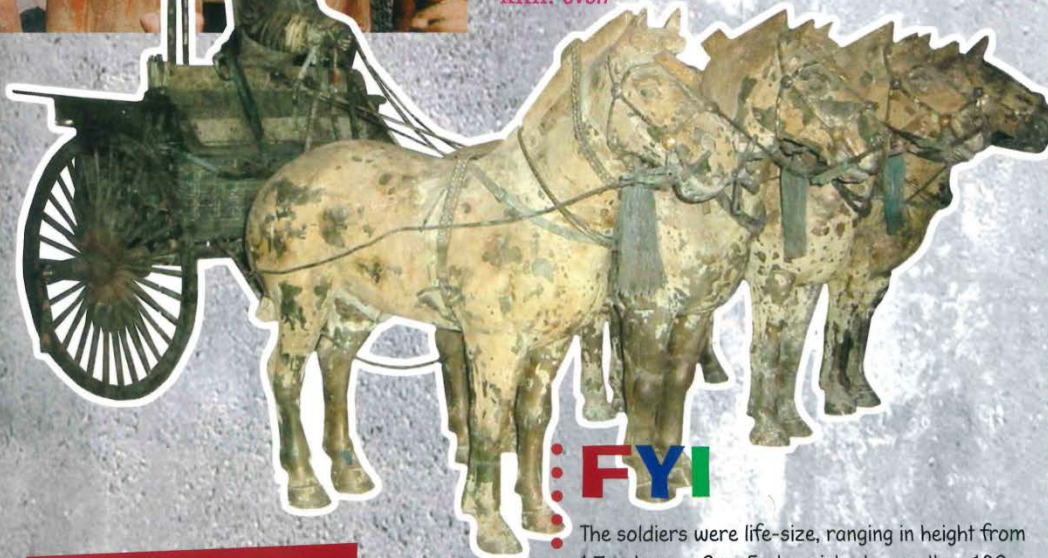




Every soldier had been made of **terra cotta** clay and baked in a fire-hot **kiln**. They became known as the Terra Cotta Warriors.

As more and more warriors were uncovered, the archaeologists noticed that each soldier had its own facial expression. Even the uniforms were different for each rank of soldier. The warriors wore black or brown armour over uniforms painted red or green. The heads and hands of all the warriors were removable and could be exchanged.

terra cotta: brownish-red clay
kiln: oven



wrap up

1. Imagine you were one of the potters commanded to make the Terra Cotta Warriors. In your journal, record the instructions given to you and what happened as you built the emperor's tomb.
2. Draw a Venn diagram and compare the Terra Cotta Warriors to today's soldiers.

FYI

- The soldiers were life-size, ranging in height from 1.7 m to over 2 m. Each weighed more than 180 kg. As the dig continued, clay horses and chariots were also found.
- Deadly booby traps were planted around the tomb.

WEB CONNECTIONS

Use pictures of the Terra Cotta Warriors from the Internet to create a travel poster.

Venn Diagram

Terra Cotta Warriors

Today's Soldiers

