

Ancient China Journal Day 3

MY TRAVEL JOURNAL IN CHINA DAY THREE

“The 8th Wonder of the World”



Illustration by Rebekah Hanousek-Monge

Today I saw the most amazing thing in the ancient city of Xi'an (*shee-on*). I gazed out upon thousands of ancient warriors made out of terracotta, a kind of clay. These clay warriors are over 2000 years old.

The warriors were found underground, below a farm. In 1974, several farmers were digging a well and discovered fragments of the terracotta warriors. The government brought in archaeologists to dig further.

The archaeologists discovered thousands and thousands of ancient life-size warriors. They even found terracotta horses buried with them. Since then, archaeologists have only **unearthed**¹ a small portion of all the soldiers. They believe that thousands more lie buried underground.

The warriors are incredible. No two faces look alike. They are all different. Some warriors are standing, some sitting. All of the warriors seem to have their own personality.

¹ **unearthed:** dug up

Historians believe these warriors were created to protect the tomb of an ancient emperor. The emperor is buried in a pyramid one mile away. Instead of burying his troops alive with him, which was the **tradition**², the emperor wanted to spare his soldiers' lives. So, he had artists work for years and years to create the terracotta warriors.

The warriors may not be the official eighth wonder of the ancient world. However, they surely are a wonder to behold!

² **tradition:** a way of doing something that is handed down through the ages

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. The terracotta warriors are made out of
 - a. bronze
 - b. marble
 - c. clay
 - d. paint
2. What happened that caused modern people to discover the warriors?
 - a. Some farmers found them accidentally.
 - b. A map was found showing where they were.
 - c. Historians decided to dig them up.
 - d. Archaeologists found them in a pyramid.
3. Why does the author describe the story of the farmers finding the warriors?
 - a. to show how works of art are very different in China
 - b. to explain that people did not know the warriors were buried there
 - c. to compare the warriors with other great historical discoveries
 - d. to illustrate the fact that people were always searching for the warriors
4. Read the following sentences: "In 1974, several farmers were digging a well and discovered fragments of the terracotta warriors. The government brought in archaeologists to dig further."

The word **fragments** means

- a. historical documents
 - b. pieces or parts
 - c. fake copies
 - d. clothing items
5. What is the main idea of this passage?
 - a. Terracotta warriors have always been the most loved part of Chinese art.
 - b. Soldiers of ancient China were admired by their emperor.
 - c. Many wonders of the world go undiscovered for thousands of years.
 - d. Terracotta warriors are amazing to see and were surprising to find.

6. Why were the terracotta warriors created, according to historians?

7. Why did people not know that the terracotta warriors were buried underground for two thousand years?

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence:

_____ archaeologists dig further beneath the ground, many terracotta warriors will remain undiscovered.

- a. So
- b. Until
- c. Of
- d. Even though

9. Read the following sentence.

Artists in Xi'an created the terracotta warriors thousands of years ago to be protectors of an emperor's tomb.

Answer the questions below based on the information provided in the sentence you just read. One of the questions has already been answered for you.

1. Who? artists

2. What did artists do? _____

3. When? _____

4. Where? _____

5. Why? _____

10. **Vocabulary Word:** terracotta: a clay based ceramic that can be used to create statues, art, or ornamental creations.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: _____

Teacher Guide and Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 610

Featured Text Structure: Descriptive – the writer explains, defines or illustrates a concept or topic

Passage Summary: The author recounts the history behind the creation and discovery of China's terracotta warriors.

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 - a. bronze
 - b. marble
 - c. clay**
 - d. paint
2. What happened that caused modern people to discover the warriors?
 - a. Some farmers found them accidentally.**
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3. Why does the author describe the story of the farmers finding the warriors?
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5. What is the main idea of this passage?

- a. Terracotta warriors have always been the most loved part of Chinese art.
- b. Soldiers of ancient China were admired by their emperor.
- c. Many wonders of the world go undiscovered for thousands of years.
- d. **Terracotta warriors are amazing to see and were surprising to find.**

6. Why were the terracotta warriors created, according to historians?

Suggested answer: Historians believe the warriors were created to protect the tomb of an emperor. The clay warriors were made instead of burying the troops with the emperor.

7. Why did people not know that the terracotta warriors were buried underground for two thousand years?

Suggested answer: Answers will vary. Students can say that the terracotta warriors were unknown because it was not traditional. The tradition was to bury troops with the emperor. Students may also say that the warriors were buried long ago and no one had dug up the land.

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Answer the questions below based on the information provided in the sentence you just read. One of the questions has already been answered for you.

- 1. Who? artists
- 2. What did artists do? **created the terracotta warriors**
- 3. When? **thousands of years ago**

4. Where? **in Xi'an**

5. Why? **to be protectors of an emperor's tomb**

10. **Vocabulary Word:** spare: to stop someone or something from being harmed.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: answers may vary.