

Non-fiction

Group 1



The Legendary Terracotta Warriors

American International School Hong Kong, Kwon, Hojoon Patrick – 7

Emperor Qin became emperor when he was only 13 years old. When he was born, his name was Zheng. Then he changed his name to Qin Shi Huang Di. Which meant ‘the first emperor of China’. Emperor Qin conquered the 6 surrounding kingdoms. In present, we call all of the 7 kingdoms [including Qin] China.

Emperor Qin ordered people to build the Great Wall of China for the defense of the war. One day, Emperor Qin said to his warriors, “Make an army of clay statues in the place where I’m buried”. Why did he say that? You may ask. He thought that his clay made warrior will protect him in the afterlife.

The first terracotta warrior was found by a farmer who worked in Xian, China. Archaeologists found nearly 2000 of them. Archaeologists think there are 8000 total. There are also 130 chariots along with 520 horses and 150 cavalry horses. Each statue has its own facial expressions. Even the horses have its own facial expressions. There were even wild animal statues beside the terracotta warriors. It took 40 years to finish the terracotta army. Before anyone had found the terracotta warriors, they were buried for 22 centuries. The pits where they were buried is nearly 4 football fields.

I wonder what part of history in China will be discovered now.

The Amazing Terracotta Warriors

American International School Hong Kong, Ng, Yu-Zhi Maegan – 6

Terracotta warriors are amazing! They are clay soldiers that were buried with China's first emperor, Qin Shi Huang Di. Qin Shi Huang Di was an amazing man himself: he became king in 246 B.C. when he was only 13 years old! He built roads and canals, and started building the Great Wall of China. He was a very powerful king, but he also made many enemies. So, he ordered workers to make the terracotta warriors to accompany and protect him in the afterlife.

Terracotta warriors are amazing because there are so many of them! So far, about 2000 terracotta warriors have been found, but many more are still buried. It is estimated that there are as many as 8000 terracotta warriors in the emperor's tomb.

Terracotta warriors are amazing because they are unique! Each terracotta warrior is as tall as a real man, and each one of them looks different, just like in the real world where no two persons look the same. They have different costumes, hairstyles, facial expressions and even ear shapes!

Terracotta warriors are amazing because they form an orderly army! The clay soldiers were placed into pits, all facing the east where the emperor's enemy states were, together with their weapons, clay horses and chariots. There are stories about miniature cities and rivers of mercury inside the vast tomb still waiting to be discovered. Indeed, the emperor made sure that he would be as powerful in the afterlife as he was in life!

Terracotta warriors are amazing because their creation required a lot of people's hard work! Such an impressive army of clay soldiers took 700,000 workers more than 30 years to make. Even so, the work was never finished: an empty pit was found in the emperor's tomb, where more clay soldiers were to be placed.

Terracotta warriors are amazing because we continue to learn new things from them today! These clay soldiers were made more than 2000 years ago. Even though it has been more than 40 years since they were discovered, scientists today are still thinking of new ways to study them. For example, scholars are still trying to figure out how workers were able to make each terracotta warrior look unique. Recently, scientists have also found ways of preserving the paint on the clay soldiers so that we can learn more about how people lived and dressed more than 2000 years ago.

If you have a chance to visit the terracotta warriors, I am sure you will find them amazing too!

My Big Adventure!

American International School Hong Kong, Nireshwalia, Jihan – 7

Vacations

The summer vacations were close. We had recently moved to Asia and we all came up with the idea of visiting CHINA!

The Trip

Finally the day is here, we are here in Shanghai. Beautiful place! At the airport I found a tourism information booklet. I came across a very interesting page, The Terracotta Warriors! I was so amazed to read about them. I had to visit this place!

No we can't!!

Next morning at the breakfast I slipped the booklet towards my Dad. Dad said we already have planned the events and there is no more time for anything else. I tried my best, but my parents wouldn't agree. I had to visit the place somehow!

I can make it!

In the list of our tourist places to visit, I saw that on our 3rd day we are going to visit Xi'an. That's the entire Terracotta Warrior burial site. I am so close!! I can visit the site, but how?

A new friend.

On the third day we finally arrived at my most awaited place, Xi'an! The whole entire day was spent seeing, The Drum Tower, The Bell Tower, come on guys!! I have better things to do!! In our tour, I met an equally bored looking boy like me. His name was Henry Fung, and he was from Hong Kong. I told him about the Terracotta Warriors and he also knew about it. In fact he knew much more! He told me about the powerful Emperor Qin Shi Huang, how he wanted to make the whole army of around 8000 soldiers to be made and buried along with him after his death. All because he wanted to be protected by them even after he died.

The Plan

Henry and I, both wanted to visit the site very badly. Henry said, "But we can't! The site is protected and no one can enter it!" We needed a PLAN! We decided to sneak out of our rooms in the midnight. We had the map from the tourist booklet, and we could read it! We were here, at the burial site. We hid and watched them. They entered a small opening in the corner and disappeared. We followed them but were too scared to enter the dark opening. Brave Henry put his hand in and he said, "I can feel something like a book!!" He pulled it out, it was a diary!

The Diary

I couldn't read Mandarin, luckily Henry could, with great great difficulty! He explained that diary belonged to one of the men who made the Terracotta Warriors. He said the whole site is also buried with loads of treasure! One who gets in will surely DIE!! "That's it!" I said, "enough of adventure, lets go back!" Henry was equally scared and we rushed back to our hotel rooms.

NOOOOOO!!!!

Next day at breakfast, I was grim! Dad thought I was sad because we couldn't visit the site. He said, "Hey buddy, how about we go and check out the burial site today!!" All I could shout was, "NOOOooooooo!" I heard a similar cry from the table next to us! Guess who it was??

Mysteries of the Terracotta Warriors

Kau Yan School, Gittings, Mark – 8

It's been more than 40 years since some Chinese farmers discovered the Terracotta Warriors. In that time, teams of archaeologists and scientists from all over the world have spent thousands of hours studying this amazing discovery. But despite all their hard work, there are still lots of mysteries which they haven't been able to solve.

One mystery is why the Terracotta Warriors were made more than 2,200 years ago. We think that the First Emperor of China called Qin Shi Huang, who is buried in a tomb a mile away from the Terracotta Warriors, believed in life after death, so he wanted an army to protect him in his afterlife. But we have no proof of this.

Another mystery is why no two out of the approximately 8,000 warriors are exactly the same. From a distance, they look similar. But when you study them closely, there are little differences in their faces and ears. We think that the emperor ordered the workers to copy from an army of real warriors, which would explain why they are all different from each other. But again, we have no proof of this.

Yet another mystery is the way the warriors were painted. Over the past 2,200 years, much of the paint has faded from the warriors. This makes life even more difficult for the archaeologists and scientists trying to solve this mystery. Some paint still remains and, while most warriors have pink faces, there is one strange warrior with a green face. Some experts believe this warrior was painted green by mistake. Other experts think the green face was designed to frighten enemies away. But yet again, we have no proof of this.

Still another mystery is why one of the pits is empty. Unlike the other three pits, pit number four doesn't have anything in it. Some people think that the emperor planned to bury criminals in this pit. But no bones have been found, so this mystery is still unsolved.

Scientists have succeeded in solving some mysteries. For example, they recently used laser technology to reveal the binding material used to stop the paint from falling off the warriors. That is an important discovery because it will make it much easier to restore the warriors. Maybe in the future, the scientists and archaeologists will succeed in solving some other of the other mysteries as well.

But the biggest mystery of all is what is hidden inside the nearby tomb of Qin Shi Huang, which has still not been opened after thousands of years. According to a famous historian named Sima Quan, the tomb contains a wonderful underground kingdom. But his writings also warn that the tomb is protected by crossbow booby traps and 100 rivers of poisonous mercury. No one knows whether this is really true or not. So until they excavate the tomb, this biggest mystery of all will remain unsolved.



Non-fiction

Group 2

The Mysterious Warriors

Bradbury School, Chan, Airiana – 8

Who was the first emperor of China?

Qin Shi Huang (259 BC–210 BC) was the earliest emperor to rule over China. Like other Chinese emperors, he was very mean to his subjects. If somebody disobeyed or disagreed with him, he would either force them to build The Great Wall of China or execute them. Sometimes, their family members might also be punished even though they were innocent. Qin Shi Huang wanted to enhance his own power in China, so he burnt many historical books and executed recalcitrant scholars. On the other hand, he was a well organized and capable person because he set up a lot of big projects, such as The Great Wall of China, the existence of the Terracotta Warriors and many more. These projects are now huge treasures for China. The Terracotta Warriors were also known as the Terracotta Army.

Why did Qin Shi Huang want the Terracotta Warriors to be placed in his tomb?

Qin Shi Huang wanted the Terracotta Warriors to be buried with him in his tomb as a show of his glory. To remember the army that triumphed over the warring states to unite China, and people used to believe that objects like statues could be animated in the afterlife. Important or royal people like Qin Shi Huang required an after-death army to be concealed with him in his tomb.

How do the Terracotta Warriors look?

The size of a warrior is about 5 feet and 8 inches tall. Terracotta Warriors were painted in a variety of colours, but since they were exposed to air, some of them have turned either grey or black. Luckily, some still have their colour. If you look closely, all the warriors' facial features are unique. Even a facial recognition expert used a Neoface Facial Recognition, they still couldn't find a pair of warriors that looked identical. Some of the warriors were holding swords, others were battling with crossbows, some were riding on chariots pulled by 2 horses, and a few were just riding on horses. It took more than 700,000 people and more than thirty years to complete this gigantic project.

How were they positioned?

They were all arrayed facing to the direction of east. Most warriors were placed in the first vault, the largest and most impressive vault in Qin Shi Huang's tomb. There were around 8,000 warriors, 130 chariots and 670 horses. In total that is 8800! The tomb is in Xi'an China.

When and how were they found?

The Terracotta Warriors excavation was regarded as one of the greatest discoveries of the 20th century. Vault one was discovered when farmers were digging a well in 1974. Vault two and vault three were found 2 years later. They were about 20 meters away from vault one. Archaeologists predicted the construction started when Qin Shi Huang was at the age of 13.

What was the shape of a team and what does a general look like?

The warriors were divided into groups, and each group had to defeat an enemy. If a team failed to defeat their opponent, the whole team will be killed. Each team had a general to lead the team. The generals were built slightly taller than the other warriors. They all had a mustache and a goatee. Their hands were overlapped, with his right hand's index finger pointing to the left while their left hand was resting on top of his right hand. The general of each team was wearing gears that looked like they were made out of metal instead of terracotta.

How did they know how to make such amazing weapons?

The swords that the warriors were using could go through hard-wearing armour. Nowadays, the swords being found are still very sharp and not rusty at all. Scientists found out the swords were being coated with a layer of Chromium, which will need 4000 degree Celsius to melt. Such technique was only developed in Germany in the 20th century. Their crossbows were made from bronze pieces. All the arrowheads were so powerful that it could pierce a hole through the enemy's body. Their armours were made from alloy; alloy is a mixture of metals and many other elements. The armour they wore was called stone armour, which gave very strong protection. Where the knowledge in Qin Dynasty came from still remains as a mystery. Some scientists even believe that Qin Shi Huang had come across with some creatures from outer space, and they told him which materials he should use and how to carve them. With those weapons, they could win almost every single battle.

Conclusion:

When I wrote this article, I did lots of researches, from articles to pictures and from pictures to videos. The more I studied, the more interesting it felt. One day, if you have a chance to go to Xi'an, China, do not miss seeing Qin Shi Huang's tomb! Who knows, you might find a tiny stone that is magical. According to the Chinese historical book called Shi Yi Ji, it mentioned that the aliens whom Qin Shi Huang had come across with some unusual creatures from outer space, the creatures used a piece of stone no bigger than a grain to help them survive. With that stone, they could light up a whole room at night! They could even throw that piece of thing into a river, then the whole river would boil and bubble!

New Tales of the Terracotta Army

Clearwater Bay School, Chiou, Isabella – 10

The Terracotta Army is a part of a massive burial tomb built for Emperor Qin Shi Huang, the first emperor of China. There are over 8,000 life size statues of soldiers buried along with the emperor.

Emperor Qin wanted to live forever. He spent much of his life and resources searching for immortality and the "elixir of life". He also spent a huge amount of resources building for himself the largest single tomb built to a leader in the history of the world. He felt this huge army would protect him and help him to keep his power in the afterlife. He died and was buried in 210 BC, over 2000 years ago.

The soldiers of the Terracotta Army are life-size statues. They average around 5 feet 11 inches tall with some soldiers being as tall as 6 foot 7 inches. Despite there being so many statues, no two soldiers are exactly alike. There are soldiers of all ages with different ranks, facial features, and hairstyles. Some of the soldiers look calm, while others look angry and ready to fight.

The soldiers were even designed with different clothing and armor. Men from the cavalry are dressed different than foot soldiers. Some soldiers don't have armor. Perhaps they were supposed to be scouts or spies.

As impressive as the soldiers are today, they were likely much more impressive 2,000 years ago. The soldiers were painted to look even more realistic and then covered with a lacquer finish. They also held real weapons such as crossbows, daggers, maces, spears, and swords.

To build 8,000 life size statues must have taken a large army of workers. Archeologists estimate that over 700,000 craftsmen worked on the project for several years. The bodies of the soldiers were made in an assembly line fashion. There were moulds for the legs, arms, torsos, and heads. These pieces were then assembled together and custom features such as ears, moustaches, hair, and weapons were added later.

There are between 8 and 10 different head shapes for the soldiers. The different head shapes represent people from different areas of China as well as different personalities of the soldiers. The heads were made from moulds and then customized and attached to the bodies.

The tomb is most famous for its large rows of soldiers, but there were plenty of other statues to accompany Emperor Qin in the afterlife. There were 150 life-size cavalry horses and 130 chariots with 520 horses buried with the army. In other areas of the tomb, figures of government officials and entertainers have been found.

Archeologists have had to reconstruct the soldiers from thousands of pieces.

The Terracotta Army was discovered by farmers digging a well in 1974, over 2,000 years after it was covered over during the burial of Emperor Qin. The army was located about a mile from the tomb of the emperor.

Start with the smallest pit, Pit 3, containing 72 warriors and horses, which is believed to be the army headquarters due to the number of high-ranking officers unearthed here. It's interesting to note that the northern room would have been used to make sacrificial offerings before battle. In the next pit, Pit 2, containing around 1300 warriors and horses, you get to examine five of the soldiers up close: a kneeling archer, a standing archer, a cavalryman and his horse, a mid-ranking officer and a general. The level of detail is extraordinary: the expressions, hairstyles, armour and even the tread on the footwear are all unique.

The largest pit, Pit 1, is the most imposing. Housed in a building the size of an aircraft hangar, it is believed to contain 6000 warriors (only 2000 are on display) and horses, all facing east and ready for battle. The vanguard of three rows of archers (both crossbow and longbow) is followed by the main force of soldiers, who originally held spears, swords, dagger-axes and other long-shaft weapons. The infantry were accompanied by 35 chariots, though these, made of wood, have long since disintegrated.

The Terracotta Warriors

German Swiss International School Primary, Farquhar, Adam – 11

The Terracotta Warriors were made by sculptors for Emperor Qin Shi Huang. Emperor Qin Shi Huang was famous because he was the first Emperor of Qin dynasty from 220 to 210 BC. Emperor Qin Shi Shang requested for the Terracotta Warriors to be built to protect him in the afterlife. The Emperor hired the best sculptors from Shaanxi Province to sculpt the Terracotta Warriors. However, he wanted the Warriors to be a secret so after the eleventh year of carving, he killed all the sculptures.

The Terracotta Warriors were all in different shapes, sizes and varied expressions. The Warriors' each had either a sword, bow, spear, shield or were standing on a chariot connected to a horse. They stood from 5'9 (175cm) to 6'3 (190cm) tall. The tombs where the Warriors' laid was approximately 2KM x 2KM. The Terracotta Warriors were one of the top archaeological finds of the 20th century as they were 2,200 years old! — It dates back to the uniting of China under one emperor, who's buried there.

The Terracotta Warriors' tomb is at this moment closed to the public. It is based at Lintong, Xi'an, Shaanxi, China.

The discovery of the Terracotta Warriors was found on March 29th, 1974 by local farmers digging a water well approximately 1.6 kilometres east of the Qin Emperor's tomb mound at Mount Li (Lishan). Estimates from 2007 were that the three pits containing the Terracotta Army held more than 8,000 soldiers, 130 chariots with 520 horses and 150 cavalry horses, the majority of which remained buried in the pits nearby Emperor Qin Shi Huang's mausoleum.

The Warriors' tomb included four pits. The first pit was opened to the public on China's National Day, on October the 1st 1979. The first pit was the last pit to be found but was also the biggest pit. The second tomb was found in 1976, and is twenty metres northeast of the first pit. The third tomb was also found in 1976, twenty five metres northeast of the first pit. The third tomb looked to be the command centre of the armed forces. The third tomb went on display in 1989, with sixty eight warriors, a war chariot and four war horses. The fourth pit exists although it is empty.

This discovery is very important to China as it is one of China's historical artefacts. It was a great find for archaeologists looking for something new to uncover. It is significant because the hundreds of detailed life-size models represent the army and the history of Emperor Qin Shi Huang. It is considered one of the greatest archaeological sites in the world, and one of the greatest discoveries of the 20th century.

The Terracotta Warriors were made from moulding, white grit, quartz, mica and feldspar. Each Warrior took at least one day for a sculptor to make.

The Terracotta Warriors

Glenealy School, Suzuki, Sara – 8

Over 2000 years ago there lived a man in China. He was called Qin Shi Huang, when he turned 13 years old he became the first ever emperor in China. Emperor Qin spent much of his life searching for immortality and built himself a tomb complex that encompassed 20 square miles. Around 700,000 of his people made statues called the terracotta warriors, also known as the terracotta army. When he died, they were to be buried with him. These fascinating warriors are located in Shaanxi. The warriors lain underground for more than 2000 years, and most of them held real weapons such as spears and swords and even after it was lain underground there were still sharp.

There are around 8000 soldiers, 130 chariots and 670 horses however the total is not really known and experts estimated that it took around 40 years to finish them all. It is made of many figures including soldiers, horses, chariots, bowmen and archers. Crossbows were set to fire automatically if the figures were robbed. Most of the figures measure 5 feet 11 inches tall but some soldiers are as tall as 6 foot 7 inches. The figures are life sized (183~195 CM) and each have unique different faces, no two of them are alike. Legend says that the first emperor had a single edged eyelid, so all of the armies was made with him. Ordinary soldiers are bareheaded, and their hair is plaited and knotted in elaborate style. To help the figures stay upright, the upper body and the head are hollow and the lower body is solid. The different head shapes represent people from different areas of China as well as different personalities of the soldiers. The heads were made from moulds and then customized and attached to the bodies. There were moulds for the legs, arms, torsos, and heads. These pieces were then assembled together and custom features such as ears, mustaches, hair, and weapons were added later.

Many people think that it is one of the most significant archaeological sites in the world and the greatest discovery of the 20th century. Visiting the terracotta warriors is also the top attractions in China. It is the world's largest and most intricate ancient bronze artifacts. It was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1987 and attracts more than 2 million visitors a year. Each soldiers has a footprint of 2.25 square feet. All of them together covers around 32 football pitches. The tomb is most famous for its large rows of soldiers, but there were plenty of other statues to accompany Emperor Qin in the afterlife. As impressive as the soldiers are today, they were likely much more impressive 2,000 years ago. The soldiers were painted to look even more realistic and then covered with a lacquer finish. The soldiers were even designed with different clothing and armor. Men from the cavalry are dressed differently than foot soldiers. Some soldiers don't have armor. Perhaps they were supposed to be scouts or spies.

There were 4 main pits approximately 7 metres deep and these have already been excavated. These were located approximately 1.5 kilometres east of the burial mound. The first pit which was 230 metres long and 62 metres wide, containing more than 6,000 warriors. Pit one is the largest pit, is rectangular and covers 14,000 square meters (150,000 square feet) of space. It has 11 corridors, most of which are more than 3 metres wide and paved with small bricks with a wooden ceiling supported by large beams and posts. This design was also used for the tombs of nobles and would have resembled palace hallways when built. The wooden ceilings were covered with reed mats and layers of clay for waterproofing, and then mounded with more soil raising them about 2 to 3 metres above the surrounding ground level when completed. Pit two has cavalry and infantry units as well as war chariots and is thought to represent a military guard. By far pit three is the smallest pit. Pit three is the command post, with high-ranking officers and a war chariot. Pit four is empty, which is maybe left unfinished by its builders.

They were found on 29th of March 1974 in Xi'an (a famous China cultural city) while farmers were digging water wells. They suddenly found parts of bodies coming out except they weren't bones, it was the terracotta pieces. Some of the Terracotta warriors are kneeling and some are not. Most of the statues were found broken into many pieces which archeologists have been carefully putting back together for many years. Terracotta is a common type of hard-baked clay. Once the soldiers were shaped with wet clay, they would have been allowed to dry and then baked in a very hot oven called a kiln so the clay would harden. Some of the statues were still painted which can give us an imagery of how the warriors were once painted. The horses in the army are saddled and this shows that the saddle had been invented by the time of the Qin Dynasty. The terracotta warriors truly are amazing.

History of the Terracotta Warriors

International College Hong Kong (Hong Lok Yuen), Cheng, Alfred – 9

The Beginning

There was a boy called Ying Zheng (259 B.C. 210 B.C) who was the Qin King's son. He lived in Qin in Ancient China and when he was 13, he became the King of Qin for 37 years (247 B.C. 210 B.C.).

He wanted to defeat the six countries because he wanted more power and wealth. When he started defeating the six warring states of China, it took him 26 years to finish this. The six defeated countries were “Han, Chu, Qi, Wei, Zhao, Yan”. When he was 39, he finally defeated all of them and he was the only King, this kingdom is what we know today as China.

China Is Born

After he became the King, he renamed himself to be “Qin Shi Huangdi”, which in English means the first Emperor of China. During his ruling, he did a lot of good things, like united all the different Chinese characters / words and this is very important in the Chinese culture. Also he united all the currencies and scales on weight, length and size. But he also did bad things too. For example, people did not have freedom to read and he gave out severe punishments or death sentences if they did it.

Death Of The King And His After Death Kingdom

By defeating the six Chinese states, he made a lot of enemies. When he grew old, he was scared the rest of the enemies would assassinate him. Also he always believed in immortal life, he wanted to rule the kingdom when he was in “heaven”. Therefore he ordered his workers to build a palace and 8,000 warriors out of clay so he could commend them in his afterlife. In September 10, 210 BC was quite a bad day, the first emperor of China just died. The emperor maybe died of illness or the king was murdered.

Discovery

In 1974, some local farmers in Xi'an China discovered these Terracotta Armies. The villagers were digging a well and then, “tink!” the metal shovel hit something hard. That obstacle that blocked then shovel from going deeper was a clay warrior from the terracotta warriors. The farmers thought they were the beings in the ground but what they did not know that they were actually the terracotta warriors made from long long ago.

Necropolis

The place where the terracotta warriors were first placed is still in China right now and you can visit it. But there is no paint on the warriors because the paint was made 3,000 years ago and it could not survive being shown to sunlight/air erosion. The soldiers were standing east of the king's tomb, means guarding. The king wanted to make his burial place like his palace. Before the people thought the terracotta warriors were useless, so they made them into walls. But then the scientists made the terracotta warriors history.

