

## Ancient China My Travel Journal in China Day 5

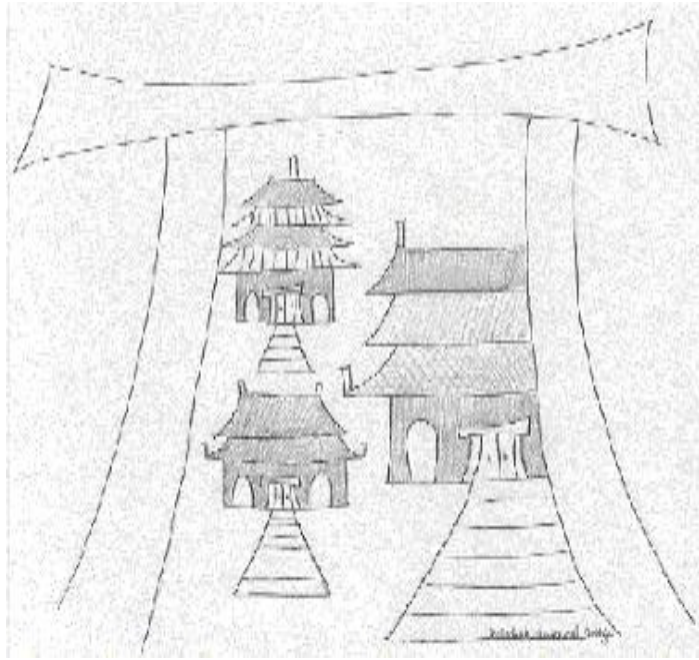


Illustration by Rebekah Hanousek-Monge

Today I visited the Forbidden City. How could a city be off-limits? Well, in China hundreds of years ago, **common**<sup>1</sup> people were not allowed in the home of the emperor. In the capital city of Beijing, the emperor's home was so huge that it was the size of a small city.

I went to the Forbidden City, which was completed in 1420 A.D. The city is shaped like a **rectangle**<sup>2</sup>. Every time you walk through a building, you're amazed to find another one behind it. When you walk through that building, there's yet another one behind it. It seems never-ending.

There are almost 10,000 rooms in the Forbidden City. That's a lot for one emperor. If you spent one night in each room, it would take you over 27 years to sleep in each one! Twenty-four emperors lived in the Forbidden City before it was opened to the **public**<sup>3</sup>. It is now a museum for anyone in the world to see. And it is truly an amazing sight!

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<sup>1</sup> **common**: not royalty or upper class

<sup>2</sup> **rectangle**: a four-sided shape with four right angles and two parallel sides

<sup>3</sup> **public**: the people as a group or whole

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Why was it called the “Forbidden City”?

- a. Because no one was allowed inside
- b. Because the emperor was not allowed inside
- c. Because regular people were not allowed inside
- d. Because everyone was allowed inside

2. Who was most likely not allowed into the Forbidden City in the year 1420?

- a. The emperor’s wife
- b. A nobleman
- c. A Royal Guard
- d. A shoemaker

3. Which of these is a fact about the Forbidden City?

- a. It’s an amazing sight.
- b. It seems never-ending.
- c. It has almost 10,000 rooms.
- d. It’s too big for one emperor.

4. The author seems

- a. amazed by how many rooms there are.
- b. mad that she is not allowed inside.
- c. older than the Forbidden City.
- d. tired from walking through so many rooms.

5. The passage is mostly about

- a. a city with too many laws.
- b. a place you can visit in China.
- c. China’s most famous emperors.
- d. the limits to building cities.

6. Why does the Forbidden City seem never-ending?

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7. Why would an entire city be forbidden to regular people?

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

\_\_\_\_\_ thousands of rooms are too many for one emperor, the Forbidden City was still closed to the public for many years.

- a. Although
- b. But
- c. Even
- d. And

9. Read the following sentence.

**The Forbidden City was built in 1420 A.D. in Beijing as a home for the emperor.**

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. What is the subject of the sentence? The Forbidden City
2. The Forbidden City was what? \_\_\_\_\_
3. When? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Where? \_\_\_\_\_
5. Why? \_\_\_\_\_

10. **Vocabulary Word:** public: the people as a group or whole.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Teacher Guide and Answers**

**Passage Reading Level:** Lexile 630

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

**Passage Summary:** The Forbidden City is a place in Beijing that regular people used to not be allowed to enter. It was the home of the emperor and contains thousands of rooms.

1. Why was it called the “Forbidden City”?
  - a. Because no one was allowed inside
  - b. Because the emperor was not allowed inside
  - c. Because regular people were not allowed inside**
  - d. Because everyone was allowed inside
2. Who was most likely not allowed into the Forbidden City in the year 1420?
  - a. The emperor’s wife
  - b. A nobleman
  - c. A Royal Guard
  - d. A shoemaker**
3. Which of these is a fact about the Forbidden City?
  - a. It’s an amazing sight.
  - b. It seems never-ending.
  - c. It has almost 10,000 rooms.**
  - d. It’s too big for one emperor.
4. The author seems
  - a. amazed by how many rooms there are.**
  - b. mad that she is not allowed inside.
  - c. older than the Forbidden City.
  - d. tired from walking through so many rooms.
5. The passage is mostly about
  - a. a city with too many laws.
  - b. a place you can visit in China.**
  - c. China’s most famous emperors.
  - d. the limits to building cities.

6. Why does the Forbidden City seem never-ending?

**Suggested answer:** The Forbidden City seems never-ending because every time you walk through one building, there's another one behind it.

7. Why would an entire city be forbidden to regular people?

**Suggested answer:** Answers will vary but should include the idea that the emperor must be very important and very powerful to have such a large private home.

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

\_\_\_\_\_ thousands of rooms are too many for one emperor, the Forbidden City was still closed to the public for many years.

- a. **Although**
- b. But
- c. Even
- d. And

9. Read the following sentence.

**The Forbidden City was built in 1420 A.D. in Beijing as a home for the emperor.**

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. What is the subject of the sentence? The Forbidden City
- 2. The Forbidden City was what? **built**
- 3. When? **in 1420 A.D.**
- 4. Where? **Beijing**
- 5. Why? **as a home for the emperor**

10. **Vocabulary Word:** public: the people as a group or whole.

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