Terracotta Warriors

The space that the 8,000 warriors were taking was nearly the size of 4 football courts and that is quite a lot of space. But less than one mile is Qin Shi Huang Di real tomb, but until a way can be found to expose it without the treasures being hurt. The people closed the tomb and you are not allowed to go inside. All the figurines were made of terracotta or baked earth a type of reddish clay. To build them, multiple workshops and reportedly over 720,000 laborers were seized by the emperor to make the terracotta warriors, it took 38 years to build. Also he got groups of artisans who moulded the different body parts separately to make the clay warriors look the same as the real ones. Each of the warriors got different weapons such as bows, daggers and swords. Before each warrior was painted in bright colors like red, yellow, orange and blue. There were also chariots and cavalry horses too.

Different Soldiers

Each of the warriors were different or unique because they made with different face features from the nose, mouth, ears and eyes. The parts were either bigger, flatter or smaller. The difference was not a lot but it was still a difference, because you could easily tell them apart.

Interesting Facts

- Qin Shi Huang Di wanted to be immortal so he could rule forever, so he spent a lot of resources to get him immortality.
- The horses in the army are saddled. This shows that the saddle had been invented by the time of the Qin emperor when he was alive.
- The soldiers were even designed with different clothing and armor. Men from the cavalry are dressed different than foot soldiers. Some soldiers don't have armor. Maybe they were supposed to be scouts or spies or assassins.
- The bronze weapons of the soldiers were found in excellent condition because they were coated with a thin layer of chromium like a shield which protected them for thousands of years .
- The scientist are still trying to uncover all of the terracotta warriors. So far they have uncovered 2,000, but still have 6,000 more to go and that is still quite a lot to go.

A Guide to the Terracotta Army

International College Hong Kong (Hong Lok Yuen), Cheung, Charlotte – 10

What is the Terracotta Army?

Well if you're wondering, read this and you'll find out!

Also known as the Terracotta Warriors, the Terracotta Army was an army created by Qin Shi Huangdi to protect himself in the afterlife. The soldiers each had their own special and unique features and own special colours painted on terracotta statues, which is a hard baked clay. Unfortunately, the colours faded when exposed to light. That means when you visit the Terracotta Army, you will not see these beautiful colours as they were in ancient times.

Where is the Terracotta Army?

The Terracotta Army is located in China's ancient capital, Xi'an. These terracotta warriors were found in 1974 when a farmer in Xi'an was digging a well.

Before the fantastic discovery, the 'Terracotta Soldiers' were legends and stories that were told to Chinese children. This army was found 21 feet underground. This masterpiece was created by Emperor Qin Shi Huangdi in 245 B.C.

Who was Qin Shi Huangdi?

Qin Shi Huangdi was born in 259 B.C and was emperor in 245 B.C. The 700,000 craftsmen started making the Terracotta warriors once he was emperor, at the age of 13. He was an ambitious emperor who conquered many lands. Fearing that his enemies would try to defeat him, he ordered a vast army of soldiers to be made out of terracotta. This army would be buried with him when he died so that they could protect him from his enemies in his after-life.

How Big was the Terracotta Army?

There are over 8,000 Terracotta soldiers, 130 chariots, and 670 horses, but archaeologists have only dug up more than 2,000 of these Terracotta statues. These amazing soldiers have to be put back together because the next Chinese dynasty after the Qin destroyed the warriors. The soldiers take a long time to be put back together and restored— from the shortest time being half a year, to the longest time of 7 years! It must have caused real damage to the soldiers when the people destroyed them.

To construct the Terracotta Army, it took 700,000 craftsmen and 30 years to do the project. The army was found over 2,000 years after it was covered over during the burial of the emperor. This army was located about a mile from the tomb of Qin Shi Huangdi.

For 8,000 Terracotta Warriors, it would take 18,000 square feet of space to contain them all! This is the reason why there are a total of 4 pits at the Terracotta Warriors site. The average height of a Terracotta Warrior is 5 feet, 8 inches. That would be the same size as Adolf Hitler, the leader of the Nazis in World War 2 in Germany. All the warriors are created to real human measurements and not one of them look alike.

Today, there are over one million people that visit these warriors to to marvel at this amazing creation.

How Does the Terracotta Army Impact History?

Well did you know while archeologists are still unearthing and studying the Terracotta treasures for Qin Shi Huangdi's tomb still remains unopened. Also, when you go visit the Terracotta Warriors, you won't see the fourth pit because archeologists think that the fourth pit was not finished before Emperor Qin died in 210 BC, over 2000 years ago.

The Terracotta Warriors has had a big impact on Chinese history. Archeologists can use the Terracotta Warriors to study Chinese history, as well as other ancient treasures in Beijing. The credit for discovering these Terracotta Warriors all goes back to a Chinese farmer. Without that farmer, we wouldn't be able to study more Chinese history.

The Terracotta Warriors have transformed from a legend to amazing history and will never be forgotten.

The Making of the Terracotta Warriors

International College Hong Kong (Hong Lok Yuen), Popkov, Gleb – 9

The Terracotta warriors are made by an emperor called Zheng. He was only 13 years old when he ruled all of China. He named himself Qin Shi Huangdi, which means the first emperor of China. He faced lots of countries that tried to defeat him in China but he defeated all of them.

He told the people to make him his Terracotta Warriors, but he was also known for making the Great Wall of China, weights and vases. He also told them so that when he died they would keep them as a memory.

When it was 1974, some farmers in Xi'an, China were digging a well until they felt something hard. They found the TERRACOTTA WARRIORS, hidden. But they didn't know that they found the terracotta warriors so they were so amazed to see faces staring at them. The weird thing is that they also made the emperor out of clay but 42 years had already passed so that means he is hidden somewhere in a secret spot so people wouldn't find the statue.

They also found horses pulling chariots. They found not just horses, they found animal sculptures they also found musicians, acrobats, workers and a stable. The interesting fact about Terracotta warriors is that they are all different and that there are 8000 Terracotta warriors. They all have different weapons too.

Another interesting part about them is that they have their names in hidden places but people have found only 87 of them.

There is this New Zealand man who has identified faces in real life and he said they looked like copies of the warriors faces.

Emperor Qin Shi Huangdi may have commanded his people that if they didn't make the terracotta army well they would have to recraft them or go to jail or probably be executed. Scientists working on the archaeological find said that if there are 8000 warriors then they must have made more than 700 warriors a year and they had 11 years to make them because when Qin Shi Huangdi told them to make them 11 years later he died.

And as you may know, all of the Terracotta warriors are made by hand. They have found the piece of the warrior and they say that gives them lots of information of how they made it because if you look carefully then you can see some layers of clay and they go from the top to nearly the bottom. After that, some archaeologists tried to make the Terracotta warriors by using the same technique as they did in the past. They had to make more than 700 Terracotta warriors a year that were 180 cm tall and to make the Terracotta warriors 2 cm thick and they managed to make only one warrior in a month.

Unfortunately the warrior collapsed 3 or 4 times. They also found out that to make a terracotta warrior faster you have to put an extra layer of terracotta on top of the terracotta warrior and to make the warrior not fall while you are making it you can put sticks under the legs. If you want to make a terracotta warrior you have to let it dry but you have to let it dry in pieces. But, if it dries too much it will most likely crack. People discovered that the ancient masters used coiling instead of molding because coiling might be longer than molding but it is the best way to make different warriors.

If you look carefully you might see that they are copies of real life soldiers and some have different hairstyles and their chins were even different.

Did you know the ancient Chinese masters made the sculptures in caves that they made like houses but they made them there because when you make terracotta warriors you have to make it at about 20 degrees Centigrade. They made them there because in summer in that part of China, it is about 20 to 25 degrees Centigrade and in winter it is about 15 to 20 degrees.

Did you know that before the Terracotta warriors were full of colour and the paint sometimes dried off in about a week or minutes when people exposed it to air. Just so you know, people from Germany and China have found this material called lacquer. Lacquer is like paint but comes from trees if you breath or touch lacquer you will get a reaction that you don't want to get because lacquer is related to poison ivy. If you touch it you might scream. The hard part of making terracotta warriors is that you need lacquer that comes from trees and from every tree you can only get about 10 grams or else the tree will die so the people that paint them say that it takes about 25 trees to make one terracotta warrior and it takes 200,000 trees to make an army. After the lacquer is dry it is this solid, shiny black colour. Lacquer is also used in vases, plates, wooden knife and fork and other thing like that. But lacquer at first isn't black it is like this dark yellow.

In conclusion, the history, the science, the skill and art behind making the Terracotta Warriors is fascinating. We can learn so much from the skills and crafts that ancient Chinese people used thousands of years ago, before modern technology was even invented.

All About The Terracotta Warriors

International College Hong Kong (Hong Lok Yuen), Sin, Charlie – 10

The Terracotta Warriors

The Terracotta Warriors are clay statues that were buried along with Emperor Qin, the first emperor of China, in a gigantic tomb. The clay statues were lifesize, each as tall as two metres and weighing 300 kilograms. They all had different ranks, facial features and hair styles and no two were the same. Some of them look calm, some look angry and some look ready to fight. They all wear different clothing and armour. They are a very important piece of archaeological discovery and can lead to a lot of interesting discoveries.

Weapons

The Terracotta Warriors held real weapons made of bronze in their hands. Some had crossbows, daggers, maces, spears, and even swords. They were coated in a special material called chromium so they were in perfect condition when they were found. That thin layer of chromium protected them for thousands of years! The weapons had a kind of protection activate switch. If the tomb was robbed, the weapons would be set on fire! Isn't that cool?

Accessories

The terracotta statues all had different accessories. The warriors and soldiers had weapons made out of bronze. It was coated with chromium to protect them for eternity. They are real weapons that we still use during the modern times. The horses had saddles. This makes archaeologists think that saddles were invented already during the Qin dynasty. How many modern accessories were already invented during that time?

Other Beings

Inside the tombs, there were a lot of other beings, not just terracotta warriors. There were villagers, entertainers, musicians, acrobats and a lot more different kinds of people Emperor Qin might have wanted to accompany him in the afterlife. There were also 150 lifesized cavalry horses, 130 chariots used for war and 520 horses all in one part of the tomb! The archaeologists also found government officials in other part of the tomb. Maybe the emperor wanted to have people serve him in the afterlife and continue his life being a powerful king.

Time Taken

Archaeologists have been studying these warriors closely to try and find out about how these workers during 421 B.C made these warriors. They still don't know. Only two people are close to knowing. Their names are Han Ping Zhe and Zhang Bin Ruo. They are both terracotta warrior replica making factory managers and they make replicas of terracotta warriors, just for a living. Their factory produces thousands and thousands of terracotta each year. Even though they can make them really fast, they still don't make it the way workers made them thousands of years ago. They have tried to make terracotta warriors like they did in the olden times, but it took them a month just to make one. How did the ancient workers make 8,000 warriors in 39 years? That question still remains unknown though we are getting closer to finding out by the minute. Archaeologists estimate 700,000 workers had to work on this for 39 years!

Tombs

Underground, there is more than just one chamber. Four main pits 21 feet deep held the terracotta warriors. Xi'an was the core of the tomb with all the terracotta warriors but there are still a lot more chambers that contain the other beings that Emperor Qin wanted in the afterlife. Altogether, archaeologists estimate there are about six tombs underground, containing all of the terracotta statues. These tombs are famous for their rows and rows of soldiers. One tomb is full of unconstructed soldiers, and people think that this is because they couldn't finish it before the death of Emperor Qin. Even though those six tombs contain terracotta statues, Emperor Qin's spectacular tomb pyramid, Mount Li, still remains uncovered one mile away from the terracotta warriors. It is said that Mount Li contains thousands of jewels, rivers of mercury, miniature palaces and cities and manmade seas. The archaeologists have still sealed Mount Li away because once exposed to air, the paint and all the other things inside will fall apart. So until they can find a way to keep the artifacts safe, the tomb will not be open.

Emperor Qin Shi Huangdi

Emperor Qin Shi Huangdi was the first emperor of China. His real name was Ying Zheng and he was a ruthless warrior who won battles between all six states. He changed his name when he defeated all six states and united what we call China. He changed it to Qin Shi Huangdi. It means “first emperor”. He fought the six states because he wanted power and wealth. He came to power at the age of 13 and commanded the construction of the tombs. The tombs took about 39 years to complete and that was when the Emperor died. He was buried with riches in Mount Li but before that, he threw all the workers and his sons into the tombs because he didn’t want anybody to know about this.

Discovered

2000 years after Emperor Qin and his army was buried, people finally found it underground. In 1974, the terracotta warriors were discovered. But not by archaeologists, like people think. They were discovered by farmers. The farmers were digging a well in Xi’an, China when they hit something hard. It was shaped like human heads. A little later, archaeologists went to make some investigations, which lead to an amazing archaeological discovery; an army of more than 8,000 terracotta statues. More investigations went on, and they discovered the tombs of Emperor Qin’s army. Then, located one mile away, they then found Mount Li, Emperor Qin’s spectacular tomb pyramid. Up until now, Mount Li is still sealed and only the terracotta warriors are open to the public eye.

Fun Facts

Even though terracotta warriors by themselves are already really cool, here are some other interesting and amazing facts about them:

Preserving paint: Scientists are trying to preserve the paint on the soldiers once uncovered. They are covering the statues with lacquer, a type of liquid related to poison ivy. Still, it can keep the paint on it for more than a week if covered with lacquer.

Smashing the numbers: In Wellington, New Zealand, Glen Cameron, face recognition expert, is now using the world’s best app that can recognise thousands of faces at one time. He is finding the similar spots between the warriors and also the differences.

The Legend of the Terracotta Army

International College Hong Kong (Hong Lok Yuen), Watne, Marlene – 11

The Legend Becomes Real

For more than 2000 years, Chinese children had heard the great story about the Terracotta Army, but it was like a fairy tale and nobody believed it was true.

Until one day in 1974, when there was a farmer in Xi'an who wanted to dig a well so his family could get clean water. But by accident he found one of the Terracotta Army's soldier heads. This would become one of the biggest discoveries in the century.

The news was spread at once out into the world. Everything about the Terracotta Army wasn't a Chinese legend or ancient myth, it was all true! There were really statues and horses in full life sizes.

Archaeologists believe there are about 8000 soldiers, 130 chariots and 620 horses, but only 2000 have been found so far. They also believe that more than 700,000 craftsmen worked for about 40 years to make them. And they were all there just for one reason, which was to protect the Emperor Qin Shi Huang's grave from all kinds of bad things—attacks from his enemies, bad spirits, bad luck and so on.

The Creator of the Legend

Qin Shi Huang was the first emperor of China. He wanted to live forever and to achieve that he said to his scientists that they should make some pills that made his life immortal. But the pills didn't work and the opposite happened. Instead of making him live forever, he actually died at the age of forty eight. Later, it was discovered that there was too much mercury in the pills.

All of this happened while he was on one of his tours to a temple in the East of China. The prime minister of China then decided that nobody should know this; at least not until the people who had travelled with the emperor had come home again.

During this lifetime, Qin Shi Huang was already scared about everything that might happen after his death. That's why he used nearly forty years to build the Terracotta Army so he started when he was still a child.

The Making of the Legend

The statues are made of clay, and this is why it is called "Terracotta" which is Italian and means "cooked earth". Every single statue is unique; there is not one that looks like another one. They were also painted in bright colours, but most of the colours have faded today.

The sculptures were found in three pits:

–Pit One is the biggest and it was the first one to be found. It has about 6000 statues. Arranged at the front there are 204 archers, in the back there are 30 horse carriages, each one with four horses to pull it. There are also armed soldiers between the carriages. The army looks mainly towards east. They are found in about five meters depth.

–Pit Two was discovered in 1976 and is about 20 meters north from the east end of Pit One. In this pit were 332 archers standing and 160 archers kneeling. All of them are facing east. There were also 108 riders, they are all standing besides their horse and they are all facing east, too. The reason why most soldiers look eastward is that the emperor's grave is located west of the Terracotta Army. In the north the grave is protected by the river Wei and in the south by the small mountain Li. All the horses had saddles and this is how the archaeologists today know, that people used saddles already for more than 2000 years ago in China.

–Pit Three is the smallest pit and it is located about 25 meters north of Pit One. There are "only" 68 soldiers and one chariot pulled by four horses. These statues carry a different type of weapon. That is why the archeologists think they were guards, not soldiers, and Pit Three was the central command.

– Pit Four, a larger pit was found empty which might show that the emperor died before the Terracotta Army was entirely finished.

The Legacy of the Legend

Qin Shi Huang's grave has not been opened in modern times and it is very protected now. In old times though, grave robbers might have been there already.

Nowadays, there is a museum at the place where the Terracotta Army was found. They are mostly famous for being so many and so old.

So, the Terracotta Army became a protected site when it was included on the UNESCO "World Cultural Heritage List" in 1987. The full name is "Qin Mausoleum Terracotta Warriors and Horses".

UNESCO gave this honour to the Terracotta Army because of:

- "the exceptional technical and artistic qualities"
- "The army of statues bears unique testimony to the military organization in China at the time of the Warring Kingdoms (475–221 BCE) and that of the short-lived Empire of a Thousand Generations (221–210 BCE)"
- "The mausoleum of Qin Shi Huang is the largest preserved site in China. It is a unique architectural ensemble whose layout echoes the urban plan of the capital, Xianyang"
- "The mausoleum of Qin Shi Huang is associated with an event of universal significance: the first unification of the Chinese territory by a centralized state created by an absolute monarch in 221 BCE"

(Ref: <http://whc.unesco.org>)

The fairytale about the Terracotta Army that was told to ancient Chinese children, is in fact an amazing reality. The story lives on bringing future generations many insights, culture, information and wonder.

Memories of a Terracotta Warrior

ISF Academy, Lo, Charlotte – 10

I am a Terracotta Warrior, standing with my master, day and night. I shall fulfill my duty to protect him, withstanding all problems. My fellow warriors are also there to guard him, Qin Shi Huang, the strongest and most powerful emperor of all time.

Qin Shi Huang was the emperor that created a whole new China, reducing seven warring kingdoms into a united country. He was good in many ways, but he was not the nicest ruler. In fact, he was a tyrant, probably the most gruesome and barbaric one. In order to protect his kingdom, he sent thousands of people to build and connect the first Great Wall of China, surrounding the borders of his empire. He ordered generals to whip them if they did not work hard enough or if they stopped to catch their breath. If you spoke against him or said something that insulted him, “Off goes your head!” One day, he decided that smart people who read books will be harder to control, so he ordered all books to be burnt and hundreds of book readers and scholars were buried alive.

His dream was to live for eternity, so he sent ships to venture out across many cities, in search of a so-called Magic Elixir, that can make him immortal. After many years of searching, no elixir was found. Qin Shi Huang thought, “If I can’t live forever, then, I have to have a fabulous afterlife, just like the life I have now.” So, from the age of 13, he started ordering potters to form human-like servants, guards, life-like horses and carriages to be placed in his opulent tomb, which took over 30 years to build, together with countless treasures and priceless jewels. My emperor was really worried that tomb robbers would steal all these treasures, so he decided that he needed an army to protect him in his afterlife.

You may ask, what are Terracotta Warriors? Well, it literally means, “baked earth”. We were made under secrecy, by around 700,000 laborers, and placed in underground trenches that were less than a mile away from our majesty’s tomb. Thousands and thousands of clay sculptures like me stand guard, in strategic positions to protect and guard him in the afterlife, and to stop tomb robbers from stealing his treasures. There are many different sculptures, like generals, archers, officers, soldiers, chariots, and even acrobats! None of the warriors’ faces were the same.

All of the sculptures were placed in four pits, numbered 1, 2, 3 and 4. The first pit is the largest, containing around 6,000 soldiers. In pit two, where I lived together with almost 900 fellow warriors, there are also archers, chariots, cavalry and horses. As a Terracotta Warrior, I wore armor which was made out of “fish scale” like pieces of metal, put together to become a knee length robe. The lower ranked servants didn’t have any armor and only had cloth shin guards for protection.

We were in the pit for what seemed like an eternity, but it was actually 2,200 years. I’m lucky that I have a chariot to relax on, with horses pulling on the reins, unlike other soldiers, who have to stay in the same position for centuries. My chariot is made out of bronze, with four majestic and strong horses pulling it forward. It has two bronze wheels and an umbrella on top. The horses looked so real that they might become alive any second.

We were never supposed to be discovered by anyone, and my emperor even took special measures to ensure that, including shutting the people who took his dead body to the tomb in the tomb forever, until they starved to death. But unfortunately, one day in 1974, because there was a drought, the six Yang brothers decided to dig a well around the place we were buried and dug right to where a brother of mine was standing, and in a blink of an eye, all of us were all uncovered. The archaeologists goggled at the sight in front of them, unable to contain their excitement. They started restoring us one by one, which was really hard work, by placing heads back, fixing chips... and they are still busy doing so today, as there are over 7,500 of us! After all their hard work, we looked almost like how we looked like when we were first made, except for the colours painted on us, as the paint didn’t stay a long time on us. Then, they opened an exhibit for tourists to come and see us in Xian, where we were found.

We, the Terracotta Warriors, represent the Emperor’s power and fierceness, standing straight and still, with no expression on our faces. We are proud that we have protected our majesty well since Qin Shi Huang, as of today, remains undisturbed in his tomb. That is probably why a lot of people marvel at us, and why we are classified as the eighth wonder of the world. We are another one of China’s marvels, right next to the Great Wall of China, also created by the mighty Qin Shi Huang.

Terracotta Troubles

Kau Yan School, Gittings, Rebecca – 10

It was one of the most famous accidental discoveries in history. Farmer Yang Zhifa had been digging a well for three days in Xiyang village, 35 kilometres east of the city of Xian in northwestern China. Suddenly he and a few friends made a discovery that would change the lives of everyone in their village. On 29 March 1974, his shovel hit something unusually hard. When he dug it out, he discovered a strangely shaped terracotta object that looked like a head without a body.

None of them knew this would be the beginning of one of the greatest archaeological discoveries of the 20th century. Nor could they have guessed that it would start a chain of events that would see Yang and his fellow villagers forced to leave their 200 year old village to make way for a museum that now attracts millions of visitors every year.

Yang thought the object was part of an ancient kiln. Some of the other villagers worried the discovery could cause trouble for the village because China was then still in the final stages of a 10 year campaign called the Cultural Revolution in which most historical objects were seen as bad things. So other villagers urged Yang and his friends to rebury the object. But Yang refused, saying it should be shown to the county Cultural Relics Bureau. Together with his friends, they took three cartfuls of terracotta relics into town, but all the bureau gave them was 30 Chinese yuan. They gave the money to their village and received a tiny reward of 13 Chinese fen (which is worth less than one Hong Kong dollar) in return.

Yang's discovery of the terracotta soldiers has brought great benefits to our understanding of ancient Chinese culture. Sometimes called the eighth wonder of the world, the thousands of terracotta soldiers have given us an amazing insight into the First Emperor's rule over China and the phenomenal skills of Qin Shi Huang's craftsmen. The terracotta soldiers are, without doubt, a valuable contribution to our knowledge of Chinese history. They have brought visitors from around the world to gape at the three pits containing the splendor of the terracotta army. Some people have made money selling souvenirs and other services to the tourists and, for a few people, the discovery has been a gold mine. For example, one villager started a factory producing replica warriors and now sells them all over the world for up to 10,000 yuan each.

But not everyone has benefited from the influx of visitors and some have even suffered as a result. Among the most unlucky are Yang's fellow villagers who have been forced from their homes to make way for exhibition halls, coach parks and gift shops for the visitors. In China, when the government tells you to move, you often have little choice and receive little compensation. Although the villagers were paid 300 yuan for each 600 square metre piece of land they lost, they had to pay 8000 yuan per person for new homes to be built elsewhere. Some of the villagers were so unhappy that they complained about a "curse of the terracotta army". They were so angry with Yang that he had to move out of the village to avoid their hostile stares.

Yang was luckier than most of the other villagers because he got a job signing books for visitors who want the autograph of the man who discovered the terracotta warriors. But being famous has its price. A Chinese newspaper described Yang as an illiterate who couldn't write his own name and could only draw three circles as his signature. A furious Yang sued the newspaper and received 20,000 yuan in compensation. That money came in handy when Yang stopped signing books some years ago, and found himself with no income at all.

Even whether Yang Zhifa really discovered the terracotta warriors has been challenged by other villagers trying to make money signing books for visitors. Yang Quanyi, for example, has set up another table outside the exhibition hall and tells visitors that he is the true discoverer of the terracotta warriors.

The tale of the discovery of the terracotta warriors is an interesting example of how the lives of so many people can be changed so much by an accidental discovery. As Yang Zhifa has said, if he had dug another foot in the other direction he would have missed the discovery that made him famous. Perhaps someone else would have found the terracotta warriors later on, we'll never know. But most likely Yang would never have signed any books, and instead spent his whole life farming.

Some people have benefited from the discovery, including Yang for the most part. But others have suffered, including many of his fellow villagers. Some must surely wish that he'd taken their advice to rebury the object he found, instead of taking it to the county Cultural Relics Bureau.

It would be a tragedy if other villagers who find historical objects in the future decide it is better to rebury those objects, instead of revealing them to the world. Archaeological tourism is something which every country must handle carefully to make sure its benefits are bigger than the disadvantages. There are international guidelines which say that archaeological sites should work closely with the local population and respect their values, ideals and rights. That's something which the Chinese government should remember when managing the terracotta warriors' site. The aim should be that no one will ever regret making an archaeological discovery.

The lesson to be learnt from this tale is that historical artifacts are important, but so are the people affected by their discovery.

A Non-fiction Documentary of the Terracotta Army

Kau Yan School, Ng, Yuet Kwan Brandon – 10

The Terracotta Army comprises clay replicas of the army of Qin Shi Huang, the first Emperor of China, dating from c. 210 BC. Several local farmers digging at the edge of the site discovered the figurines in 1974. After reporting their find, the Chinese Government sent local archaeologists in to see if there was more. They were shocked to find terracotta statues buried in exceptional state of preservation.

Based on experience, early workers thought there would only be a few statues; imagine their shock when they found thousands!

The Terracotta Army is part of a much larger necropolis that forms part of the First Emperor's tomb. The site contains offices, halls and other parts possibly resembling the Imperial Palace.

The figures range from being 175 to 190 centimeters tall. They were assembled like cars; first, torsos, legs, arms and heads were made in molds then stuck together. After that work was completed, other features were added, such as ears, eyes, noses, hair, clothing and beards. Next, they were painted in bright colors like pink, blue, red, green, black and lilac.

Legend says Emperor Qin had single-edged eyelids, and so all have single-edged eyelids. The characters have different occupations such as soldiers, generals, officials, acrobats, spies, strong men and musicians. Some soldiers have quite calm expressions, while others have ferocious, alarming looks. Eight thousand soldiers, if standing shoulder to shoulder, would take up eighteen thousand square feet, an enormous space. Within the finds there are two amazing bronze chariots with four horses attached, consisting of more than three thousand, four hundred pieces each and having gold and silver ornamentation. There are over one hundred more chariots, along with five hundred and twenty cavalry horses which were saddled. These finds give us information from before and during the Qin dynasty, showing the skills of the ancient Chinese.

Work on the tomb began in 246 BC, when Emperor Qin gained control of the Qin state, it was completed in 206 BC, and took around seven hundred thousand people an estimated forty years to complete the project. The Terracotta army was to be a showpiece of Qin Shi Huang's glory, to remember the unity of China, to grant Emperor Qin's wish of eternal life, and to protect the tomb. Sadly, after the tomb was buried, the middle and the outer gates were closed to imprison all the artisans working on the project.

Pit One is the biggest, and is the size of an airplane hangar. All the best photos and videos are taken in this area, and it is said to contain more than six thousand soldiers, although only around two thousand have been excavated. Each terracotta figurine is unique and provides amazing reference points of information for archaeologists and scientists.

Pit One was opened in 1979 and measures four acres in size. Ten walls separated the soldiers, which were packed in nine corridors, at two and one half meter intervals.

Pit Two is the most spectacular because the combat formation there is more complex and the formations of the armed forces are more complete. The pit can be divided into four sections and is L-shaped.

Pit Three is the command center, the smallest pit and is actually a part of both Pits One and Two. Only sixty-eight terracotta figurines were found there, many of which are headless.

There was also a fourth pit, which was completely empty. It is assumed that this pit's construction was stopped abruptly at the time the emperor died.

The four pits seem to resemble a fort with Pits One and Two being the left and right army, Pit Three the headquarters, and Pit Four was possibly the middle army. There was possibly an underground park, because bronze ducks and cranes were found in various pits.

In March 2015, archaeologists unearthed a perfectly preserved crossbow in Pit One. It was fitted with Qing, a structure that ensures that these weapons stay sturdy even after being buried for thousands of years.

A historian suggested that the mausoleum was constructed by Qin Shi Huang himself. The implication is that he may have been too concerned about the future, having planned for his burial long before he was enthroned. He chose Mountain Lishan for his burial because of the geological riches inside it, like gold, rich on its northern side, and jade, rich on its southern side. He also wrote that the First Emperor was buried with palaces, towers, officials, valuable artifacts and wondrous objects. According to his account, a hundred flowing rivers were simulated using mercury, and booby traps were equipped with functioning shooting arrows. Evidence for this was confirmed with high levels of mercury in the soil. These horrifying features make sure that any daring intruder is going to have an unfortunate ending.

Qin Shi Huang was known for his cruelty, and so he included that in what was known about the tomb! He killed almost every person and his or her family so the news wouldn't spread and he could keep it a secret. He claimed to have "the elixir of life", longing for immortality and spending most of his life looking for resources to do so. The Terracotta Army, of course, formed part of his "quest for immortality", too.

Speaking of tombs, the graves of the builders of the Terracotta Army were found a mile southwest of the Emperor's Mausoleum. Over one hundred skeletons, squashed inside the thirty-two graves, were found soon after the discovery of Emperor Qin's tomb.

Today, the Terracotta Army is one of the all-time favorites for foreign tourists and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It looks like Emperor Qin hadn't managed to keep the whole thing a secret after all!

The Terracotta Army

Kennedy School, Lau, King Hin – 9

The Terracotta army is one of the most prestigious archeological finds of the 20th century. 8000 clay soldiers with their own unique features all in four pits of different sizes containing different ranks of military forces.

The Terracotta army was built by Qin Shi Huang Di he called himself the First August Emperor of all China. He believed that when he died, the souls of the people he had executed or beheaded will wage war on him, so he built the terracotta army to protect him from any harm.

During his lifetime, he used a ruthless way to unified China, standardized the way of measuring, writing and had an official currency for all the citizens to use. He also built the Great Wall using a huge labour force made up of almost 1 million men, women and children. It was built to protect China from invading nomads and barbarians as the Chinese called them.

Furthermore, he also ordered the burning of books in the Imperial Library except of the books for the agriculture and books by Qin writers. This angered the Confucius scholars and led to a rebellion. But the rebellion failed and every member of it was executed. After that assassins from other states that he has conquered tried to assassinate him, but failed and were executed too.

The First Emperor believed in immortality and sent alchemists to find something that will make him immortal. He also built a tomb, and according to Sima Qian, a historian. It was filled with rivers of mercury kept circulating by a mechanism and also had a sky filled with jewels. It also had a map of unified China. Finally death claimed the First Emperor in 210 BC, aged 50.

In March 1974, farmers digging a well to the east of Xi'an and 1.6 km east of the emperor's mausoleum. They uncovered what was called the greatest archeological find of the 20th century. After experts had examined the warriors made out of clay, it was proclaimed true that the emperor indeed had 8000 soldiers made to protect him from the soul of those he had murdered during his lifetime.

The Terracotta Warriors were poised in battalion formation and the pits resembled a palace with generals, soldiers and entertainment people such as acrobats, dancers and musicians. The swords and arrows made in the Qin Dynasty were longer and the arrows were pulled by a trigger and the killing range was a stunning 150 meters!

They were made in a unique way because it is believed that they were the modification of real soldiers and generals that served the First Emperor in real life.

I think the ancient Chinese were very clever in making the terracotta warriors and I hope that there will be no more wars and peace will remain forever in China.

New Tales of the Terracotta Warriors

Kowloon Junior School, Ng, Anthony – 9

The Terracotta warriors is an attractive history in the past about the emperor who lived long ago. A long long time ago there lived the first great Chinese emperor that was called Qin Shi Huang He was the first emperor to rule China, for he built the Great Wall of China for good military defence. When he died and he was buried underground. Some people believed the emperor had an afterlife, so they built the terracotta warriors, used to protect the emperor in his after life and to show his glory.

The terracotta warriors is part of history when the emperor lived in the olden days.

There are 8000 warriors that were made standing by the side and buried with the emperor that lived long ago in China.

Emperor Qin wanted to live forever in his life, so he went and researched on immortality and the "elixir of life".

He also used a lot of resources to build the largest single tomb for himself.

He felt this huge army of warriors would help him keep his power and protect him in his afterlife.

He died and was buried in 210 BC over 2000 years ago.

The soldiers were made by stone, the average around were 5 feet tall and 11 inches.

The terracotta were discovered by some farmers from the east who were digging a well in 1974 that was approximately (1.6 kilometres) deep.

The first part of the terracotta warriors site to be discovered was named vault one, the two other vaults that were uncovered were found 20 metres away from vault one.

These stone warriors bring you back into the history of war and art when the emperor lived 2200 years ago.

The soldiers' facial expressions were unique and positioned by rank, some of them are on horses and also have unique weapons.

All the terracotta warriors were made with clay, but the weapons they are holding were not. It was made out of bronze very carefully.

The terracotta warriors had only eight different shapes of the face, it is characterized by rectangle face, high cheek bone, wide forehead and chin, Shape face: flat cheek and chin. Shape face: narrow and long with small features, shape face: near square face, shape face: narrow forehead and a wide chin, shape face: wide cheek bone and narrow end of the face and oval face. So these are the eight different shapes of the faces in the whole terracotta army.

The terracotta army were based on real soldiers who protected the emperor.

The terracotta warriors were built in nice bright colors and were added new conservation techniques on the excavated (replaced) ones.

Curiously he had the terracotta warriors facing east, some people say it may be because of the topography around his mausoleum or it could be because he felt the threats that would come into his land.

When Zheng's father died in 246 B.C, Zheng took over when he was in the age of 13.

Over the next three decades, he initiated a series of different military campaigns that would want to see Qin unify China for the first time.

After the unification was complete in 221 BC, Zheng took the name of Qin Shi Huang, which means "in essence" The First emperor of Qin,

After he died in 210 BC, his dynasty quickly collapsed with a new army that will take over, it is called the Han dynasty.

In this ensuing period, the emperor terracotta army may not have been looked carefully upon.

Vault Two

Vault two was just 20 metres north from vault one.

The first row in vault two was men holding bows and arrows that were kneeling down, for the second row there were chariots and archers, and the third row was with mixed forces of warriors standing like soldiers, and the fourth row had large troopers holding their weapons. All of them are arrayed in a large war position, ready to fight.

The weapons that the terracotta warriors hold were buried for 2000 years underground but their weapons were still very sharp!

Mixed Feelings visiting the Terracotta Warriors

Kowloon Tong School (Primary Section), Lau, Sze Tung – 11

Last year in the Easter holiday, I went to China with my parents and little brother. We visited a lot of places as China is filled with modern and old culture. Skyscrapers fill the sky in Shanghai; on the other hand, Beijing has the Great Wall which is over 2000 years old. The contrast is so striking and it makes the whole country interesting to explore. Among all the interesting places I visited, I was most impressed with this incredible sightseeing spot – the Terracotta Warriors, which was where the King Qin Shi Huang was buried after his death.

At first, my brother and I were so reluctant to visit the tomb because we were told it was where the dead people are buried. My dad said paying a visit to this tomb is an opportunity of a lifetime. Even though we had reluctant hearts, we seemed to have no choice but to join them. Now, I have to admit that we were lucky we booked the tour as there were some unbelievable facts that I was made aware of during this trip.

On our way to the tomb, the tour guide briefed us about the history of the Terracotta Warriors in his tranquil tone. I could tell that he must have done this a thousand times already for he was so familiar with the content, like he was reciting a poem. Although his tone raised no excitement, the background of the tomb did. In 1974, a group of farmers digging wells near Xian in China staggered upon this big tomb complex. It was one of the most shocking archaeological discoveries of all time, not only in China but all around the world. This discovery prompted Chinese archaeologists to investigate. The construction of the figurine group involved huge efforts. To be more specific, heads, arms, legs and torsos of Terracotta army figures were created separately and then assembled. The soldiers are all man-sized but vary in height, uniform and hairstyle in accordance with their ranks and duties. We were told that the project took more than thirty years to complete and more than seven hundred thousand people were dragged in to help finish it. I could not believe that it took this enormous crowd of people only thirty years to finish this project. After digesting so many facts about the Terracotta Warriors, I figured out that manpower is much more powerful than machine power, if people work together with spirit. In that kind of situation, back then in 221 B.C, it was so incredible that manpower could create such a great achievement.

But why would someone with such a power and energy command a construction of such a huge project? The answer is King Qin – one of the legendary kings in ancient Chinese history. He was born in 260 B.C. and became the ruler of China at the age of 13. He died at the age of 50. It is believed, the reason why King Qin built this tomb was due to his cultural beliefs. Ancient Chinese believed that the items and even people buried with a person could be taken with them to the afterlife. The formation of Terracotta Warriors was the consequence of his cultural belief.

While standing inside the museum listening to the tour guide's briefing, I had mixed feelings. If I was an archeologist, this complex tomb would certainly be a huge treasure for me. Digging the history of Dynasty Qin inside out and learning more about our country's ancient culture and traditions would be indeed a lifetime experience. The fact is, this tomb complex is the biggest tomb in the world and no king has ever made an achievement so humongous as this one. However, what about the fate of people living in the time of Dynasty Qin? I pity those greatly, more than seven hundred thousand people involved in this project. They had suffered terribly for as long as over thirty years. A lot of human lives must have been lost during the construction stage.

Coincidentally, my school had a debate on "King Qin", in the first semester of this year. Having visited his tomb, I found myself engaged in the discussion whole-heartedly. King Qin had made a lot of achievements and the impacts are still noticeable and affecting even today's generations. Just to name the few, he had built the Great Wall and the Terracotta Warriors. At the age of 39, he united China after conquering all other warring states. After that he unified the Chinese script and currency. During his short yet meaningful ruling years, he had made China a strong and undefeatable country. People were grateful for his intelligent mind, but in the minds of the ones who suffered, he had killed a lot of people in order to uphold his ruling.

For centuries, people have debated and still do about his merits and demerits. The debate will continue and shall inspire us to think. I thank my dad for giving me this chance to visit the Terracotta Warriors, for he knows well what inspires kids to think.

Army of Warriors

Quarry Bay School, Madden, Samuel – 10

Ni Hao!
I like going on holiday with my Mom and my brother. I like to go to different places, swim in the sea, discover new things, meet new people, eat different food and most of all go on really cool adventures.

I have been very lucky to swim in the Barrier Reef, see the Statue of Liberty and the Empire State Building, go on a horse and carriage in central park and so see the sights of Melbourne. I have walked on The Great Wall of China, Walked through the Forbidden City in Beijing, Walked across Sydney Harbour Bridge, Climbed up the Tower of London, Visited Buckingham Palace, Survived the Edge in Melbourne and even got to see Big Ben. I have seen the World's largest Telescope and visited an old Irish Castle. I have been to the Zoo, visited an Aquarium and even went whale watching in Boston. I have been on an Elephant in Thailand and touched a meteor in the American Museum of Natural History and even though I don't really like heights I managed to convince my Mom to take me in a helicopter!

So, you are probably wondering what we might be doing for our next big adventure!

I am really hoping that our next big adventures will take me, my Mom and my little brother Jonathan to Xi'an in China, for a holiday.

Do you want to me to tell you why?

The reason why is because I want go to Xi'an is to see the Army of Terracotta Soldiers! I have been doing some research on some the amazing places in the World and I think that this is top of my list!

“The Army of Terracotta Soldiers” or “The Terracotta Army” or “The Terracotta Warriors and Horses” are a collection of sculptures made out of terracotta, which according to Wikipedia represent the Armies of Qin Shi Huang, the first Chinese Emperor. It is thought that they were built to protect the Emperor in his “afterlife”.

It is estimated that there are:

- Eight thousand soldiers
- One hundred and thirty chariots with five hundred and twenty horses (four horses for each chariot)
- One hundred cavalry horses

All the cavalry horses were all saddled. This shows that the saddle had been invented at this time.

The Terracotta Army was found on the 29th March, 1974 to the east of Xi'an in the Shaanxi province by farmers digging a well east of Emperor Qin Shi Huang's tomb. It was the major archaeological find of the 20th century.

The Terracotta Figures are life sized. Not two statues are the same! They are all different in height, uniform and hair style. Every figure differs in facial expressions and features. There are eight to ten different head shapes for the statues.

People think that the sculptures used the workers or themselves as models for the warrior's faces. The heads, arms, legs and bodies were created separately and then assembled. The figures were originally painted with bright coloured pigments such as blue, green, red, pink, black, brown, white and lilac. However today a lot of the colours have now faded.

The height of the statues is five feet and eleven inches tall with some statues as tall as six feet and seven inches.

Many of the figures held real weapons and more than ten thousand weapons have been discovered so far today. The weapons were covered with a thin layer of chromium and this protected the weapons for thousands of years. So, after being buried in the ground for more than two thousand years, the weapons were still sharp!

Each workshop name was inscribed on the items they made to ensure quality control.

Archaeologists estimate that over seven hundred thousand craftsmen worked on the project for many years.

Terracotta is a common type of hard baked red clay. When the soldiers were shaped with the wet clay they first had to dry and then they were baked in a very hot oven called a Kiln until they were hard.

Archaeologists think the warriors discovered so far may be part of an even larger terracotta army still buried around the tomb of Emperor Qin Shi Huang!

When I was doing my research I discovered that some of the statues found in Xi'an were part of two traveling exhibitions. One was "The First Emperor," which was organized by the British Museum, and opened first in London then in the High Museum in Atlanta. A second show which was called the, "Terracotta Warriors," opened at the Bowers Museum in Santa Ana, California. The Terracotta Warriors show then went to the Houston Museum of Natural Science and after that, the National Geographic Society Museum in Washington, D.C. This is really cool as not everyone will be able to go to Xi'an to see the Terracotta Army!

So now you can see why I am hoping that one of our next family adventures will take us to China.

I have even promised my Mom I will do my best to practise my Mandarin!

Qin Shi Huang

Raimondi College Primary Section, Leung, Dipsy

About Qin

The Qin people are the earliest race in Chinese history to undergo a transformation that saw them develop from a tribe to an empire.

The Qin Dynasty was the first unified regime under a centralized authority in China and marked the beginning of the reign of the country's absolute monarchies. Although it existed for a short period, many monumental construction projects were launched. Extensive sections of what later became the Great Wall were built to provide effective defence against invasion by nomadic tribes, and chidao and zhidao were constructed not only for military purposes, but also to enhance transportation, commerce and cultural exchanges. At the same time, the military extension of the Qin Empire to the north and the south defined China's national borders and laid the foundation for the co-existence of the different Chinese races. The large-scale projects, together with the construction of the mausoleum of Qin Shihuang and its terracotta army pits at Mount Li, reflect the Qin's superiority not only in terms of its national strength, but also in the fields of art, pottery craftsmanship, iron metallurgy and, above all, in the economies of scale it gained from standardized production process. When Emperor Qin Shihuang ordered the construction of his own mausoleum, its design was intended to embody the political system and institutions of his unified empire. Inherited and elaborated from the past, his ideals were passed on to countless generations that followed him.

Qin's Mausoleum

Comprehensive field investigations of the mausoleum of Qin Shihuang were launched in 1962, when the first topographic layout plan of the mausoleum was produced. The terracotta army was discovered in 1974 in the southern part of Xiyang Village to the east of the mausoleum. This important archaeological discovery was soon being called the 'Eighth Wonder of the World'.

Four terracotta army pits lie to the east of the mausoleum of Qin Shihuang, one of which may not have been completed. The pits contain over 8,000 terracotta figures. Pit No. 1 is rectangular and uniformly filled with figures of commanding officers, infantrymen, charioteers and terracotta horses. They are lined up in a systematic array alongside several wooden chariots representing military formation. The L-shaped Pit No. 2 comprises terracotta figures of standing and kneeling archers, infantrymen, cavalymen as well as wooden chariots. The greater variety of military personnel it contains and their complicated layout reflect the relationship between the different divisions of the army. One wooden chariot was found in the U-shaped Pit No. 3, on which the original paintwork could still be seen, while traces of a parasol with decorations on the top were also found. The warriors inside this pit were standing face-to-face, and some academics have therefore concluded that this pit was the command headquarters of the terracotta army.

The Qin terracotta warriors were authentically rendered true to life size. No two faces are alike, and each warrior is distinguished from the others by their hairstyle, clothes, shoes, headgear, countenance and moustache. The torsos, heads and arms were made separately. The more delicate features were carved, and then all the parts were joined together. After being dried in the shade and then fired in the kiln, the figures were painted with raw lacquer in a variety of colours including red, green, yellow, black, white, blue and purple, with the latter made using a synthesizing process.

Different interpretations have emerged on the nature of the terracotta army. One suggests that it represents the army under Qin Shihuang's command after his death, another that the figures are the guards of the military procession accompanying the emperor's funeral, a third that it is a "sacrificial army" that symbolizes Qin Shihuang's military achievements in his lifetime.

However, after many years of debate, the consensus is that the warriors represent the imperial guards of the Qin capital.

Conclusion

To rule the country, Emperor Qin Shihuang centralized authority and enforced the draconian laws that the state of Qin had inherited since the reign of Duke Xiao. Arguing that the tradition of granting posthumous titles that had been practised for over 1,000 years since the Shang and Zhou dynasties was subversive of monarchic authority, Qin

Shihuang abolished it, while both his order to burn most existing books were manifestations of his desire to establish a unified ideology.

The unification of China ended the chaos resulting from the division and conflict between the warring states, and perhaps the newly founded empire should have paused to consolidate and allow its people a chance to live and develop the nation in peace. In the last five years of his reign, however, Emperor Qin Shihuang was impatient for success. He launched several large-scale construction projects at the same time that cost his empire countless lives and money. In the first year of the reign of Emperor Qin Ershi (209 BC), two army officers, Chen Sheng and Wu Guang were leading their troops to Yuyang to reinforce the border defences. Heavy rain forced them to stop in Daze Village, and they realized that they would not be able to reach their destination on time. Qin law stipulated that any troops who reported late for duty, regardless of the reason, were to be executed. Preferring to die fighting for their freedom, Chen and Wu decided to 'cut wood for weapons and erect bamboo poles as banners' and rebel. Their action was the spark that prompted people across the nation to rise up in one rebellion after another against the tyranny of the Qin state, and the empire founded by Emperor Qin Shihuang soon collapsed in turmoil and disarray.

Despite his search for the elixir of life, Emperor Qin Shihuang could not escape death. His mausoleum, however, had been designed to represent the central government under his authority and reflected his passion for his unified empire. The clusters of burial pits and the military force with which he could continue to rule his eternal realm in the afterlife. The wealth of cultural relics that have been unearthed unveil the mystery of the Qin dynasty and give us a greater and more detailed understanding of the history of the Qin dynasty and the First Emperor of China.

The History of the Terracotta Army

Sha Tin Junior School, Loh, Ellis – 10

The terracotta army is an army that protects Qin Shi Huangdi in the afterlife.(221–206 bce)

China's first emperor spent much of his life searching for the ability to live forever and built himself a tomb complex that surrounds and hold within 20 square miles. As part of the complex, more than 70,000 labourers constructed a life-size terra cotta army and tomb complex.

Construction of the tomb began when the future Emperor of Qin (China) took power at the age of 13. Speaking of construction, it took about 40 years for the army to finish including the horses and the chariots. And speaking of chariots and horses experts have estimated that there are more than 8,000 clay soldiers, 130 chariots and 670 horses.

Around Qin Shi Huangdi's tomb are artefacts that he collected/found and murky water flowing through mountains of bronze. Talking about the Emperor's tomb no one opened his tomb. Until a way can be found to expose the tomb without damaging the treasure inside it. So until we have a solution the tomb remains sealed.

The clay soldiers remained untouched for more than 2000 years. Until 1974, when they were unearthed by Chinese farmers. Also recent digs also uncovered terra cotta acrobats, musicians and waterfowl.

An average soldier stands 5 feet,8 inches tall. Standing shoulder to shoulder, the 8,000 soldiers would take up 18,000 square feet. Each soldier is unique, no two soldiers are alike and each has unique and realistic features. And scientists are using various techniques to preserve the paint found on the warriors/soldiers.

Secrets about the tomb of Qin Shin Huangdi

In 221–206 bce, when Qin Shi Huang died and he is in the tomb in the afterlife and the warriors are protecting him , and a thirteen year old Ming, an archaeologist's son, lives in a small village in Maoist China. His father is convinced that Emperor Qin's tomb lies hidden in hills around them. But if father doesn't prove it soon, the town's political officer disapprove them to the brutal labour camps. I am not sure about this secret (my opinion) because it seems so fiction but it is true. Another secret is that a clay soldier comes to life and leads Ming into Emperor Qin's mysterious tomb.

The Terracotta Warriors

Sha Tin Junior School, Wong, Bob – 8

In 1974, a team of farmers were digging a well in Xian, China. One farmer found a pottery head looking up at him. Since then, many new discoveries on the Terracotta Army continue to appear.

Long ago, before the emperor died, he ordered a team of skilled craftsmen to build a terracotta army to guard him in the after life. The terracotta warriors found were arranged in battle formation. First came the archers, who were shooting and reloading. Next came the powerful main army, who held 7-meter spears to keep the enemy at bay. Down the sides came the charioteers, who drove chariots with archers shooting at the enemy. At the back of the army, there were many commanders who commanded warriors of different ranks of the army.

The materials used to make the terracotta warriors had to be strong, durable and able to hold their shape. The craftsmen use red clay to coil and mold the warriors. The warriors were painted in Chinese purple. Some flakes of paint could be found near or on the terracotta warriors. The warriors were covered in lacquer, the ancient world's plastic. The lacquer stopped the paint from dropping off the warriors. Nowadays, not many warriors still have the paint on them. The paint got washed of into the wet soil.

The warriors carried real weapons like the real Qin army. The difference in size between the weapons was less than 0.22 centimeters. The craftsmen were masters at mass producing high standard weapons. This showed that the real Qin army could be supplied easily with high quality weapons. Some sets of stone armour were found in the emperor's tomb.

This creation was one of the most greatest accomplishments in world history. The Terracotta Army will never be forgotten by mankind.

Terracotta Warriors On the March

St. Paul's Co-educational College Primary School, Ho, Pak Fung Julius – 11

The army has been silent for more than 2,200 years.

Now, after forty years of enduring excavation, a buried army of around 7,500 Terracotta soldiers and horses that startle the whole world has surfaced.

An Extraordinary Discovery – *WHEN* and *WHERE* was the Army Discovered?

It was just an ordinary day in March, 1974. Three farmers plodded across a field in northeastern Xi'an, a large city and capital of Shanxi Province in central China. Once known as Chang'an (literally means 'Eternal Peace'), it marks the Silk Road's eastern end and was home to the Qin dynasty's ruling house.

The farmers chose a spot near a coppice of persimmon trees. Down they dug and suddenly, one of the farmers felt his shovel strike against something hard. It was a head of a real-looking clay man. The farmers have never seen anything like that before, nor have the archeologists who arrived and begun to dig out more and more pottery men. The army was then unearthed pit by pit, warrior by warrior until it had become a full life-size army of 7,500 Terracotta Warriors.

The Pursuit for Immortality – *WHY* was the Army Built?

Who was the Terracotta Warriors guarding?

One man – Qin Shihuang, the First Emperor of Qin. By 221 B.C., the ruler of the Qin kingdom had “eaten up” the other six Warring States and united China. According to a legend, the emperor ate powdered jade and drank mercury in the belief that they would prolong his life! I was shocked that the legendary First Emperor had acted so ridiculously! Just as flesh-and-blood troops had protected him during his lifetime, the Terracotta troops were believed to be an afterlife army to protect their ruler against any enemy for eternity.

The Silent Witness of Imperial Power – *WHAT* were Unearthed?

The Pits of the Terracotta Warriors consist of cavalry, infantry and chariots. Every figure **differs in facial expressions and gestures, with clothing and hairstyle** vary according to their military rankings. Interestingly, the eyes of the Terracotta Warriors depict a single eye-lid, which is believed to be a representation of the eyes of the Qin people!

Apart from the pottery soldiers, military experts were astounded by the exquisite bronze weaponry unearthed such as swords, spears, scimitars, billhooks, halberds, arrowheads and crossbows. Scientists discovered that the surfaces of the Qin swords were coated with an oxide film 10 microns thick which contained 2% chrome. How did the Qin people do it more than 2,200 years ago without the help of modern chrome oxidation technology? It is a pity that their secret 'recipe' did not survive and we can only admire the remarkable casting technique and artistic standards of the treasure, while leaving the scientists to unveil the mystery.

The Incredible Battle Formation – *HOW* was the Army Organized?

The battle formation of the army is thought to be a replica of the real one. Pit One is the largest and most impressive as around 6,000 Terracotta figures have been excavated. The main part of the battle formation faced the east towards the ancient enemies of Qin State, indicating the characteristic of being alert and hostile. Infantry was the main attack force as evidenced by only 38 chariots in the formation.

Excavated in 1976, Pit Two stands about 20 meters north to Pit One and it consists of four units: the first unit contains rows of kneeling and standing archers; the second one is a chariot war array; the third unit consists of mixed forces with infantry, chariot and trooper standing in rectangular array; and the last one includes numerous troopers holding weapons. The four units together form a meticulous battle array.

Pit Three is the smallest one. There are only 68 terracotta figures, many of which are without heads. It is believed as the command post – there are only two chariots but they were made out of bronze, which means they were the best chariots!

The Terracotta Warriors are in a precise formation and stand in organized ranks. The organization of chariots, infantry and cavalry is simply unrivalled by any other military array at that time, which also signifies the martial spirit and military culture of the Qin kingdom.

The Road Ahead – Cultural Significance of Terracotta Warriors and Its Preservation

The Terracotta Warriors have fascinated the whole world with their artistic, cultural, and scientific importance. They are considered as one of the greatest archaeological discoveries in China and an eighth “Wonder of the World”. In 1987, the Qin Shihuang Mausoleum and the Terracotta Warriors were listed as World’s Cultural Heritage sites by UNESCO.

However, unless caution is taken, the ‘unbeatable’ army of Qin Shihuang will be in great danger. For instance, their excavation exposes them to corrosive elements that have been impenetrable to the figures for generations. Things that seem as benign as mold can have damaging effects, too.

Tourists can be as threatening as tomb robbers. They bring in trash, food and other sources of litter that are organically based. Bacteria may grow and could eventually impose detrimental effects on the figures. In my opinion, it is the responsibilities of both the Chinese government and visitors to conserve the Terracotta Warriors. Civic education regarding the preservation of the heritage is of utmost importance, not to mention the endeavor of the government to further enhance the technical and management skills of the officials in charge.

What the well-diggers stumbled upon accidentally has turned out to be the most incredible archaeological discovery of modern times. Qin Shihuang wanted immortality more than anything. With so many people visiting his burial site and army every day, in such a way, the emperor has lived on.

The Green-Faced Warrior

St. Paul's Co-educational College Primary School, Ven, Mia – 10

I was made in dusty workshops across Lintong District, Xi'an over two thousand years ago. I lined up next to thousands of my comrades and remained underground dutifully for two millennia guarding China's First Emperor, Qin Shi Huang. I was unique though. I was the only green-faced warrior in his notorious terracotta army.

The year was 246 BC and China had a new emperor: thirteen-year-old Qin Shi Huang. Emperor Qin wanted to live forever, and spent a lot of his time searching for immortality. He was so determined to protect his body in the afterlife that he demanded the construction of the largest tomb ever built for any king, pharaoh or emperor across the world. Most importantly, he wanted his entire army to keep him safe in the spirit world too, which is why I am narrating this to you. I, one of Qin Shi Huang's most vibrant soldiers, have guarded his body faithfully in life and in death.

When work began, the site was like nothing anyone had ever seen. Nearly three-quarters of a million labourers worked on building Emperor Qin's tomb – a job that lasted thirty-six years! The emperor ordered the site to be the size of a football pitch, and to be made up of four main pits about seven metres deep. We soldiers thought that the labourers digging the pits were much braver than us – it looked like such hardwork, tougher than going into battle even. The pits had to face to the East, because the emperor wanted protection against the states he conquered during the wars of unification, which lay in that direction.

At the same time, in busy workshops nearby, government labourers and local craftsmen used ingenious methods to model eight thousand of Qin Shi Huang's warriors out of clay and other local materials. Our heads, arms, legs and torsos were crafted separately and then assembled once they had been fired. The workers had eight different face moulds so that we looked as real as possible. They even added extra pieces of clay to make our faces look individual. Other parts of our bodies were made more efficiently: workers constructed our legs in the same way as they crafted drainpipes! The emperor was so strict that he forced each workshop to put their name on the pieces they made so that the quality would be controlled.

We were life-sized and varied in height, just like real men, from around 5 feet 11 inches to 6 feet 7 inches tall. We all had different facial expressions too; some figures, like me, seemed placid while others looked enraged and ready for combat. Our hairstyles, armor and uniforms also differed according to our rank. The craftsmen painted us in a variety of shades from pink to red to green to blue to black to brown to white to lilac. Though our colours have faded over the course of two thousand years, in our prime we looked as different and unique as the soldiers we represented.

There were weapons for us to use, just like on a real battlefield. They were mostly the same spears, swords and crossbows that we took with us to war. These made us look more realistic, and most importantly, to be better prepared to protect our emperor. Our swords were given a chromium coating, which kept them rust-free for two thousand years. I think Qin Shi Huang would be jubilant to see them shining still. The Germans and Americans think they invented this chrome-plating technology in the twentieth century, but actually we Chinese had been already using it for over two thousand years!

Perhaps the most spectacular sculptures in Emperor Qin's army are the two chariots made for him to conduct his inspections in the afterlife. They are not made from terracotta, like we are, but from bronze, silver and gold. The chariots are incredibly intricate with details copied from real horses, coachmen and two-wheeled vehicles. The coachman is armed with swords and he sits under a parasol to shield him from the blazing sun. The colourful carriages are decorated with clouds and geometric patterns – you can even open the windows and doors. It is hard to believe that they were buried in a wooden box eight metres underground for two thousand years.

There are other non-military figures in the necropolis who are not as important as my companions and me. Most of them were made to entertain Emperor Qin in his afterlife, this includes acrobats, strongmen and musicians. There were also terracotta civil servants, equipped with knives and bamboo tablets for writing. I do not understand why the Emperor really needed them, but we soldiers would protect our master in his afterlife under any circumstances!

Once the thousands of figures were complete, we were placed into pits based on rank. Pit one contains Emperor Qin's main army of six thousand terracotta soldiers, pit two houses the cavalry, infantry and chariots, the third pit is a command post with high-ranking officers and another chariot inside. We stayed underground silently watching over the emperor from 210 BC until 1974 when a group of farmers accidentally unearthed us, bringing us into a world that is so very different to the one we left behind. Since then, the terracotta army has been considered as the most significant archeological excavation of the 20th century.

You should come and visit us in Xi'an. Even though the terracotta army is now over two thousand years old, we are still a fearsome and impressive sight with many secrets left to reveal. Perhaps if you come I shall whisper the mystery of my green face into your ear. Some experts think it is to show off the bravery and power of all of the soldiers, others believe I am a foreigner or wearing a battlefield disguise. See us and I am sure you will agree that just as Emperor Qin united the China during his life, he has joined the world in admiration of his army after his death.

The Story of the Terracotta Warriors

The French International School, Pathak, Vir – 10

In 1974 a few farmers were digging a well outside the city of Xian in China, when their shovels hit something solid. What they found was a life sized clay model of a soldier. They were puzzled by what they found and notified the Chinese authorities. The excavation revealed four pits filled with thousands and thousands of clay soldiers and horses. This is how the great archaeological discovery of the terracotta warriors happened.

The terracotta army was built to be buried with Emperor Qin in 209 BC to protect him in his afterlife. Like the Egyptians the ancient Chinese believed in life after death and believed that a person should be buried with all the things they might need to enjoy their other life after they die. The statues were ordered to be built soon after he ascended the throne. The emperor was only 13 years old when he assumed power. He was one of the greatest emperors of China who unified the different kingdoms who were warring with each other. He was also responsible for standardizing the currency, weight measures and the script characters for all of China. He was the one to order the first Great Wall of China to be built to defend China against other tribes. The size of the terracotta army was meant to show his glory, to remember the army that triumphed over the warring states and because the Emperor believed that he would need an army to help him in his after-life.

There are thousands of terracotta soldiers, horses and chariots placed in underground pits around the Emperor's tomb. Each terracotta warrior is made out of clay and is armed with weapons like swords, axes, spears, lances and crossbows which are made of bronze. Each terracotta warrior has a lot of detail and has a unique facial expression, hairstyle, ears and posture and is positioned like he is ready for war. They are standing in the order of their ranks and the more important warriors are built taller than the others.

There are several underground pits containing the terracotta army. One pit contains over 6000 terracotta soldiers. Another has over 130 chariots and 600 horses. The third pit houses the high command. However the fourth pit was empty which shows that the work was unfinished and that Emperor Qin had more ambitious plans for his afterlife. There were also more pits containing dancers, musicians and acrobats which shows that the emperor also wanted some entertainment in his afterlife. The underground pits are located at a one mile distance from the Emperor's tomb. The Emperor's tomb is supposed to have precious stones and artifacts and even rivers of mercury flowing through mountains of bronze. It has not yet been opened because archaeologists fear that the valuable contents will get damaged on exposure to air and there are some rumors that the reason why the Emperor's tomb is still untouched because it has a solid anti-grave digging including secret crossbows that can kill people and because the mercury was meant to poison any invaders. The terracotta warriors were painted in bright colours but when they were exposed to light and air, the paint peeled off leaving only the bare terracotta.

The terracotta army was found 2200 years after Emperor Qin's death which shows how well they hid the location of these structures since they probably did not want people to steal any of the valuables hidden in the underground pits. It is also amazing to think of how long it would have taken to build so many life-sized statues. It is estimated that 700,000 workers spent almost 36 years building the statues from the time the emperor was crowned till the time of his death. What is really interesting is that the Emperor was only fourteen years old when he started planning his tomb and the terracotta army to be built which was a very young age to start worrying about his death! There are also stories about how he was wanted with immortality and sent many explorers to discover some kind of elixir of life.

Now tourists and visitors come from all around the world to see the terracotta warriors in the Museum of Qin located to the east of Xian. In the museum you can view from a height the seven meter deep pits where the terracotta warriors are still lying in battle formation. The terracotta warriors are so famous that the president of France, Jacques Chirac, called them the eighth wonder of the world.

Unlocking the Mysteries of the Terracotta Warriors

Victoria Shanghai Academy, Choi, Ethan – 9

There are many mysteries surrounding the terracotta warriors. After all, they were constructed over 2200 years ago but only discovered 40 years ago by chance. Only a fraction of the army were unearthed by archaeologists. How many terracotta figures were actually buried? Why were they discovered so late? What is the finished product? How do the workers transport the terracotta warriors to the site? I will discuss each mystery, make a hypothesis, and provide supporting facts.

The first mystery is that pit number 4 is empty. This may be happening because all the other tombs already has lots of figures in it. In pit one, there are the standing archers, infantrymen and charioteers, and the kneeling archers. In pit two, there are the Junior Officer, the General and the charioteers. In Pit three, there are the kneeling archer and the robed infantrymen, and that leaves the non-military soldiers, which are in another pit (K0007). Another reason is that the terracotta warriors are not yet finished, and the carvers died before they even finished them. They left everything to do, and hoped that the other generation will finish it, and maybe the other warriors were hidden in another spot, maybe underneath. Also, my other hypothesis is that it might be just a space in case they wanted to display all the materials they used, or maybe they wanted to make a secret passage to the Emperor's tomb, but when they buried the terracotta warrior's tomb, they forgot that pit four was empty. Or, they could have a plan to create another site, since historians say that there should be more. My other hypothesis is that somebody else discovered the terracotta warriors before the year 1974, and that person stole the warriors or figures from Pit 4, and also buried it so well that it is like nothing happened.

The second mystery is that why are the terracotta warriors discovered so late? Why were they discovered 2200 years after they buried it? In the old times, they might know the book that Si Ma Qian wrote, but because they were busy at war, so they didn't bother finding the terracotta warriors. Perhaps the emperor killed all the workers after he thought they have done enough, to not let anyone steal it. Also, they were hidden 7 meters underneath the ground. Lintong is not a very popular place back then; nobody except the residents there knew about it. Also, it was blocked by rivers on two sides, mountains on the other, and the other leads to the Great Plains, which is very dangerous. It might be that the villagers found them by digging a very deep hole through the well. Or else, they may not be able to find them. But why didn't anyone want to make an attempt? Firstly, there was the Han dynasty, and the Three Kingdoms, through all the way to the Tang Dynasty. They were all busy reading and researching, in battle or writing poems. Also, everyone might be very busy. Scientists say that there were some towns that would protect the Emperor's afterlife, such as Shanreacun, which protected him until the Ming dynasty, and Xiajiaocun which protected until the Song dynasty. Unfortunately, they didn't protect the emperor until now. But if they really protected it until now, some people may already know the terracotta warriors exist, before 1974, the discovery date of the terracotta warriors.

The third mystery is why was the terracotta warriors tomb in that spot. Based on the area of the terracotta warrior's tomb, there are two rivers, each around a few kilometers from the tomb. One side of it leads to a tall mountain, while the last side is protected by the terracotta warriors. Also, the rivers lead to a very remote area, and it passes through a lot of major cities. The other side of it leads to the yellow river. And, the mountain is very tall, and it is followed by many other mountains. Some people say that the mountains look like a national park. However, some historians say that the idea that rivers and mountains might not be a very good idea. The main goal of the Qin Emperor is to protect himself, but because it is beside a major city, Xian, so there can just be a very big explosion that will explode the terracotta warriors. Firstly, villagers mined a well to discover them, so some robber may just explode the terracotta warriors. So, historians think that it should be hidden not next to a big city, but in a very remote and save area, to truly protect the emperor's afterlife.

The fourth mystery is that how do the workers transport every heavy figure from the workshop to the site of the terracotta warriors? Scientists say the terracotta warriors each weigh a ton. Even with a thousand workers, that will require a lot of work. My hypothesis is that the workers firstly carry all the body parts to the site, then build it up part by part. But, with not a lot of space, how can they put the last few together? It may also be pulled by a certain machine, but it must be very ancient, and most of it might be from manwork. Probably, it could also be pushed by an animal, followed by lots of people. Or, the workshop should be very close to the site, but the emperor might have demolished it in the end. Scientists reported seeing very broken terracotta parts, which will rarely happen, because terracotta is a very firm material. So, it might be a sign of the workers accidentally dropping one of the soldiers. If it was all made by manwork, it will drop many times, and possibly break. But, my hypothesis is that ancient scientists tested out the hardness of different building materials, and they all agreed with terracotta.

So, the terracotta warriors really have a whole lot of mysteries, and still, there are lots more to solve, because there may be just a few odd things that people didn't discover just yet.



Non-fiction

Group 3

Ears and Arrowheads

Chinese International School, Fung, Liam – 14

The Terracotta Warriors are seen by many as the eighth wonder of the world, an engineering marvel. But even though they were discovered in 1976 and have been under excavation and study for about 40 years now, we still have only a vague idea about how they were made. Recently, some research has been done, allowing scientists to discover more about production methods.

The Terracotta Warriors were constructed to keep Emperor Qin Shih Huang's soul safe in the afterlife. Approximately 8000 soldiers and 600 horses have been unearthed, and there are still many that are trapped under the dirt in undug sites. The Army was built on his command and was buried along with him around 210–209 BC. The tomb was sealed, and it was forgotten in the sands of time for over two thousand years. The Qin Dynasty was the first time China was completely united, and therefore was historically significant. Unfortunately, we don't have a lot of knowledge about this period in time, as the warriors were buried and then suddenly disappeared through history, and Qin Shih Huang ordered the burning of many books documenting events through this era in history, so the only way to really know much about this period of history is to examine artifacts and weapons. As the Terracotta Army contains a lot of weapons and reveals a lot about army formations during the Qin Dynasty, it is an momentous discovery.

In 1976, farmers in Shaanxi were digging a well and accidentally discovered the Terracotta Army. Initial excavation took years and was precarious. The government did not want to damage the soldiers or somehow cause the whole excavation to go wrong. The stability of dirt near the undug sites is unconfirmed, and it is risky to continue excavating as it is possible the site could cave in or collapse into itself, ruining the warriors and ruining the site. After a significant portion of the site was unearthed, it was clear that this discovery was extremely important and could help scientists discover a lot about Qin Shih Huang's reign. Following the initial excavation, scientists quickly moved on to studying the warriors and begun investigations into production methods and metal compositions.

Just in March of 2014, scientists believed they had discovered the method according to which the warriors were made, the "cellular manufacturing system". A cellular manufacturing system is actually quite simple – within each cell, an entire warrior was made from beginning to end. Skilled craftspeople made the mold of the warrior's body, poured clay into the mold, painted the warrior and made weapons out of wood and bronze to arm the warrior. All of this happened in a single cell while, nearby, other cells were doing the same thing. This is a very different process from, say, the modern assembly line method. The cellular manufacturing system was used to create both the bodies of the warriors and the weapons they wielded, and ensured that the weapons would be very high quality. By examining the arrowheads of the warriors, the manufacturing system was deduced. It was discovered that their metal compositions differed somewhat from one group to the next. Since this would not make sense had the arrowheads been constructed using a conventional assembly line, scientists deduced that the cellular manufacturing system was the reason. Because there is no way that there could be such a large variance in metal composition if all the metal came from a single operator's stockpile, the only way that there could be such a large variance is if there were many different craftspeople creating arrowheads from many stockpiles of metal.

Not only were the warriors within a given group of 500 different from those in other groups, but each individual warrior, it has been discovered, was unique. This has been discovered through comparing their ears. Scientists found that no two ears of the thousands of soldiers were the same. This highlights the amazing detail that the workers put into each and every one of the warriors. Each warrior was not simply put into a cast, poured out, and stood up, they were slowly constructed little by little, limb by limb. The

research was painstakingly slow and tedious – scientists had to note details of the warriors, while at the same time making sure they didn't touch the warriors and damage them. The scientists measured the warriors by taking 360 degree photos of the ears, then rendered them on a computer screen as a 3D model, then measured them.

Personally as a very curious teenager, I believe that there is still a lot to reveal about the Terracotta Warriors. A few questions I still have in mind for scientists today are: Firstly, how was the knowledge of the location of Qin Shih Huang's tomb lost suddenly? It took a whole lot of coincidence to discover the location of the warriors, how did it just vanish into thin air like that? Secondly, why didn't scientists simply measure the warriors' chests instead of having to go through all the trouble to measure their ears? Wouldn't measuring their chests be a lot easier and a lot quicker than measuring their ears? Finally, I wonder if we will ever be able to prove that the cellular manufacturing system was definitely what was used to create the warriors, as all we have now is a deduction and no solid proof it was actually this way. Until proven wrong, we just have to kind of assume that this is the case and that this is the truth.

It's estimated that only around ten percent of the entire vast army has been unearthed and excavated. By discovering this amazing monument to Chinese engineering and technology, we have already uncovered swathes of knowledge and history previously unknown to us. The more we dig, the more questions we ask, and the more we question our previous research. A lot more can be known about these warriors, but not much has been answered so far, and we seem to be drawing near to the limits of our knowledge, unfortunately.

Although this is the case, and even though we may never know everything about the mysterious Terracotta Warriors, curiosity will lead our charge into the depths of Qin Shih Huang's tomb.

Mysteries of the Terracotta Warriors

Chinese International School, Lee, Lynn – 13

Discovered in 1974 outside the city of Xi'an, China, the clay soldiers known as the Terracotta Warriors have drawn many tourists to Xi'an. Thousands of human-sized warriors are in underground pits, created during the Qin Dynasty to accompany Emperor Qin to the afterlife. These warriors and their horses, collectively named the Terracotta Army, is displayed in the Museum of Qin Terracotta Warriors and horses.

How developed was China in the Qin Dynasty? What did the Qin know? Was their military equipment the main reason that the Qin managed to defeat the other states and unify China? Why are Terracotta Warriors so special? And, of course, how were Terracotta Warriors produced in such a relatively short amount of time? Not only do Terracotta Warriors serve as a tourist attraction, but they also provide answers to many of our questions about ancient China.

1. War/Military Equipment

The Terracotta Warriors have revealed the highly advanced military weaponry in the Qin Dynasty. Made of bronze, these weapons have been subjects of a lot of investigations on the logistics behind the construction. Each warrior found was fully equipped with bronze weaponry. After excavating Pits 1, 2, and 3, archaeologists found a number of weapons, which include the following:

a. Sword

A sword is the king of short weaponry, used to stab the enemy in battle. The Qin swords were found to be made longer than those in other places and times. Longer swords make it easier to stab the enemy, and it is clear that the Qin Dynasty Chinese knew that, even though people of the other states did not.

b. Spear

While spears found in the Wu and Yue states focused more on beauty, the spears found with the Terracotta Warriors were simple, sharp, wide, and flat -- what a spear needs to be, to be useful in combat.

c. Crossbow

In March 2015, a 2,200 year old crossbow was found among the terracotta warriors. This crossbow could have shot an arrow up to 792 meters, which is much farther than most of our crossbows can today. Mike Loades, an expert on ancient weaponry, said that it "It is an ingenious bit of mass-produced, standardized, military equipment, two millennia ahead of its time."

d. Arrowhead

Over 40,000 arrowheads were excavated and examined, and small differences in the measurements identified subgroups among these arrowheads. An arrow examined showed that there was 20% of tin in the arrowhead, and 3% of tin in the shaft. More tin makes the arrowhead harder, and less tin makes the shaft more flexible. The arrowheads had the perfect amount of tin in them. Janice Li, a senior archeologist, used silicon molds to examine the blades of the arrowheads. The identical parallel lines she found on many arrowheads and the consistency of the lines show that each of the arrowheads was sharpened by using a wheel. The only machine that could make the even lines on the arrowheads is the rotary lathe.

e. Halberd

As a defense against cavalry, the Qin had a weapon called the halberd. The first function of the halberd is the spear, which can impale a horse. There is a cross piece behind the spear that stops the horse from going any closer to the halberdier, so that the halberdier does not get trampled. The second function of the halberd is the spike on the other end of the halberd, which is used to take out the horse's legs. If the horse gets past the halberd, the halberdier can use the halberd to lift the point of the lance of the opponent. That would push the lance onto the opponent's throat, knocking the opponent off the horse.

It seems the advanced military weaponry of the Qins was the main reason that they were able to unify China. Every bit of the weapons is well thought out, with functions that can deal with any enemy, whether they are standing on land or sitting on cavalry. The weaponry of the Qin dynasty reveals the high level of metal working and planning of the ancient Chinese.

2. Mass Production

How could Qin craftsmen produce so many terracotta warriors in the short time they had? This is a big question that many researchers have asked, and they were determined to find out the answer.

Archaeologists believe that the Qin weapons workshops had similar characteristics as our modern day mass production. They think that the Qins had a specialized department of quality control, where workers had the job to scrutinize each statue and sign on the back of the statue as their personal mark of approval for the quality of the statue ensured the quality of the statues, and it is indeed surprising that the ancient Chinese used the same quality control system as ones used almost 2,200 years later in the modern industrial world.

Forced labor was the main reason that the Terracotta Warriors were produced in such a small amount of time. In the far western side of the site where the Army was discovered, many buried bodies of men, women, and children were also found. Next to each body is a tag stating the name and how the worker had come to work at the site. It is striking to find out that many workers and families were working there because of debts owed to the government. Instead of having to pay their debts, they were forced to work. The forced labor allowed the Qin to create the Chinese empire, to protect itself with the great wall, and to connect its vast regions with highways and canals.

3. Production Skills

Andy Lacey, a forger, tried to reproduce the casting techniques that were developed in ancient China. He put the shaft into the mold, and then put the top of the mold on and clamped it. He then poured the metal over the mold, which had a hole that would take in the metal. This would weld the two components together tightly. The way that the shaft was joined with the arrowhead to make the arrow reveals the technical sophistication of the Qin.

To create the torso, short tunic, and the arms of the warriors, the Qin coiled ropes of clay the same way that they made vases, so that it would be a more efficient process. They used base molds to make the front and back of the head, and details were later carved in to make each soldier different. However, experts are still not sure how the legs, hands, and some other parts of the warriors were made.

How was the work force controlled? The workers were divided into groups, which were controlled by master craftsmen. Crossbow triggers found in different areas of pits all have slightly different

shapes. This shows that each group of weapons was produced by a different group of craftsmen. Each worker had to sign his name on the weapon that he had created, so that any below-standard work could easily be traced back to its creator.

In China, purple can symbolize strength, divinity and immortality. Chinese Purple was found on some of the terracotta warriors. But, how did the Chinese make the color out of natural pigments? Many believe that glassmaking was associated with the manufacturing of Chinese Purple. Some suspect that the Chinese had gotten the color from Egypt, but it is very unlikely that the Chinese had acquired technology from Egypt before the Silk Road was created.

In conclusion, the Terracotta Warriors led us to the discovery of many things about the Qin dynasty and ancient Chinese. The Qins' weapons were sophisticated and superior to their peers, and this probably contributed directly to their conquering of other states and unifying China. Furthermore, the in-depth studies of weapons reveal that the Qins had advanced manufacturing systems and skills. Lastly, many people in the Qin dynasty were forced to work for the production of the Terracotta Army as well as a number of national projects.

Although we have learned a number of valuable lessons, many questions are still unanswered. How was Chinese Purple created in the Qin dynasty? How were the arms and hands of the Terracotta Warriors made? What unknown information is hidden in the tomb of the emperor? Hopefully, further excavation of the emperor's tomb will provide us with more answers.

Witness to the Eighth Wonder of the World

Clearwater Bay School, Li, Megan – 10

Welcome! To you we must look crazy, strange,
But we are calm, and vigilant and proud,
A mighty army of our Emperor Qin,
Prepared for battle to protect his tomb.
Reminders of the ancient army bold,
Who first united China long ago,
We've suffered many hardships underground,
And more, since we have seen the light of day.
Our clothing, vivid, colorful and bright,
Has faded. We've been burned and plundered, smashed,
Yet now restored, revived in dignity,
Strong, elegant, magnificent, 'most real,
Exquisite model of the ancient world,
A marvel to behold for modern eyes.

I, Yang Mulan Yong (杨木兰俑), general in the Emperor Qin-Shi-Huang's Terracotta Army, named the Eighth Wonder of the World, lived underground for 2,200 years.

I am a stoic soldier modeled after a real general, Yang Mulan, who farmed the land before becoming a fighter. As he protected the living Emperor Qin, I command 8000 subterranean soldiers defending him in the afterlife. Once I carried a bronze sword. My armor glistened with trappings of Chinese purple, peach, red, green, and black. However, within a day of being exposed to sunlight and air, the paint flaked away. An archeologist took my sword. A greater loss was my silk-paged diary with its decorated bamboo cover. I must trust my memory.

We all have single-lidded eyes. Otherwise, our facial expressions, ears, hairstyles, weapons and uniforms are distinct. Before disinterment, most of us had normal peach-colored faces, except a few archers with green faces. Normal soldiers stand between 175 and 190 centimeters tall. Commanders stand taller, about 200 centimeters.

Emperor Qin, whose name was Ying Zheng, was born into the Warring States in 260 BCE. At age 13 he ascended to the throne of Qin. By 221 BCE, he had united China.

When alive, I followed Emperor Qin through the battlefields until unification. I saw Emperor Qin's glorious victory as well as the overthrow of his dynasty.

The First Emperor achieved a great deal. He united seven kingdoms: Han, Wei, Zhao, Yan, Chu, Qi, Qin. With consolidated power, the ambitious emperor established centralized government and created unified writing script, currency, weights and measures. He connected portions of the Great Wall to protect the country from the Huns and created a national network of carriage roads. He vigorously promoted agriculture featuring irrigation systems, such as Dujiangyan, in addition to encouraging smelting and handicrafts.

Every bit of Emperor Qin's accomplishment came with its price. Unpopular and cruel, the First Emperor massacred enemies, sentenced millions to forced labor, burned books and buried scholars alive (焚书坑儒). He also imposed high taxation. Qin-Shi-Huang died at age 50. Due to its oppressive policies and flagrant disregard for tradition, the Qin Dynasty outlasted him only 4 years.

He survived many assassination attempts. Worried about rebellious enemies pursuing him into the afterlife, he dedicated immense effort into building The Terracotta Army. To his credit, Emperor Qin populated his magnificent tomb with clay attendants, rather than sacrificing living ones. It took at least 36

years and 720,000 laborers. Sima Qian wrote in *Records of the Grand Historian* (史记), 'A world with mountains made of gold, stars represented with pearls, and flowing rivers of mercury.'

The Terracotta Army is composed of several pits, thoughtfully designed. Three of these cover approximately 5 acres. Pit 1 is the largest, housing most of the warriors within 14,260 square meters. Pit 2, a grand L-shaped affair, accommodates 130 chariots, 150 cavalries and archers. Pit 3, the command center where I reside, is the smallest. Regular workers, government officials, musicians, acrobats and exotic animals in other pits completes tomb.

Our makers tiled the pits' floors so well that they withstood the desecration of the chambers. Mounds of earth supported roof planks. We terracotta warriors were made with powdered quartz, mica, and feldspar added to yellow dirt, resulting in durable reddish-brown clay. Craftsmen probably made us by clay coiling, rolling a long strip of clay one inch in diameter and shaping our various forms. Next they fired the clay in kilns, at approximately 1000 °C. Holes were left in the clay so that trapped heat would not explode us. After firing, craftsmen used egg white and lacquer to paint us.

We stand in ancient battle formation, facing outward. We can fend off attackers from all directions, but most of our army, half-smiling, faces east, with backs to the emperor, alert and slightly haughty. We are no longer at our best; the years have hurt us. Colorless and weaponless, some of us now lack a hand, arm, foot, or head. We resemble a real army but diviner because we face the future.

On March 29, 1974, one of my descendants, farmer Yang ZhiFa, while digging a well, discovered us in LinTong, approximately 1.6 kilometers east of the emperor's tomb at Mount Li. After that things happened quickly.

My fellow fighters and I generate money for the modern state. Admission to our exhibit costs 182 HK\$. Our battalions confront armies of tourists. Visitors admire our ancient Chinese wisdom and heritage, taking replicas of us home.

2,236 years ago, Emperor Qin prepared for an eternal life with the underground Terracotta Army, the Eighth Wonder of the World. Once I used my sword ruthlessly to conquer the known world for the emperor. My descendants, deeply embedded in the globalization process, skillfully conquer international markets with products and services. In less than 40 years, they have transformed China from the 17th to the 2nd largest economy of the world, lifting billions of people from poverty, a true modern wonder.

As you return home, please remember that we remain here, a symbol of China's past and present greatness.

We terracotta fighters all can see,
Our emperor past, our China yet to be.
Before, as warriors brave we claimed our land;
An economic power, now we stand,
No matter what our future may behold,
Our land's defenders, loyal, staunch and bold.

New Tales of the Terracotta Warriors

*Hong Kong Baptist University Affiliated School Wong Kam Fai Secondary and Primary School
(Secondary School Section), Yip, Kam Wing Kimberley – 13*

Qin terracotta figures were revealed at Hong Kong Museum of History starting from today until end of this month.

This was the largest exhibition in Hong Kong, which was organized by the Hong Kong Museum of History joining hands with the Beijing National Museum. There were one hundred and thirty-five cultural relics exhibited, including twenty-five different types of terracotta statues. Also, there were some war horses, chariots and swords.

The Secretary for Education, Mr. Eddie Ng Hak Kim, attended the ceremony. He said the Qin Dynasty made an immense contribution to the Chinese history, as China was unified for the first time and central institutions were established to standardize calligraphy, currency, weights as well as measurements. He spoke, 'It is important and influential until now. It is worth for every students coming to see and understand our deep-rooted history, culture and stories behind the terracotta figures.'

The exhibition had two sections, one of which was Cultural Relics Display Zone and the other was the Multimedia Experience Zone featuring large-scale relics, panel texts as well as videos telling us the stories of Qin from its rise to its pinnacle.

Terracotta Warriors

Po Leung Kuk Choi Kai Yau School, Pang, Tybalt – 12

China has created numerous artifacts and structures that are widely known to the world and are high in historical value. One of these magnificent creations is the Terracotta Warriors that were created in the Qin dynasty by the emperor Qin Shi-Huang. The Terracotta Warriors are a collection of over 8000 life-size clay warriors and horses that were made to protect the emperor from potential enemies in his afterlife. This wonderful discovery leads to the fascination of archeologists as it provided a well-rounded understanding of battle formations, tactics, history and situation of citizens in the Qin dynasty. In this essay, the Terracotta Warriors' construction, details, and weapons will be discussed in order to gain a more thorough understanding of this marvelous creation.

Due to the structure's massive size, the construction process of it was long and tedious. The emperor's strict orders at the time also hindered the process as he ordered for all the statues to be unique, all weapon and armor pieces to be made to the exact perfection and for incredible detail to be added to the statues. Firstly, local craftsmen, using clay, manufactured the Terracotta Army figures in workshops. Clay was dug up from mountains and shaped to form the different body parts of the Terracotta statues. Heads, arms, legs, and bodies were manufactured separately and were only put together in the assembly process. After assembly, facial features would be added to the head using clay, and the figures would be fired in a kiln. The kiln is an oven or a furnace that was used to bake and dry clay sculptures so that they become hard. In order to ensure strict quality control, each workshop was required to carve their name on the statue that they manufactured, so that if any statue was of insufficient quality, the statue could be traced back to the workshop that made it. Any workshop that made unsatisfactory statues were penalized with heavy fines, floggings, imprisonment, and even death.

There are several features in a Terracotta Warrior statue that left archeologists in awe. Firstly, the facial features of the statues are all exact. All of the individual statues' expression, clothing, hairstyle, and gestures were based on actual soldiers that were in emperor Qin Shi-Huang's army. This is usually considered one of the hardest steps, as it required great skill to mold, knead and carve exact facial features on clay statues. Secondly, are the bright and detailed colors on the Terracotta Warrior statues. Although most of the of the statues displayed today are gray in color, some of the statues have been found to have a layer of bright paint on their faces and bodies. Through further analysis, it was confirmed that artists painted layers of bright paint on the statues to make them more realistic. All of the statues were hand-painted by the artists and it was time-consuming work, as all crevices of the statue had to be painted and not a mistake could be made. Thirdly, were the weapons. Unlike highly decorative and impractical weapons usually buried in most emperors' graves, the ones buried in emperor Qin Shi-Huang's were designed to achieve the highest combat performance. Blacksmiths were required to make high-quality swords. They were so well made that even after 2000 years and to this day, the swords are unaffected by oxidization and still remain sharp. Fourthly, were the designs on the armor. One of the hardest parts of creating the armor was that stone had to be cut to an exact 3 millimeters in thickness. Even the most modern tools available now can only cut stone to the thinnest of 5 millimeters. This meant that workers had to hand-grind each piece of stone used to make the armor. Holes also needed to be punched into the thin stone slabs. It is very hard to imagine how workers in the Qin dynasty were able to do that without breaking the brittle stone slabs.

Weapons were also a very important part of the Terracotta Warriors. Many weapons have been unearthed from the Terracotta Warrior pits. Despite being buried for 2000 years, these weapons still glitter and are still sharp as if they were new. This shows the high level of metallurgical technology of the

Qin Dynasty. High-quality weapons may have been one of the most important factors of emperor Qin Shi-Huang's military success.

Some of the weapons found included swords which were the most common close-range weapons. Swords were usually made of bronze in the Qin dynasty and they were treated so that they would remain sharp. Swords unearthed in the Terracotta Warriors' pits were longer in comparison to other swords because longer swords meant that it was easier to stab the enemy. Another weapon is the spear. The spears unearthed from the Terracotta Warriors' pits had high combat performance. This is because it has fluent lines, a strong body, a wide, flat blade and a sharp tip. Thirdly, is the crossbow. Qin Shi-Huang chose crossbows over longbows because crossbows could take more tension, require less strength and have a longer range. Crossbows were very standardized in the Qin dynasty. The mechanical components of crossbows were so standardized that even the smallest components were interchangeable. The bow limbs were made of wood, the string was made of animal sinews, and the mechanical components were made of bronze.

The Terracotta Warriors truly are a magnificent creation. The construction process was long and tedious and it is truly difficult to imagine how the Qin dynasty artisans managed to create such detailed, unique and colorful creations. It is also shocking to see that Qin dynasty blacksmiths could fashion such high-quality weapons that aided the Qin dynasty's military success. The amount of work artisans put into the making of the Terracotta Warriors is obvious and it tells us the story of Qin Shi-Huang very well. This marvelous creation will always play a big and important role in China's history.

The Warriors and the Self-Made God

Sha Tin College, Chan, Cyrus – 12

The discovery of the Terracotta Warriors was the greatest archaeological find of the 20th Century. A mass collection of over 8000 individual soldiers, 130 chariots with 520 horses and 150 cavalry horses, each and every piece uniquely handcrafted with no two warriors alike. Each individual soldier lined up in battle formation, representing the power of the Qin Dynasty. This creation's reason of existence— the protection of the Emperor in his afterlife. However elaborate, breathtaking and astonishing this collection may sound, the discovery of this hoard has raised more questions than given answers. Some of these questions end up being quite outrageous and controversial. This leads us to the ultimate question to sum it all up “Was Qin Shi Huang taking over the role of God?” If he was, did he succeed and leave behind an everlasting legacy?

Qin Shi Huang was the first Emperor of China and was the first to unite all of the warring states. During his reign, his accomplishments were vast, with the Great Wall and the Terracotta Warriors both under his belt. Towards the end of his time on the throne, Qin Shi Huang became obsessed with immortality and after many futile attempts; Qin Shi Huang began the construction of the Terracotta Warriors, designed with the intentions of protecting him in the afterlife. These warriors were stored to the east of Xi'an in Shaanxi Province. Individually, each warrior was hand sculpted and molded from clay. Hundreds and thousands of artists and sculptors were hired to create this army of clay, however the sheer quantity of the Terracotta Warriors meant the sculptors and artists were assigned each exclusively to produce a specific part. This is one of the earliest evidence of an assembly line being used.

The mausoleum consists of three main vaults, with an additional empty fourth vault hinting that the mausoleum was never completed the way it was originally intended to be. In the first and largest vault, there stand columns of soldiers at the front with chariots in the back. The second vault contained a thousand soldiers and dozens of wooden chariots. The most important third and final vault included a command center of the armed forces with generals, officers, soldiers, horses and a war chariot. Within these chambers, the warriors could be distinguished by their clothing. Generals wore a dual long sleeved jacket, a crested hat, long pants with thigh protectors and boots with a square toe opening. Middle level officers had two types of clothing; the first included a long jacket, thigh protectors, and boots with a square toe opening also, a chest plate trimmed with lace and a double long hat. The second included a high collar gown, thigh protectors and the same boots. Soldiers wore traditional chest plates and armor which appear to be consistent with the uniform during the Qin dynasty. The weapons they carried had been crafted and designed to last with the use of chrome.

The magnitude and scale of the Terracotta Warriors was huge. In today's day and age, we see the warriors as an impressive art collection, a part of our history. A lot of people don't question at what price did this come at? The sacrifices he made to produce the Terracotta Warriors were insurmountable. Even though he was the Emperor, the communities' highest authority in command, does that grant him the right to abuse his power and push the boundaries and limits of mankind? This possibly leads us to perceive during his reign, was Qin Shi Huang drunk with power? So consumed in himself, he believed he was in fact God? Considering he was capable of uniting the warring states, Qin Shi Huang already had accomplished the impossible. The people of China would have depicted Qin Shi Huang as a God, the great power, granting him the loyalty and respect only a God would get, satisfying his power cravings. They spoiled him, causing him to delude, making him perceive himself as omnipotent, omniscient and omnipresent. With this amount of power he was being given, Qin Shi Huang himself perhaps believed that he could gain immortality, could 'cheat the system' and rule eternally. By making the Terracotta Warriors, Qin Shi Huang may have had the intentions of replicating his empire into clay form while he further indulges himself, playing the role of God. This last attempt at immortality seemed quite a possible, realistic feat to Qin Shi Huang with all the power that he had been given. Another argument was the army was built for

the protection of his people and his land at times of need. Magic and witchery were quite commonly practiced so that the theory isn't quite farfetched.

Despite being one of the greatest 20th Century archaeological finds, at the time of its creation no living soul was able to experience its glory; the Terracotta Warriors was perhaps the biggest kept secret. This build however, did have its repercussions. Firstly the exhaustion of labor and materials, majority of the states that were in development, there undoubtedly could have been much more fruitful, constructive use of those resources. Perhaps the continuation of the Great Wall, the creation of additional road networks, the improvement of irrigation systems or changes to the imperial court? On a larger scale there were also the deaths of artists, sculptors and workers checking in at a hefty number of 700,000. At the time, did this collection of statues better or change their community in any shape, way or form or were the laborers' hard work all in vain? On the contrary, if he took the Warriors public it would have become a symbol of strength, power and wealth for the nation to believe in and for the world to fear; and more importantly, a boost of morale for the population, uniting states.

The success he displayed and the way he is immortalized are some of the reasons why he still is reckoned as one of the greatest leaders of all time. As previously mentioned, he brought together the warring states, standardized multiple systems including the governing methods of China which allowed for easier management. For his people, he created new measurements and currency units to allow for fair and equal trade. This indirectly furthered their economy and eliminated the chaos between businesses and trades. Moreover, he also improved irrigation systems which meant farmers had more fertile crops, improved road networks for more sophisticated transportation methods between states and individual state defenses to defend against the Mongols in the north. With these improvements and upgrades Qin Shi Huang was able to give actual value to people's belongings and businesses. There is no doubt that Qin Shi Huang improved his empire for many years to come. Arguably with the implementations he implanted within China before his death, he was ruling beyond his grave.

Ultimately, there is one thing that deserves questioning, how superstitious did Qin Shi Huang have to be to believe clay soldiers were capable of protection? Like many ancient emperors of China, Qin Shi Huang was deeply superstitious and embarked on the lifelong journey of seeking immortality even more so after three assassination attempts. The thought of death itself terrified him. He believed in magic and an elixir that could grant him an everlasting life.

Although Qin Shi Huang's physical form did not make the cut for immortality, there are still many debates that in actuality in fact he did. To begin, the Terracotta Warriors are probably the one thing he is most widely known for along alongside the Great Wall. The Great Wall of China lived on to become one of the Five Wonders of the world, a jaw dropping tourist attraction and a stunning piece of architecture. Obviously this is just one of the many noteworthy contributions Qin Shi Huang had made to his people and the world, but what does all this mean? Returning back to the topic of immortality; immortality can also be classified or measured by the legacy one leaves behind and if that's so, many can agree his is in fact, immortal. From being studied by archeologists, historians and children in schools and read about by the common people, the world is still fascinated and curious about him till this day.

The Terracotta Warriors have endured the test of time, in our modern day life it is still heard and talked of. It is more than just a tourist attraction, it was a pioneer for areas like art, the assembly line and weapons design. With all that being said, the truth is still untold. Most records of the events during the Qin Dynasty were written 200 years after, leading to inaccuracy or faulty records. The only chance the truth may be revealed is the unveiling of Qin Shi Huang's grave. Whether the truth will ever be told or remain a mystery, there is one thing for certain, the Terracotta Warriors have left behind an everlasting legacy alongside Qin Shi Huang.

The Terracotta Army of Horses and Soldiers

Sha Tin College, Lo, Hillary – 11

Introduction– as a famous asset to China

The Terracotta Army is a massive collection of sculptures that were made of ceramic. It is a type of funerary art, which was buried along with the first emperor of China, Qin Shi Huang Di, during 210–209 BCE so he would be protected in his after life. Qin Shi Huang is also the proud creator of the Great Wall of China, which he ordered many jailers and captured enemies to build. The Great Wall of China is a majestic and colossal wall that is slowly falling piece by piece. It is breathtaking because the architecture is so modern with endless winding staircases. The Great Wall of China's main purpose was to prevent barbarians and enemies from invading China, and is one of the most famous building projects globally because of its long and interesting history. It has now become a tourism spot alongside The Terracotta Warriors, The Forbidden City and many more wonders of the world. A famous historian named Sima Qian recorded every piece of information about The Terracotta Warriors in his most notable book, *Shiji*.

The Amazing Discovery

Farmers who were digging a well in March 1974 in Xi'an, Shaanxi province first discovered the Terracotta Warriors. The soldiers vary in height because they are classified by their rankings, so the tallest soldiers are the generals. The average height of a soldier is 5 feet, 8 inches. Every soldier has a footprint of 2.25 square feet, and 8,000 soldiers take up 18,000 square feet. The features of the soldiers are unique and not even two of them are the same. Historians say that the construction begun when the next successor (Emperor of Qin) took over China at thirteen years of age. The construction period took about 40 years and more than 700,000 people were involved. Besides the Terracotta Warriors, acrobats, officials, musicians and many more non-military figures were discovered nearby Qin Shi Huang's mausoleum. Scientists are trying to use their knowledge and special techniques to preserve the paint used on the warriors. The weapons are well preserved because of this modern technique called protective chrome plating even though it had been more than 2,000 years.

Qin Shi Huang's background– who was he?

Qin Shi Huang, also called Ying Zheng, conquered all the Warring States. He was a powerful man and managed to unify China. His grandmother was not very important in King Xiaowen's eyes, but Qin Shi Huang managed to get the throne because his father teamed up with Lady Huayang, King Xiaowen's favorite concubine. He invented the title *Huangdi*, which means 'Emperor'. It was then used by the many Chinese rulers after him. He was a dictator and was famous for being brutal and cruel to other people. He killed people who he thought would jeopardize his ruling, people who were holding different views, or put them under great torture. Qin Shi Huang was a clever man, he knew that, and thus did not like being challenged by other people. He was so obsessed with power that he did not care about people's lives and was very selfish because he was ready to sacrifice the life of his people just to secure his position. But he was a great and important man because he left us all these wonders.

Giving up on immortality and having a unique mausoleum instead

Qin Shi Huang's imperial mausoleum is the first, greatest and richest one. The emperor's own tomb took up 20 square miles and he had spent his whole life searching for the elixir of immortality, because he wanted to be immortal and feared death (he was hoping to become the emperor forever). In the end, he built himself his own tomb instead, choosing his design and arranged for the Terracotta Warriors to be formed. The tomb is still under excavation nowadays because the people are looking for what is left behind so they can find out more about his dynasty and reveal the mystery.

Conclusion– understanding that the Terracotta Army is important and therefore treasuring it

As the biggest burial complex ever, The Terracotta Warriors still plays an important role in Chinese history. Without the Terracotta Warriors, the Chinese wouldn't have been so popular and civilized, becoming one of the oldest and longest ancient civilizations that have ever existed.

New Tales of the Terracotta Warriors

St. Mary's Canossian College, Kong, Sum Mei Teresa – 14

I went to visit the Terracotta Warriors during the summer. Therefore, I can deeply experience how fascinating it was.

Terracotta Warriors were discovered by accident in 1974 by farmers in Lintong District, Xi'an. In 1987, UNESCO identified it as World Heritage Site. It is located on the wide expanses of Mount Li. Terracotta Warriors is an underground pit type of civil engineering structures building, where three pits have been found – they are first, second and third. Pit two houses 332 archers who were positioned in combat formation. It revealed a well-equipped troop with 116 terracotta horses and a group of cavalryman standing in front of the horses. Three figurines pits' area are up to 20,000 square meters where there are many lively real horse similar size figurines, pottery horses, nearly 8000. There are different branches of the chariots, cavalry and infantry, etc., arranged in a neat and orderly manner.

The Terracotta warriors have colorful face type, can be said to be thousands of thousand faces. Not only are there the people of different personality traits, but also they fully reflect the ability of the ancients to observe life intensively. If you observe the Terracotta bun carefully, his head has a tie hair band, hair rope and issuers, which are used to bundle hair.

The first warrior is called Painted Equestrian Figurine. It was found in late warring states period and was classified as grade two cultural relics. The horse does not have a saddle. The rider is clad in the nomadic attire of the northwest region in a windbreaker hat, knee-length trousers and long boots. The figurine appears to have been made using hand modeling techniques, as fingerprints are still visible on it, while the eyes, nose and nostrils were carved by a knife. Remnants of paint were found on its body.

Terracotta warriors are divided into Matrimony figurines, royal hand figurines, figurines infantry, cavalry figurines, standing figurines, kneeling figurines, six in total.

Here, I'm going to introduce some kinds of figurines:

General figurines are burly, wearing golden crowns and regulation armor, holding swords in hand, heads held high, stood in the forefront, like in command of Matrimony and soldiers behind the front lines. That air of calm way, to see that this is a battle-hardened, the important task of senior generals.

The kneeling figurines are depicted with their hair tied in a bun on the right of his head and his right knee on the ground. The figure appears to have been holding a crossbow to the right of the chest, with the right hand facing up to grip the crossbow's handle and the left hand facing down to hold the arm of the crossbow, ready to deploy. Originally painted all over, more than half of the figure's colours have faded as a result of human damage and natural erosion. However, the paint remaining on the body suggests that the bun and hair band were crimson, the face pink, the collar pinkish green, the hands pinkish white, the armour black and the shoes brown. The colourful layers and textures of the paint work together with the delicate sculpting in a mutually beneficial artistic relationship that highlights the craftsmanship of the figure.

On the other hand, standing figurines are wearing a light robe tied at the waist with a leather belt and square-front shoes. They are standing with their legs forming an L shape, the left leg bent slightly forward and the right leg stretched out behind to the left. Their right arms are bent in front of the chest, while their left arm are extended. Their heads are raised and their eyes are fixed solemnly on a point to the front and left. Their posture is that of a crossbow archer ready to lift his weapon and shoot.

There are also warriors which are about 1.8 meters tall each. They are wearing shirts and boots. Some of them were holding a sword, some holding a shield all eyes sparkled, lips closed, an air of seriousness, as if a war is in sight.

From the above, we can understand the superb craftsmanship in excellent nature. Besides, their accessories cannot be ignored since they are extremely exquisite!

All the stone armours are made of limestone sequins. The main part consists of the chest, back, shoulders, collars and lower bands. The suit weighs a total of 18 kg and includes 612 sequins. They are bulky and fragile, and anyone wearing it on the battlefield would have been slow and clumsy, and it is therefore believed not to be designed for practical use but is instead a burial object.

The one I found most interesting is the realistic bronze chariot model, with luxurious decoration, the extensive use of gold and silver for the decorations, the delicate production, known as the "bronze crown". It was the best relic in China. The first chariot weighs 1061 kg while the second one 1241 kg. Two chariots parts as much as nearly seven thousand, extremely delicate and complex. In the second chariot, for example, it consists of 3462 parts, including 737 gold decoration, 983 decorative silver, the biggest part is the turtle-shaped hood, it is up to 246cm, an area of about 2.5 square meters, minimum 0.5 square centimeters less than the parts. From the weight, the heaviest is the horse, up to 230 kg. The two royal hand figurines arms reach, grip the rope bridle, head forward, a preoccupied look. Their physical well-proportioned, plump face, hand Royal First royal hand figurine is like revealing a trace of seriousness in relaxed, while the second face with respect.

Look at that eight bronze horse – their ears forward, eyes wide open, nose slightly open, six teeth arranged in neat rows, the body's muscles bulge tranches, especially the chest, looked strong. Its ears erect like truncated bamboo stems, its mane decorated and its tail braided. As a cavalry horse, it is very well equipped: on its back it bears a slightly curved saddle that imitates real leather and that is carved with eight rows of bolts; below the saddle is a representation of a saddle blanket, and embroidered around it are leaf-shaped and striped bands; girth and flank cinches serve to fasten the saddle.

In late 1980s, two huge painted bronze chariots were excavated from a pit located to the west of the tomb mound of the Mausoleum of Qin Shihuang. Half the original size of the imperial chariots once used by the emperor and featuring the same design as other chariots have been unearthed from this era; more importantly, they are the most complicated and largest bronze vessels that have been recovered from ancient China. In order to ensure the safety of these artefacts, a pioneering technique was applied that involved removing the earth that covered them and recovering the pieces, with the remains then taken together with the soil beneath them in a single gigantic block to a laboratory where the fragments of the chariots were separated for repair and conservation. Experts analysed every component of the chariots, their condition and the interrelationship between them. An integrated restoration plan was subsequently drawn up, while comprehensive tests and studies were conducted before suitable restoration materials, craftsmanship methods and bonding and welding techniques were selected. The restoration works of reshaping the parts, removing rust, assembling the chariots, reinforcing the bonds as well as protecting the paint could then start. The restoration of the two bronze chariots took a total of eight years.

Many relics excavated from the Mausoleum of Qin Shihuang were painted, with the terracotta warriors and horses featuring a variety of colours. This is in a sharp contrast to the portrait of the Qin people we have gained from historical records, which indicate that the 'preferred black for their official regalia, banners and signal pennants'. However, the change in humidity, after the terracotta figures were unearthed and came into contact with the air, caused the paint on them to peel off. After years of painstaking research, experts have now acquired the techniques – the injection of hardeners between the

layers of paint and a process of gradual dehydration— to conserve the paintwork, and several painted terracotta warriors have now been successfully restored. It takes eight months or even a year to clean the paint on one Qin terracotta figure.

It took thirty-eight years to build the Terracotta warriors, just from the team, we were able to understand the vast project. The Terracotta lifelike shape, excellent ancient technology is unbelievable. It has great scientific and artistic value. The mausoleum of the site is really under a lot of effort. It is in the back by mountains, facing the plains to the mountains.

Many people have asked whether the terracotta warriors were modelled on real soldiers? My answer is YES. According to Daily Mail, a team of archaeologists from University College London (UCL) worked with experts from Emperor Qin Shi Huang's Mausoleum Site Museum in Lintong, China, to reveal the ancient design process behind the soldiers. They measured the statues' facial features focusing on the ears, because they come in so many different shapes that they can be used to identify individuals. The experts reasoned, that if the warriors depict real people, each statue should have different shaped ears. Because the statues are packed so closely together in the burial pit, they scanned the ears and made 3D reconstructions to examine them without risking damaging the ancient originals. Working from a sample of 30 models, they discovered that no two ears were precisely the same and the amount of variation resembled a real human population.

Hope you all can feel how fascinating the Terracotta Warriors were through my firsthand experience. Meanwhile, let's make efforts to preserve such marvelous world heritage!

Non-fiction

Group 4



The Terracotta Warriors: Ancient Symbols of the Corruption Of Power?

Creative Secondary School, Cheung, Hugo – 17

Since my childhood, I have heard of a lot fantastic and unbelievable stories about the terracotta warriors that were created in the Qin dynasty in China. The Terracotta warriors were discovered by a farmer in China during the 70s. An army of about eight thousand soldiers made of terra cotta, a baked reddish clay, were buried fifteen to twenty feet beneath the surface near the tomb of Emperor Qin.

The Terracotta warriors were built for two reasons according to historians. Firstly, the army was designed to protect Qin after he died; it is said, the ancient Chinese had very strong beliefs about the afterlife. They believe that we will be heading to the underground world after death, therefore the terracotta warriors were made to protect emperor Qin in the underground world. Emperor Qin believes that the more alike the soldiers are, the more effective are the terracotta warriors guarding and defending the emperor in the underworld. The second reason for building the Terracotta warriors was to demonstrate emperor Qin's power in the Qin dynasty. Qin began to construct a lot infrastructure during his teenage years and he began to construct the army and the tomb at the age of thirteen. Historians estimate that it required over seven hundred labourers and craftsmen working for thirty years to complete the construction of these soldiers. This construction is some kind of indication of the emperor's power during his dynasty.

The people under the rule of the Qin emperor were subjected to new laws, which limited their freedom and eventually made them become the slaves of the state; they were either made to become farmers or soldiers. Books were burned and those intellectuals were forced to become labor or being killed. Severe and cruel punishments often occurred. Families, who had ruled prior to this new emperor's rule, were forced to live in replicas of their former places. These kinds of acts were often performed throughout the history and even nowadays, thus demonstrating the avarice of mankind and human nature.

The creation of the terracotta warriors successfully reflects how power and money corrupts leaders in the society. The demand for gaining more power and money is endless, since people's wants are unlimited. Similar to the Qin dynasty, throughout history there have been many political and military power figures who have grown corrupt with power, like Kim Jong il and Joseph Stalin. Leadership of a society is all about power and influence. The other form of this power is also called personalized power. It is the use of power for personal gain and psychologists believe that the more people possess power, the more they focus on their own egocentric desires and the less able they are to see others' perspectives.

Kim Jong il, the leader of North Korea is a great example of power corruption in the modern day. Most of us knew of him as a ruthless leader who would do whatever was necessary to remain in power; even at the expense of his people.

Another dictator leader from history is Joseph Stalin, who was the primary Soviet leader of his time during the 1920's. Stalin overused his powers; he felt free to turn on all those who have opposed him. Eventually even murder had become a social norm lead by him at that time. His overuse of power made the society at that time complete chaotic.

Leaders like Emperor Qin, Stalin and Kim Jong il usually started out with good intentions but were corrupted absolutely because they became consumed by the obsession for more power and more authority. This also shows how money and power are unlimited wants of human beings; they will never be satisfied by what they have. No matter how civilized or advanced we are nowadays, how much ammunition we have at our disposal, we remain strangely powerless, like those warriors of yester-year and can only watch and conform while corruption grows around us.

Death's Grip

Creative Secondary School, Liu, Sophie – 17

We all knew that human cannot be resurrected from death, but even dead bodies can be influential symbols of power. China as one of the four civilizations, inherits a number of superstitious beliefs on death. Emperor, the son of heaven who stands on top of all the classes, demonstrates these notions to the most extreme extent. The first Qin emperor's mausoleum is one of the most remarkable. Being at the center of power, the death of emperor is extraordinarily meaningful, lending its significance too down the centuries to the death of modern-day leaders. China nowadays is still maintaining her mausoleums as a big show of power and its favorably comparable to the mass scale of terracotta warriors.

Dating back to the Qin dynasty, the construction of Qin emperor's tomb demonstrates his absolute control over the people. Based on the vast scale of construction projects such as the mausoleum, the Great Wall, palace and roads, the beads of people's sweat could have been gathered to form the Yellow River. Therefore, the enormity of the creation of the terracotta warriors and the delicately crafted statues can in their darkest sense, be seen to symbolize a mass grave. All this effort paid was purposed to protect the afterlife of the emperor. This demonstrates his manipulation of the people.

Once his dynasty was overthrown, a fire destroyed parts of the terracotta army. The most convincing theory proclaimed that the rebels lead by Xiang Yu carried out such destruction. This event elaborates on the existence of the tomb as a symbol of Qin's power. Soon after his dynasty vanished, his mausoleum no longer was protected. Undoubtedly, his clay army is a projection of Qin's dictatorship.

Although modern China abandons some of the old shibboleth on burial, a new and odd custom is developed. After Mao Ze Dong died, the chairman of the China Communist Party, he was not buried with any such mass of funerary objects, but was instead, kept in a glass coffin long-term. Despite his will declaring his wish to be cremated, his wish was altered by a political power struggle. His successor Huo Guo Feng was the one who greatly encourage preserving his body in glass coffin for displacement so that people could pay their respect. This action was to continue the cult of Mao as means of consolidating Guo's power in the party. Similar to Qin building the terracotta army as an impressive demonstration of his throne, the politician's body remains a tool to solidify power.

It is also worth mentioning that China is not the only country to preserve their leader's body. Most of the socialist leaders such as Lenin in Soviet Union, Ho Chi Minh in Vietnam and Kim Jong-il in North Korea were kept in glass coffins also. The display of their bodies is purposed to continue to be influential even after they died. Mao's remains are used to continue Mao's fanaticism. Just as like Qin to build the terracotta army as a method of control, so the politician's remains a tool to manipulate power.

In spite of the mausoleums of both Qin and Mao symbolize power; the nature of both events is different. Qin had an intended construction of the tomb since 13 years old, whilst the displacement of Mao contradicted his will. Mao did not calculate the show of power through his own body. The instigators of these events are different. Moreover, the manipulations of the people are by different approaches. On the one hand, the Qin emperor enforced physical impact on the people. People were preoccupied by the immense amount of hard labor. The atmosphere of fear rendered the people's complain into speechless. On the other hand, politician used Mao's body to influence people's ideology. By allowing people to get a glimpse of their leader, the significance of the hero of communist China is repeatedly emphasized even today. Therefore, people are still fascinated by Maoist revolutionary ideas through the successful depiction of Mao's heroic image.

On the whole, the deaths of the leaders were made advantageous, showing us the influence of dead bodies. Although the benefits of the leaders' burial were exploited through distinct methods, they both inevitably signify power. Even after they have died, people's lives continue to be shaped by their unforgiving souls.

Conspiracy of Terracotta Warriors

Discovery College (Secondary), Woo, Nicole – 14

China is known to have countless historical attractions, such as, the infamous Great Wall and Forbidden City in Beijing. However, the Terracotta Army must not be excluded from one's list of must-sees when travelling, as it is one of the top attractions in China. Gaining its significance due to the hundreds of detailed life-size models, representing the army that triumphed over all other Chinese armies in the Warring States Period and ushered the united imperial China era 2,200 years ago, it is considered one of the greatest archaeological sites in the world, and one of the greatest discoveries of the 20th century.

Many believe that the Terracotta Warriors are the greatest collection of terracotta sculptures in the world. However, the name should be changed to Terracotta *Warriors*, as it will better describe the designer – Qin Shihuang, the first Emperor of China, the reason and purpose behind these monuments.

Background Information

A quick review before we submerge into an ocean of information: The Qin Tomb Terracotta Warriors and Horses (秦陵兵马俑 in Chinese), feature hundreds of life-size models of soldiers, horses and chariots in battle array. It was constructed in 246–206 BC., and with the tomb of Emperor Qin Shihuang, it took 720 thousand builders.

But, one may ask, why were the Terracotta Warriors made? First Emperor Qin, from whom China gets its name, ordered the creation of this army of terracotta statues, to be buried with him. Supposedly, it is said that it was a show of his glory, to remember the army that triumphed over the other Warring States to unite China, and because it was believed that objects like statues could be animated in the afterlife, and Qin Shihuang required an after-death army. However, the real reason of why these statues were made remains unknown, as there is no record in history showing why it was built.

Laid underground for more than 2000 years, farmers digging a well in 1974 uncovered what is now considered one of the greatest archaeological sites in the world. The first part of the Terracotta Army site to be discovered was named Vault One. In 1976, two other vaults were uncovered about 20 meters away, and were named Vault Two and Vault Three. In December 1987, UNESCO selected the Tomb of the First Emperor (including the Terracotta Army Vaults) as a World Cultural Heritage Site.

Thousands of life-size, vivid terracotta warriors in battle formation were revealed in the course of excavation of the earth and timber vaults – a whole army that would accompany their emperor into immortality. The horsemen, the longbow bearers, the archers, and the senior officers and generals were positioned in a grand ancient army formation, in strict accordance with the ancient directives on the Art of War. Every figure differs in facial features and expression, clothing, hairstyle, and gestures, providing abundant artifacts for the study of the military, cultural, and economic history of that period. Imagine if you were the designer, the number of soldiers you would need to make would be much more than your following on social media.

Many of the figures originally held real weapons of the time, such as bronze swords, longbows, arrows, spears, dagger-axes, and other long-shafted weapons. The weapons were treated to make them resistant to rust and corrosion, so that even after being buried for over 2,000 years they were still sharp.

The museum mainly consists of three vaults and an exhibition hall: Vault One, Vault Two, Vault Three, and The Exhibition Hall of the Bronze Chariots. The vaults are arrayed as the buried army was in strict accordance with the ancient directives on the Art of War: facing east towards the ancient enemies of Qin

State (and towards the entrance), with Vault One on the right flank, Vault Two on the left flank, and Vault Three a command post at the rear.

Vault One is the largest and most impressive — the size of an airplane hangar. It is believed to contain over 6,000 terracotta figures of soldiers and horses, but less than 2,000 are on display. All soldiers and horses face east in a rectangular array. The vanguard appears to be three rows of infantry who stand at the easternmost end of the army. Close behind is the main force of armored soldiers holding weapons, accompanied by 38 horse-driven chariots.

Excavation and restoration is still ongoing at vaults two and three. Excavated in 1976, Vault Two stands about 20 meters north to Vault One. As the highlight of the whole mausoleum, it uncovers the mystery of the ancient army array. It consists of four units, measuring 94m east to west and 84m south to north and 5m deep, forming a 6000m² built-up area. The first unit contains rows of kneeling and standing archers; the second one is a chariot war array; the third unit consists of mixed forces with infantry, chariot and trooper standing in rectangular array; and the last one includes troopers holding weapons.

Vault Three is the smallest one. There are only 68 terracotta figures, many of which are without heads. It's obvious that Vault Three represents the command post, as all the figures are officials.

The two bronze carriages at the Exhibition of Bronze Chariots displayed in the hall were discovered 20 meters from the west side of the Tomb of Qin Shihuang in December 1980, and were elaborately restored before exhibition. The carriages have about 3,400 parts each and were driven by four horses. The bronze horses vary from 65 cm to 67 cm high and 120 cm long, weighing 1,234 kg in total. The carriages were so well-made, and so vivid, that they boast being the best-preserved and having the highest rank among the earliest known bronze relics in China. These chariots are the biggest pieces of ancient bronzeware ever found in the world.

Designer of the Terracotta Warriors and horses

Qin Shihuang Di (the first emperor) reigned for eleven years over the first large empire in the region. He was born the son of a king in a kingdom that already had plans for the conquest of every other Warring State and had been preparing for conquest for years by mobilizing the masses for massive construction projects, conscripting the people for the army, and producing the most advanced weaponry that they could. Military might and conquest was their major goal aside from the continued rule of their king. The State of Qin rulers believed in a political philosophy called Legalism, which justified strict centralized control and using the people to strengthen Qin. He and his top officials followed the dictates of this philosophy by first conquering the region (in which they conquered every other region of the former Zhou Empire and some surrounding peoples as well) and then conscripting everyone for their projects of construction and foreign conquests, as they believed that part of strengthening his rule was to force everyone to simply obey and not speak out against him, by decreeing even how people could write, what they could believe, and what they should do. The society was centralized to the point that every dissenter against the rule of the court was destroyed or sent for forced labor, and most literature was destroyed. Even Qin Shihuang's own son was demoted and sent to construct the Great Wall because he dissented against him. He succeeded in molding the people to become more similar, to build massively, and to conquer more territory. The absolute power that they wanted for themselves corrupted them, and the dynasty quickly ended in foolish policies and the people rebelled.

During their rule, they made the first Great Wall on their northern borders that was a high wall and a fortification to keep out northern tribes like the Xiongnu. They built countless roads and canals for the transport of troops and supplies, as well as the Qin Mausoleum and Terracotta Army. The Qin court

succeeded in unifying the empire and retaining control for 15 years; they standardized the writing system, money, and measurements and built a lot of infrastructure that helped the big region prosper later; and by destroying the ideas and teachers who they were against, they established the dominant philosophies of their big region.

He killed many scholars and officials, and imposed his harsh rule. It wasn't hard to see why many people hated Qin Shihuang; hence there were many assassination attempts against him. He wanted to live forever, and rumors say he may have taken poisonous substances from Daoists to try to gain immortality.

The Qin Dynasty ended in suicide and death. But during their short reign starting from their wars for conquests, they destroyed more than half of the population (estimated to have dropped from 40 to 18 million within their reign) and much of the culture, literature and scholarship of the Zhou era. In carrying out their plans, they caused enormous misery and destruction. There was a standardized written language for the whole empire that was promulgated by Li Si. This writing system became the common literary language for the whole region afterwards until the modern era. By standardizing aspects like writing and religion, they laid the foundation for later empires. But, the conspiracy is that there was no explanation as to why the Terracotta Warriors was built.

Conspiracy of Terracotta Warriors

At the beginning of this text, it is mentioned that a lot of historians believe the construction of Terracotta Warriors is due to the following reasons:

- As a show of Qin Shihuang's glory,
- To remember the army that triumphed over the other Warring States to unite China, and
- Because it was believed that objects like statues can be animated in the afterlife, and Qin Shihuang required an after-death army.

But, it's hard to believe these statements with such little evidence. When doing research on the Terracotta Warriors as well as Qin Shihuang and Qin Dynasty, it is hard for one to agree with the reasons above.

As a show of Qin Shihuang's glory

He could have had a tomb made of gold, or filled to the brim with jewelry to do show this power.

To remember the army that triumphed over the other Warring States to unite China

Then the warriors wouldn't need to be life-size and also wouldn't need to be scattered in different locations. At least, real weapons shouldn't be held.

Because it was believed that objects like statues can be animated in the afterlife, and Qin Shihuang required an after-death army

This sounds more reasonable but China has already been united, thus why would he require an after-death army?

Up until now one may be very curious about this information. Besides the Terracotta Warriors, Qin Shihuang also did few remarkable historical events:

- A. The burning of books and burying of scholars (Chinese: 焚書坑儒) refers to the supposed burning of texts in 213 BC and burial alive of 460 Confucian scholars in 210 BC by the First Emperor of the Qin dynasty of ancient China. The event caused the loss of many philosophical treatises of the Hundred Schools of Thought.

- B. The Great Wall of China is a series of fortifications made of many materials, generally built along an east-to-west line across the historical northern borders of China to protect the Chinese states and empires against the invasions of the various nomadic groups of the Eurasian Steppe. Several walls were being built as early as the 7th century BC; these, later joined together and made bigger and stronger, are now collectively referred to as the Great Wall. The Great Wall has on and off been rebuilt/enhanced; the majority of the existing wall is from the Ming Dynasty.

King Zheng of Qin conquered the last of his opponents and unified China as the First Emperor of the Qin dynasty ("Qin Shihuang") in 221 BC. Intending to impose centralized rule and prevent the resurgence of feudal lords, he ordered the destruction of the sections of the walls that divided his empire among the former states. To position the empire against the Xiongnu people from the north, however, he ordered the building of new walls to connect the remaining fortifications along the empire's northern frontier. Stones from the mountains were used over mountain ranges, while rammed earth was used for construction in the plains. There are no surviving historical records indicating the exact length and course of the Qin walls. Most of the ancient walls have eroded away over the centuries, and very few sections remain today. The human cost of the construction is unknown, but it has been estimated by some authors that hundreds of thousands, if not up to a million, workers died building the Qin wall. Later, the Han, the Sui, and the Northern dynasties all repaired, rebuilt, or expanded sections of the Great Wall at great cost to defend themselves against northern invaders. The Liao, Jin, and Yuan dynasties, who ruled Northern China throughout most of the 10th–13th centuries, constructed defensive walls in the 12th century but those were located much to the north of the Great Wall as we know it, within China's province of Inner Mongolia and in Mongolia itself.

Just by roughly calculating the number of people who died in these two events, it may now be classified as disaster. Qin Shihuang, the ruler who had absolute power, also knew that he had killed thousands to millions of innocents. But, there is no single reason why he should kill the scholars and push the construction laborers to death for the Great Wall.

Having said that, it seems as if the building of the Terracotta Warriors was to protect him after death. He needed a full troop to protect him, because he killed too many people.

Qin Dynasty believed in Daoism, which regards life as the most valuable thing and pursues immortality. Life can be prolonged through meditation and exercise. To achieve this, Daoism stresses the need for a peaceful and harmonious environment as a very important external condition. Since Qin Shihuang somehow did a number of decisions which was totally opposite to Daoism, he was worried about his life after death.

Chinese believes that the law of cause and effect underlies the workings of all phenomena. Positive thoughts, words and actions create positive effects in the lives of individuals, leading to happiness. Negative thoughts, words and actions on the other hand – those that in some way undermine the dignity of life – lead to unhappiness. This is the general principle of Chinese and its religions.

If this assumption is correct, then it can answer why (1) the Warriors are built miles away from his tomb, and (2) Why the Warriors are facing Qin Shihuang rather than to the enemies (outward).

Daoism (the national religious of Qin), Confucianism and Chinese folk religion stem from similar roots, so they share a perspective on life after death. Actually, some people even say religions like Daoism and Confucianism are not spiritual in orientation; rather they are ethical systems for how to run society and behave in good conduct. It could be said that Confucianism focuses on social and moral guidelines, while Daoism emphasizes the individual, mystical side of life.

Even though spirits, ancestors and deities are believed to exist, Daoism and others in its religious family emphasize living in the here and now much more than what will happen when we die. Upon dying, the Dao says that a person transforms from yang to yin, or from being to non-being. Death and ceasing to be are merely part of the reality of life.

Daoism focuses on transformation rather than death, but the after-world does have blissful and suffering states. For instance, Daoists who have followed the “way” during life are more likely to become important ancestors in the afterlife, helping humans on earth. Those who have failed to live the deeper life will be banished to the nine stages of Hell, a place of purgatory and agony.

Because all opposites are relative and interdependent, Daoism emphasizes living in harmony with the flow of reality. An important philosophical concept is wu-wei, or non-action. It is believed that actions and decisions can be avoided, made very simple or even almost invisible in order to allow for the natural flow to persist. It's only when we struggle and fight that suffering begins. It follows that ideas about death, dying and passing into the after-world aren't frightening topics for Daoists. The most important point is for a person is to avoid any wrongdoing during his life. If you don't want to walk the shadow of Qin Shihuang, scare of after-death life, try not to do anything wrong or hurt anyone during your life. After all this information, the following can be concluded:

Great victories involves lost of life

Great constructions involve great destructions

All in all, the conclusion to this research can refer to the Daoism symbol – the “yin yang”. Its meaning and symbol date back to ancient China and represent the belief that everything in the universe consists of two forces that are opposing but complementary. In a nutshell, Chinese Yin Yang symbols represent perfect balance. Seemingly, the whole of Chinese philosophy stems from the concept of Yin and Yang – opposites interacting and supposedly the seed of all things. For example, evil results from an imbalance in Yin and Yang, and good comes from the two being in harmonic balance. The evil deeds performed by Qin Shihuang overpowered the Yin, hence creating an imbalance. Hopefully the world will have a perfect balance, where everyone respects each other and all wars stop. Then, there will not be other Terracotta Warriors (or Terracotta *Worriers*) in the world.

Terracotta Warriors

Islamic Kasim Tuet Memorial College, Arrej, Kianat – 17

The Terracotta army is one of the top attractions in China. It is important because the hundreds of detailed life-sized models represent the army that triumphed over all other Chinese armies in the Warring States Period, and who ushered in the United imperial China era 2,200 years ago. One of the most violent times in Chinese history was known as the Warring States period. It is even considered one of the greatest archaeological sites in the world, and one of the greatest discoveries of the 20th century. It is known as one of the greatest architectural sites because it is the largest military museum underground. And because of the interesting fact that all the terracotta soldiers were made to face east towards Emperor Qin's enemies of the Warring States Period (475–221 BC).

About Qin Shi Huang

The 500 years of civil war was mainly a war between three different states in China and ultimately the Qin dynasty won and there was Qin kingdom. China was then unified, and the first emperor of the Qin Dynasty, Qin Shi Huang Di, was crowned. Under his rule, construction of the Great Wall began, written language standards were created, and even wheels and roads were regulated to improve commerce in the unified kingdom. Qin Shi Huang Di's tomb contained not only the famed Terra Cotta Army, but also contained a full scale replica of his empire in miniature, and also dragon sarcophagus surrounded by a lake of mercury. He was too obsessed with the thought of having his warriors with him in afterlife so he announced the idea of burying them with him when he dies. Although it survived only 15 years, but it did held a great importance in history and a great influence on the upcoming dynasties.

About The Terra Cotta Warriors

Terracotta is a type of earthenware, is a clay-based unglazed or glazed ceramic, where the fired body is secure. The terracotta warriors are the warriors who served the first emperor of China. The terracotta warriors is a collection of terracotta sculptures depicting the armies of Qin Shi Huang. He was buried with terracotta warriors who served to protect him. When they were originally created, the terra-cotta warriors were fully painted and armed. However by time exposure to the elements have stripped away most of this. But still the site of the terracotta is impressive due to the architect and the history of the warriors. While looking closely, it can be seen that the individual soldiers all have different expressions, and that the soldiers themselves hold different ranks. There are soldiers of all ages with different ranks, facial features, and hair styles. For example, an archer can be distinguished by the position of his hair, which will have a left aligned bun so that he could reach into his quiver. The figures are arranged according to their roles such as tallest are the generals it includes the warriors, chariots and horses. There are more than 8000 soldiers, 130 chariots, 6520 horses and 150 cavalry horses. They average around 5 feet 11 inches tall with some soldiers being as tall as 6 foot 7 inches. The soldiers that have been separated into three different pits. The first and largest one is considered the mainly battle army, and consists of mainly foot soldiers and horses. The second is smaller, and is considered a flanking army. This pit contains mainly archers and chariots. The third pit is considerably smaller, and is supposedly representative of a headquarters. And all pottery warriors and horses were made using local clay, then baked in the kiln. After firing the figures were completed with painted detail. The soldiers were even designed with different clothing and armor. Men from the cavalry are dressed different than foot soldiers. Some soldiers don't have armor. Perhaps they were supposed to be scouts or spies.

The Qin Terracotta Warriors and Horses were made in life-size. And the terracotta army figures were manufactured in workshops by government laborers and local craftsmen using local materials. Heads, arms,

legs, and torsos were created separately and then assembled. There are not even two similar statues all are different with different expressions some angry some calm.

As impressive as the soldiers are today, they were likely much more impressive 2,000 years ago. The soldiers were painted to look even more realistic and then covered with a lacquer finish. They also held real weapons such as crossbows, daggers, maces, spears, and swords.

Why Were the Terracotta Warriors Made?

Because the emperor of China wanted his soldiers to be with him even in hereafter and as to show his glory. And because to even show how the warriors have fought battles and wars to secure the people in China and to secure the country. And because it was believed that objects like statues can be animated in the afterlife, and Qin Shihuang required an after-death army. He spent a huge amount of resources building for himself the largest single tomb built to a leader in the history of the world. And even because he felt this huge army would protect him and help him to keep his power in the afterlife. According to Sima Qian, Qin Shui Huang had already begun to build when he ascended the throne of Qin kingdom. He was not able to resolve his fear of death nor he could realize the his claim on universal and eternal rulership in his life, he determined to establish his supreme authority and power after his death. Arrogance that characterized his life thud even accompanied him in his afterlife. 700000 workers worked together to build it.

How Were The Terracotta Warriors Discovered?

In 1974 the Terracotta warriors was discovered to the east of Xi'an in Shaanxi province by a group of farmers digging water well, they came across this most surprising and huge shocking archaeological discoveries of all time, the TERRACOTTA WARRIORS. The life-size terracotta soldier group of farmers dug out of the ground turned out to be just one of an army of the thousands, each utterly unique, with individual clothing, hair and facial features. The first part of the Terracotta Army site to be discovered was named Vault One. In 1976, two other vaults were uncovered about 20 meters away, and were named Vault Two and Vault Three.

NOW: The terracotta warriors need extra protection as their color fades away easily. Specially when the visitors pass through the exhibition halls surrounding the pits, they bring outside air with them. Coauthor Zhaolin Gu of Xi'an Jiaotong University and colleagues note that, along with humidity, air pollutants such as sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide can play a large role in the deterioration of the statues. For example, they say, the formation of gypsum on the surface of the relics could be related to the interaction between SO₂ or SO₄²⁻ in the air and CaCO₃ in the soil and on the surfaces of the relics. And the site should be protected not only for attraction and for the value but for the upcoming generations academic and cultural values. To protect the site China can have air curtain technology to help create an invisible barrier between the warriors and visitors.

The terracotta warriors is still one of the main and most attractive site for tourists in China. it's because of the history and heritage. Most interesting fact about them is they are made by clay and by 700,000 workers. And after so many years they are still preserved .

The Drugs of Immortality

Marymount Secondary School, Lowe, Zoe – 15

Grief, in Ancient China, was not considered proper unless made a public affair – deaths were mourned with wailing and crying, and announced with banners and lanterns. This was the way to show respect. And yet, the passing of Qin Shihuang, First August and Divine Emperor, was strictly kept a secret.

To be honest, the reasons for this were more or less purely political, and not very interesting (his primary advisor feared the announcement might trigger an uprising). That said, it may have been surprisingly apt, because in spite of everything, the First Emperor wasn't quite dead.

What does it mean to live forever? Biological immortality refers to the immortality of a bloodline – you exist forever in your children and grandchildren and great grandchildren. Religions present us with reincarnation, and salvation, both of which are ways that the soul lives on. In the First Emperor's time, a belief in the existence of a mortal body and two separate souls created a whole milieu of ideas about immortality. Most of the Ancient Chinese believed in a life after physical death as well, but unlike Christian salvation, this afterlife did not quite denote anything about ascension to a higher realm, nor anything about the person themselves. What's more important is that anyone, even the lowliest peasant, could enter that kind of afterlife. It wasn't enough for Qin Shihuang.

Before we get into his death, it's worth taking a moment to discuss what he actually spent his *life* doing, besides, of course, uniting all of what is roughly still known as China under his power. All things considered, it's plausible to say that never before had one person been so prolific a source of great conquests. One of the young emperor's first immense tasks was building his own tomb and mausoleum, which together spanned miles and were the effort of 700,000 men (more than enough to populate a 250 BC city).

But soon, even the notion that he would one day leave this earth left his mind. The Emperor set about connecting the waterways and building a great wall in the west, not caring if the construction of one great monument came at the suffering of thousands. Like many other early rulers of North China, he hunted for sport and had land cleared on an incredible scale to make a 'supreme forest' and hunting grounds. He sucked the souls from his people, his animals, his land, as if he could use their vitality to sustain his own.

He looked upon his empire and decided that things would have to be different from before – and when I say different, I mean that he intended to make everything the same. He standardized weights and measures and coinage and roads; and when that was out of the way, he set about standardizing the minds of his people – every material that didn't adhere to his idea of strict legalism went up in flames. Says an imperial edict of 221 BC: 'When they are not uniform or are in doubt, make them uniform.'

With all this playing God you would think he intended to achieve immortality by ascending directly to the heavens and becoming a deity himself (in fact by all records he believed he was fit to be one). However, this too wasn't the kind of immortality he strived for. What the First Emperor wanted was eternal life in its most straightforward form – to extend his physical life on this earth as long as possible, to never grow old.

Constantly face to face with war and peril and assassination attempts, this was a seemingly impossible feat, but at least he was never without help. The court was perpetually orbited by people who were ready to offer their expertise on any subject at all, as long as you mentioned it in conjunction with money. In light of that, enter the recipe gentlemen. The Western equivalent of these notorious figures would have to be either alchemists, or (more fittingly) con men. China has never suffered a shortage of rumour and folklore, so the recipe gentlemen had plenty to work with. They fed the First Emperor an array of nuts, flowers, onions and badly crafted tall tales. Most of these had nice sounding explanations; for example, pine was recommended for its evergreen longevity. Somewhat oddly, an array of parasitic

plants were popular as well (apparently their ability to grow from a dead host meant they could raise the fallen). Many of us have heard the story about a particularly audacious pair of recipe gentlemen who requested a thousand young men and women as well as a ludicrous amount of valuables, supposedly to attract the help of immortals with their purity. Then they made off with everything and never turned up again.

That said, for a man who had created an empire and then brought it to its knees before him, gold and silver, priceless jewels, and even a few thousand youth were expendable commodities. But eventually, the recipe gentlemen would exact the ultimate price. In 210 BC, he swallowed his final drugs of immortality – toxic mercury tablets. He was dead before he got back to the capital. He had never bothered with a will.

The Divine Emperor was irrevocably dead, it seemed. But it can't be said that he was dead and *gone*. In fact when his closest advisors and eunuchs made the call to hide his death, they kept up the charade for months. That's how strong his presence was.

Take a moment to understand how it would have been to be Qin Shihuang, the First Emperor of the whole of China. Having spent your whole life chasing power, and orchestrating things that were nearly beyond belief, would you really want to give up everything you'd done for something as meaningless as death? In recent years, psychologists and philosophers have been considering a new type of never-ending life – symbolic immortality. Confucianism (which, ironically, was strictly banned in the Qin Dynasty) once postulated that 'The superior man dislikes the thought of his name not being mentioned after his death.' Symbolic immortality is a very close manifestation of that idea – it's the avoidance of death by living on in acts and accomplishments that people will remember forever.

The Great Wall is world famous, but hardly anyone outside of China knows who began its construction; nobody has followed Qin Shihuang's written script since the Han Dynasty. And needless to say, the roads and canals he so painstakingly weaved across China have long been demolished. His *real* legacy was unearthed in 1974, when some Shaanxi villagers were digging a new well. Instead of hitting water, they hit the Eighth Wonder of the World – the Terracotta Warriors.

So *this* was the grand mausoleum and army the Emperor of Qin created when he was still the King of Qin, at the tender age 13 and not yet knowing he would later change his mind about being a mere mortal. But if we're to believe in symbolic immortality, that means he had finally gotten back his legacy (and therefore his immortality) after all.

The First Emperor was, if not immortal, at least resurrected. And albeit by chance it was Terracotta Army which made it so. It's tempting to just leave it there and call it a happy ending, but for the sake of veracity we must be technical. If symbolic immortality is eternal life through our legacies and monuments, that begs the question – is the Terracotta Army really *his* legacy?

After a new heir was firmly in place and the death of Qin Shihuang was finally announced, the workmen who had meticulously crafted the Terracotta Warriors were been buried alive inside with him. Nobody so intimate with the contents of the emperor's tomb could be allowed to live. For every stone cold, lifeless soldier in those catacombs, there was a real man whose life had been ripped away; all to provide Qin Shihuang with his Terracotta Warriors, his miniature tomb city, his resting place surrounded by gold and jade and rivers of mercury. It was their work, and their spirit that took the hit. The drugs of immortality that the emperor had indulged in for so long weren't mercury tablets or pine nuts, but the endless toil of his people. Consider it again – whose monument is the Terracotta Army?

You can unite an empire without gaining its respect; you can die and still remain in power. You can lose your immortality by mistake then get it back by chance, but not necessarily for yourself. The Terracotta Warriors each house a spirit of unmatched vitality and creativity. But in the end it is not the Divine Emperor who is alive among us today, but his army – the people of China.

Guarding the Tomb – Two Thousand Years of Loyalty

St. Joseph's College, Chow, Hin Ching Justin – 15

I could barely contain my nervousness— as the barely audible sound of a spade striking earth drew closer and closer, I knew I was just seconds away from discovery.

The digging progressed with agonizing lethargy, making the pain in my chest all the more excruciating. As I struggled to remain still, a thousand questions ran through my mind.

“Where are my limbs? Will they be found?”

“Who is behind that shovel? What will they do to me?”

After what seemed like an eternity, something metallic finally struck my head.

“Here’s another one,” someone exclaimed. They began to excavate the earth around me. There were people in weird clothing all around me, and one of them was brushing my forehead, but I hardly noticed. Instead, I froze, completely mesmerized by the first shaft of light I had seen in two millennia.

It all started way back in the Qin dynasty, when I was brought to life in a dusty workshop. I opened my eyes to see an old, experienced artisan concentrating on my face. Behind him sat a seasoned Qin soldier, who was smiling at me affectionately. I soon discovered that every terracotta warrior was modelled on a real soldier, so naturally I pleased the soldier who shared my features. Around me, several of my brethren were already waiting. I joined them eagerly. Life was more exciting then. New brothers were created daily, and I got to observe the artisans at work.

Some say that terracotta warriors were the results of a factory—line production, but the opposite is true. Every terracotta soldier is the unique work of a skilful artisan, which gives rise to an endless variety of clothing and faces. So how were we made?

First of all, a ceramic worker would roll earth into the shape of a head, which would form the backbone for the skull. The earth, which had been removed of impurities through screening, was mixed with pebbles to ensure its strength.

Afterwards, a number of pre—produced body parts were attached to the head. The basic body shape was now formed.

To continue, several layers of mud and argil were added to create different facial shapes. Through carving, scraping and pasting, artisans painstakingly created the warrior’s faces. As the details were crafted by hand, different styles were reflected on us. Some craftsmen preferred bright and energetic warriors, while others made majestic ones.

The legs and torso was slightly easier, but it was no piece of cake. After the respective parts were made in casts, the artisans had to engage in detailed repair. The leg muscles, armour and tunic all had to be carefully built.

After all that, the warrior finally reached the last major part of production—painting. A layer of lacquer was first applied, then one or two layers of pigment were added above the raw lacquer. I myself was brilliantly and delicately coloured. My hair bun was reddish brown, I had a pink face, and my hands were white. My robes were a multi—coloured affair. My black shoulder armour, decorated with light green laces, was partially covered by the piece of frontal armour running in front. Simple yet lovely intersecting patterns adorned my torso armour. I found this bright décor strangely comforting.

With all the details required for each of us, the workload for the artisans was enormous. To make matters worse, the Qin soldiers who supervised the workers were harsh and cruel. They seemed to be indifferent to the workers’ sufferings.

As a result, many of the labourers died of overwork. Doubtlessly the terracotta army was grand and spectacular, but it was not all fun and games.

One morning, my own creator was absent. This was puzzling, as he had never arrived late before. There were many workers in a single workshop, so it did not really matter. His numerous assistants continued with his work. The incident was resolved during lunch, when he was dragged into the room by a pair of guards.

“Why are you late?” they demanded.

“Please, sirs,” he begged, “I fell ill and lost track of time. It won’t happen again.”

However, the guards were unconvinced. My creator was giving a beating on the spot. All of us terracotta warriors stared at our shoes, well knowing that we were the source of his hardship. We were

professional soldiers, trained from the start to believe in the Qin Empire, but for once we lowered our heads. This was also the first time I thought the Qin empire was a bit unkind.

Even so, he was one of the lucky ones. Many of the labourers died of overwork, but they were swiftly and silently replaced. Like the Great Wall and the E Fang palace, the terracotta warriors were engineering wonders, but they had their dark side. These landmarks were built at the expense of the unfortunate workers, the result of years of sweat and pain. In fact, the multitude of work was so large that the work of the emperor's tomb continued long after his death.

For a few years I waited at the workshop as the workers toiled to complete an army of us. Slowly but surely our numbers grew. We all longed for the day when we would be entrusted with the honour to protect the king. While we could not move, we shared the spirit of the warriors we were modelled on. We were not just sculptures; we were made to be loyal soldiers, the emperor's personal guard. We were forever faithful to the Qin dynasty.

Finally, the big day arrived. We were chatting among ourselves when some soldiers brought weapons into the room. We all stared at them. There were crossbows, bronze swords, bolts, spears, daggers and many more besides. Almost anything the real Qin army used was included. Most of those weapons were fully functional and battle ready models – real arms intended for real soldiers. I was given a halberd. It had a wooden shaft with a bronze axe-head tied on top. This latest addition made us much more authentic, and very often you could hear one terracotta soldier bragging about his beloved weapon.

Next, some of us were loaded onto wooden carts. It was no mean feat, considering we weighed half a tonne each. The workers grunted as they pushed and pulled us on board. By means of a horse, the carts were wheeled out of the workshop and into the tomb. As we outnumbered the workers a few hundred to one, the process was painfully slow. I waited an entire morning before I was finally lifted onto the cart.

How wonderful I felt then! I could finally embark on my long awaited journey. For several kilometres I enjoyed wind and the picturesque scenery. My chest swelled with pride as I approached the mausoleum. Through a series of ramps and tunnels, the workers negotiated the uneven tunnels of the tomb. The workers made sure I was placed properly and in formation with the others. It was a chilly day, and the cavern did not make it any warmer, but the workers were still sweating profusely. If it weren't for the armed guards overseeing the operation, they would have abandoned this gruelling task hours ago. Pausing only for a moment to stretch their backs, they sighed and left for more wheeling.

After I had calmed down sufficiently, I eagerly took in my surroundings. I later discovered I was placed in pit number 1, which was the name outsiders gave it. Pit number 1 was basically a network of parallel tunnels that stretched for hundreds of meters. My home consisted of 9 identical tunnels, each measuring around 3 meters in width, and it housed exactly 7029 of us.

Unlike the underground palaces, the pit was not luxurious, but at least it was presentable. The floor was neatly paved with bricks. For the posts, beams and door fasteners, nothing less than the first-class pine and cypress trees were used. The ends of each trench were framed with timber jambs, also made of fine woods. The emperor spared no expense for his palaces, and certainly he didn't mind constructing all these for us.

As I mentioned before, we were arranged in formation. We stood in neat military rows, each warrior flawlessly in line with the other. As an armoured infantryman, I stood at the middle rows, following closely the archers. According to the tried and tested principle of "crossbows first", 3 rows of lightly armed arbalists formed the vanguard, thus maximizing their effectiveness. Infantry was considered subpar when compared against ranged weaponry. Interspersed into the infantry were some chariots, which were the main fighting force.

The wooden chariots carried three warriors each, and were drawn by a team of four life-sized horses. They were deployed as two inner and outer steeds, with a single shaft and crossbar which ran between the two inner horses. The horses themselves were state of the art. Elaborately produced, they clearly displayed the bone and muscle structure. At the time of their creation, these war machines were the principal criterion for measuring military strength. Following the generals, they were the admiration of everyone.

Eventually, the workers moved in the last soldier and the army was complete. The tomb was then sealed off, preventing any contact from the outside world. We were completely alone! But that was part of the plan. Considering the priceless items buried with the king, the tomb was sure to draw raiders like a

magnet. To safeguard the emperor's afterlife, total insulation was absolutely necessary. In fact, secrecy was so crucial that the workers who helped create us were killed to conceal our location. Some of them were buried with the fruit of their labours, at the tunnels leading to the tomb.

For years we stood guard underground, silently performing our duty. We compared tales with each other all day long to kill time. If all went well, we would remain underground permanently, and there was little else to do.

Time after time we discovered the underground tunnels would not last. The wooden structures that held up the roof were beginning to show signs of decay. The soil and rainwater that touched the wood had made it rot, and without the constant repair it needed, the situation was hopeless. It became apparent that the entire tunnel would soon collapse on us, burying the lucky ones and crushing the unfortunate ones into bits. With each passing day we grew more and more worried, and none of us, not even the generals, could deny the fact that we were about to be obliterated. We prayed and prayed that some craftsmen would be dispatched to rescue us.

After a few nerve-racking months, our prayers were answered. Or so it seemed. At first, we had to strain our ears to pick up the barely audible footsteps, coming from the direction of the door. As the minutes dragged on, the faint footsteps turned into a thundering march. Given the eerie silence of the tomb, and the proximate location of the approaching men, sounds were clearly amplified. The marching stopped outside the sealed door. What were all these people doing there? Perhaps they wanted to relocate us?

Next they began banging on the door. The door shook as a web of cracks appeared on its surface. It crumbled shortly afterwards and finally we spotted the mysterious intruders. They were not technicians or repairmen. They didn't even look like they were from the Qin state. For a few seconds we just stared at each other. Then their leader shoved away the others and stepped into the pit.

I paled immediately. The man was Xiang Yu, a Chu state rebel general. In fact, his peasant revolt had frozen the construction of the emperor's tomb. We all feared and hated him. And he was in the king's mausoleum! What would he do to us?

"For our dead brothers!" Xiang Yu yelled, rallying his troops, "death to the Qin empire!" With a savage battle cry the rebel army breached the pit entrance. They swarmed in like water from a leaky dam and charged right at us. Weapons were looted and terracotta soldiers were toppled. The hoard quickly dispatched the arabalists in the forefront and began moving closer to my position. Seeking revenge on the Qin state, the rebels showed no mercy. Judging from the wild look in Xiang Yu's eyes, he was not about to spare any one of us. I knew my end would come shortly.

Suddenly, the halberdier in front of me collapsed. A man in a battered military dress had pushed him over and was clobbering him with a mace. I stared in horror, not knowing what to do. Soon only shattered pieces were left of the hapless halberdier. Then he turned round, bashed me with his shield and everything went black.

When I came to, the terracotta army had been reduced to a few lucky survivors. I was relieved to see that the destruction of the pit was over. But we weren't out of harm's way yet. A huge pile of red clay and charcoal were placed in the center of our ranks and a few rebels were lighting it with torches. Somehow they managed to cart in all these inflammables. We would be burnt alive!

The rebels quickly fled the pit. Thanks goodness they only managed to penetrate the outer rim of the tomb. We were nearly destroyed, but we had performed our duty well. The emperor's underground palace was safe. He would continue to rest peacefully and undisturbed for the next few millennia.

However, we were not so fortunate. The fire promptly spread to the wooden roofing. Already weakened by years of rot, the wooden ceiling stood no chance against the flames. The remnants of the terracotta army could only watch as the ceiling, no longer able to withstand the earth above it, gave way to the soil above. With a deafening crash, the mud and rocks descended on us. The rocks pelted every single warrior, smashing each and every one of us to bits. Within seconds we had been swallowed up completely. It was the most frightening scene in my entire life. The mighty terracotta army, buried and crushed by the earth, was no more. We were completely annihilated.

For myself, I was pressed on the ground by the collapsed cavern. My head snapped off from the rest of my body. The head of my axe, attached to one half of the broken shaft, fell right next to my nose. I would spend the next few centuries buried with only the axe for companionship.

Covered by mud and constantly dampened by rainwater, I began to deteriorate. The bright colours painted on me dimmed, then vanished. The shaft of my axe decomposed and I was left with a bronze axe

head. The halberd's business edge, manufactured with alloys, was corrosion resistant, but it hardly mattered anymore.

Occasionally a farmer would pass over us, and I would be filled with hope, but of course none of them had the incentive to dig three meters deep into the earth. Neglected and forgotten, it was doubtful I would ever be unearthed.

After some unthinkable 2200 years, I would be discovered, excavated, restored and displayed, along with some of my terracotta companions. The restoration was a long and arduous process. Virtually all the terracotta warriors were damaged, and none were spared from decay. Those who had been flattened by boulders disintegrated into thousands of pieces, resulting in hundreds of work hours by the archeologists.

When unearthed, we were nothing but a jumbled heap of body parts. Every day, teams of determined archeologists tried to piece together the disconnected fragments. Some unfortunate warriors lay on the floor for years before they were completed. For a few months, I too lay on the floor awaiting my lucky day. It was torturing, seeing your limbs but unable to feel them. However, I was not too concerned. I had waited two millennia, I could wait a few more months.

Eventually I was restored. Firstly, my detached body parts were respectively labeled, and then a team spent one whole day fitting me together. It was not perfect. My colour could be lost forever, and my left hand was missing. But it was definitely better than a permanent underground burial. With the help of the archeologists, I was able to rejoin the ranks of my fellow comrades. I am deeply indebted to them.

I quickly adjusted to my new life. Much of my previous comrades were in the same boat, and being reunited with them was an enormous relieve. I regained my position behind the archers. After being buried alive, I don't think I can ever tolerate an underground chamber again. Having a cylindrical-shaped roof in lieu of a cavern was curiously reassuring. I promptly got used to the tour guide's repeating commentaries and the never-ending throngs of visitors.

Yet, once exposed to the outside environment, I was particularly vulnerable. Exposure to high temperatures and humidity gave rise to new enemies: mold and fungi. For a few months they spread through our ranks like fire, but they were stopped in time following a series of treatments. With the influx of international experts, the technology is much more advanced now, so hopefully our existence can be safeguarded.

Today, the terracotta army continues to guard the emperor's tomb. As the last legion of Qin soldiers, we take great pride in our unwavering loyalty. If you wish to observe the military might of my country, visit the Terracotta Warriors and Horses Museum in Xi'an. I promise you it will be a spectacular experience.

New Tales of the Terracotta Warriors

Island School, Jacota, Zaheu – 14

Thousands of years ago, a vast hoard of ceramic warriors was built to protect the spirit of the First Emperor of China. The discovery of these changed the course of history and archaeology forever. The 8,000 soldiers perpetually stand ready for battle in order to protect and serve the Emperor in the afterlife. Each one of these soldiers was intricately designed to ultimate flawlessness, but the most amazing thing about these soldiers was the fact that each one was almost different from the other in small detail, from the patterns in the armour to the size and shape of the ear. The tomb took 38 years to create, and it was as if the emperor needed his own army of toy soldiers to play with when he was alone, and to never leave him and protect him.

Qin's ideology behind the warriors was to ensure his immortality. He was driven to the point of insanity by trying to find the key to immortality. His final call came to him at a surprisingly young age, as he tried different pills containing various sorts of concoctions that would supposedly result in immortality, but ultimately resulted in his untimely demise. Qin was madly driven by power. He had done great things for China and would not stop at any costs expanding his empire and destroying any armies that got in his way.

This was demonstrated by the highly innovative emperor through his various builds, among which include the Great Wall, and of course, his tomb. The plans for Qin's tomb were groundbreaking, quite literally. He commanded almost 400,000 workers to construct an underground tomb almost 76-meters high. It has been said that his underground necropolis consists of many large-scale, traditional buildings which really help illustrate truly how advanced the Chinese were at this time. These builds consist of scenic viewpoints of the tomb, valuable goods such as golden swans, animals, performers, villagers, and most importantly, the terracotta army. It is also said that the tomb of the emperor himself is located within a part of the mausoleum deep underground in a chamber laden with gold and active rivers of flowing mercury.

The process of constructing the terracotta army is one that requires heavy amounts of patience, precision and time. Terracotta, or "baked earth", was at that time being used all around the country and labourers had been working with this material for decades. Each body part of the warriors was moulded separately among all 720,000 workers, and then fired together to create a several-hundred pound, life-size clay soldier. However, none were the same, and the intricacy of each individual element of each individual soldier suggests that the soldiers may have been based off real soldiers. The process of creating a single soldier took almost 10 years due to the heavy quantities of materials required to construct this army. Each warrior had a different role within the army; the infantry, chariots, the cavalry, and as of this day 9 Generals have been found. Some stood high and mighty, with longbows drawn ready to scope out any enemies, while others crouched low in order to hide from the enemy and duck for cover. There were many weapons featured, which comprised of swords, longbows, maces and spears. Once again, this demonstrates just how powerful, technologically and militarily advanced Qin's Empire was.

It was said that the workers moulded the heads based off between 8-10 different designs, but each detail down to armour, weapon of choice, stances, expressions were all unique to depending on the soldier. Each soldier was also painted with vibrant colours specific to the soldier, all forming a rainbow army that would carry Qin into the skies. Emperor Qin was a man of lavish taste, and he wanted to make sure that when he met his ultimate fate, he would go out on the most extreme of highs.

The emperor's selfish behavior led to the burial of the warriors deep underground in the paddyfields of central China. He wanted to guarantee that the services of the warriors were reserved for his use and his use only. Before the Qin Terracotta Warriors unearthed, the land above the soldiers was a large piece of barren pebbles beach. Farmers often found small bits and pieces of Qin's treasure. One unknowingly found a rod made purely from gold and used it to sleep on. Because the farmers found so many unexplained pieces of terracotta, they stayed well clear of the land in which these pieces were found – the warriors maintaining their undying loyalty in doing their job keeping unwanted visitors out.

Even upon discovery, the warriors still scared off intruders. Farmers digging a well in the wasteland that was the surface of the earth above the glorious stumbled across the burned earth, and even deeper, some cavity potteries which looked like human bodies were appeared and they found the floor was covered with a piece of blue bricks above which scattered the pottery pieces of perished warriors. When word got back to the rest of the village, superstitious old women believed that the digging had disturbed the Earth God. An old man thought probably birds would be scared if they saw the weird terracotta warriors, so he put a straw hat on a warrior to make it act like a scarecrow in the sweet potato land. When the villagers and locals finally learned that it was the tomb of an ancient Qin Dynasty emperor, they were marvelled and in awe. When the news spread internationally of this discovery, the entire population of the world shared the same reaction, eyes bejewelled with astonishment and admiration.

The eighth wonder of the world had finally been discovered, and Qin's ultimate goal had come true – to be eternally unforgotten by his people. People from all corners of the earth come to see the necropolis that is Qin's tomb. The terracotta soldiers finally have company after all those thousands of years, and they are all guaranteed everlasting life. They are no longer the ones who stand by, they are the focal point; they are the main attraction of the entire scene. Chinese soldiers are no longer afraid of their enemies, they are feared; the spirit of the Terracotta Warriors guides them to bigger and better things.

Colours of the Ancient

St. Mary's Canossian College, Mok, Jovy – 16

I am Jovy Mok from St. Mary's Canossian College.
Here is my non-fiction passage on the terracotta warriors.

The Terracotta Warriors in Xian have always been a legend. Being the world's largest and most intricate ancient bronze artifacts, it was portrayed by the French President Jacques Chirac as the 'Eighth Wonder of the World' in 1978. Its historical value and artistic worth are beyond doubt. Currently, archaeologists and artists have discovered a new technology named the PEG, which revitalizes the Terracotta Warriors, further heightening their values.

This discovery of the techniques astonish the world and has continuously hit the world's headlines for a couple of week. But before I introduce this latest technology, let us start with the basic information about the funerary figures which are famous far and wide.

Excavated in the 20th century, the pit containing the warriors is around 1.5 kilometers east of Xian in the Shanxi province. It is a sight not to be missed by any visitor to China as it covers 35 squares, and it took 11 years to complete the construction. It was the mausoleum of the first emperor of China, Qin Shi Huang (211–206 BC). Not only were buried there with countless treasures, but sacrificial objects which were deemed to accompany Qin Shi Huang Di in his afterlife were also found. The 2,200-year-old mystery is adorned with flashes of pink and red, outstanding hues that hint at the original glory of the terra-cotta warriors. The clay are was not a dismal procession but a deity display swathed in a riot of bold colors, yellow, red purple and green. Nonetheless, seldom could the majority of the colors withstand the test of time. Historians can only witness helplessly as the warriors' colors disintegrate in the dry Xian air. Yet, with today's advanced technology, a newly developed technology once again relights the dimming hope of the archaeologists.

Known as the PEG (polyethylene glycol), it is a mixture of serendipity and preservation techniques. It was discovered by a group of Chinese researchers and experts from the Bavarian State Conservation Office in Germany. Polyethylene glycol is produced by interacting ethylene oxide with and water. The reaction is catalyzed by acidic or basic catalysts. PEG has also been used to preserve objects due to its high osmotic pressures. The technology has been proven to be workable with the example of the artifacts from the Steamboat Arabia in Kansas City, Missouri. It replaced water in wooden objects, which makes the wood visually stable and prevent warping or shrinking of the wood. It prevents shrinkages of the ancient artifacts. Another example of the technology is a hull of "War of 1812". Parks Canada in Ottawa has treated the large timber with a variety of PEG treatments, which was later known as the "Mallorytown wreck". The immersion in a PEG solution revitalizes the colors of the wreck and The Mallorytown wreck has been on exhibition to the public for many years since then.

PEG200, to be specific, is the solution used in the terracotta conservation. The warriors fresh from excavation are covered with a solvent of PEG200, which slowly permeates into the lacquer layer to replace the water of the artifacts. Despite the high cost and great amount of resources needed, PEG is still commonly adopted as it has been proven to work better on larger pieces of terracotta. The sole aim of these processes is to replace the water contained in the lacquer without leaving any damage or trace on the artifacts. The principle is to spray the exposed part with the PEG solution and wrap the artifacts with a plastic to sustain its moisture. Originally, before the solution has been invented, upon exposure to the air, the lacquer underneath the paint begins to curl, within 15 seconds! The vibrant paints would flake off in only four minutes. Could you imagine how desperate the archaeologists were when they watched the

historical piece lose in a blink of time. All their efforts to dig up the warriors went down the drain as long as the paint fell off. But now, their worries vanish because of the introduction of this new technology. Everyone is overwhelmed with delight as the technology is working, which means the pigments can be preserved in a good condition for further investigation. All the excavated warriors offer clues about the artistic culture which flourished during the Qin dynasty, as well as the vibrant palette which infused in the warriors.

An instance of the application of PEG on the terracotta warriors is a three-foot-long shield. Archaeologist Shen Maosheng freshly excavated a shield which he immediately sprayed the PEG solution onto it. Even the wood has rotted away, but the shield's delicate design and brilliant reds, greens, and whites are still firmly imprinted on the earth. The colors have left a mark on the earth that they can be preserved for a longer period of time -- which means more time for investigation and a lower risk of destroying the color patterns on the artifacts. It helps to offer clues about the cultures flourishing under the Qin dynasty and the vibrant palette that has infused it.

The Terracotta Warriors in the burial complex are the most significant archeological excavations of the 20th century. The advanced technology helps to revitalize the ancient warriors and bring them back to life. It helps descendants to learn more about the history, customs and cultures in the Qin dynasty. It is hoped that more parts of the complex will be disclosed to the public as nowadays, only around 1 per cent of the whole area is displaced and exhibited. The Terracotta Warriors truly showcase the glory of the Chinese emperors to the world and they undeniably have high status in the history of art in China.