

## My MEP Projects

### Project: The First Emperor and the Terracotta Army Series: History



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

*Choose this project because you are going to learn about one of the most dramatic periods of Chinese history.*

*You will see the changes sweeping the land that was about to become the China we know today. You will meet the young king Ying Zheng, who ruled the state of Qin when he was just 13 years old and battled his way to become the First Emperor of China.*

*This is the story of all stories. This is where it all began.*

*Go for it!*



### Eight thousand soldiers frozen underground

Only forty years ago, this great secret was still hiding from the world. A group of Chinese farmers digging a well in 1974 were about to make one of the biggest discoveries of modern archaeology, that would stun the world.

They hit something. At first they thought it was an old temple. Then they discovered it was a life-sized clay soldier, poised ready for battle, a messenger from the ancients... but that was just the beginning. When archaeologists arrived at the site to investigate, they uncovered an entire army of soldiers buried there.

What was the purpose of this vast replica army, and what sort of person could be behind its creation? To answer this, we need to go on a journey back to the Qin Dynasty (221-207 BC) to get to know the man who unified China. He was none other than the fascinating Qin Shi Huangdi – the First Emperor of China ...

## 1. Driven by the dream of one nation

As you will see from the documentary you are about to watch, Ying Zheng, who became emperor at the age of thirteen, was a remarkable character. He was terrifying as well and he certainly knew what he wanted. Not only did he establish the Chinese Empire and create the Terracotta Army, but he was also behind the construction of another world wonder: the Great Wall of China, about which there is a separate MEP Project.



This is a long documentary and you will only watch two sections for this Project. The exact minutes will be provided. If you wish to watch more after completing the project, you may.

Watch carefully as you will need to answer questions for the quiz on the next page. You might like to take notes to help you, or read the questions first and pause the video to write down your answers.

**First watch this section and answer the questions below:**

**00:00 to 22:21**

Go to the web page in the box below to find the documentary *The First Emperor of China*:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yb1CcvqJ0gc>

### **Quiz, Part 1**

1. It is rumoured that inside the emperor's mausoleum (tomb), a special type of liquid flows. Can you name it?
2. Much of what we know about the First Emperor comes from the writings of a man called Sima Qian. What type of writer was he? **Tip:** 历史
3. How many different pits have been discovered?
4. As soon as Ying Zheng was proclaimed King of Qin, two people close to him started plotting. Who were they?
5. Who was Li Si?

6. What sort of ideas did Li Si inspire the young king with?
7. How would you describe Ying Zheng as a military leader, based on the battle with the State of Zhao?
8. What can historians learn from the Terracotta Army about the actual Qin army?
9. What is special about the sword that was found and how could such swords have given the Qin army a tactical advantage?

**When you have answered questions 1-9, jump to this section:**

**38:58 to 54:52**

### ***Quiz, Part 2***

10. How many states has Qin conquered at the start of this section?
11. The two diplomats from the state of Yen (Yan) appeared to bring peace. What was their real motive?
12. What did Ying Zheng, King of Qin, become paranoid (afraid) about?
13. How did the King of Qin hope that the Terracotta Warriors would help him?
14. What could be the reason why stone armour was buried near to the emperor's tomb?

15. How old was Ying Zheng in 221 BC when Qin had conquered all neighbouring states and the Chinese empire was formed?

16. What was the emperor crowned with?

★ Task 1 complete

## 2. Your verdict on the man?

For centuries, Chinese people have argued about whether Ying Zheng was a good or cruel ruler. Now it's time for you to add your views to that discussion under the three categories below. Before you do, here are a few more details about the First Emperor's rule:

1. He unified weights and measures throughout China so no-one could argue over the size or weight of something they were buying or selling.
2. He made round copper coins the currency for all of China (used until the 20<sup>th</sup> Century!).
3. He unified Chinese characters. Instead of being able to use six different characters for 'horse', for example, everyone had to use the same one.
4. He had the Great Wall built, but many of the builders were forced labourers, no different from slaves. People also had to pay 3,000 % higher taxes to help pay for the wall.
5. He was obsessed with finding an 'elixir of life' that would make him immortal.
6. To prevent any comparison of his leadership with that of past rulers, the emperor ordered that most books be burned.

Positives?

Negatives?

Neutral or just pure strange?

★ Task 2 complete

### 3. The awesome Chinese name of the First Emperor

As you heard at the end of the last section of the film, when Ying Zheng was crowned emperor, he gave himself a very majestic title that shows he saw himself as a lot more than an average mortal. For this task, first take a look at the cool characters of the title Ying Zheng used:

# 秦始皇帝

3.1 Using Pleco, MDBG or a paper dictionary, look up the English meanings of each character and complete the grid below. Pinyin is provided to help you.

Character	Pinyin	English
秦	Qín	
始	shǐ	
皇	huáng	
帝	dì	

3.2 Now look up what 皇 combined with 帝 (huángdì) is translated as in English.

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

3.3 By now you might have an idea of how the name 'China' was born and why it sounds the way it does. If so, write your answer here (tip: use your knowledge of how **q** in pinyin is pronounced):

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

3.4 You have just looked up 始 shǐ. In modern Mandarin it is often combined with 开 kāi as in 开始, meaning 'to start'. Translate these sentences as best you can into English:

我想开始吃。 **English:** \_\_\_\_\_

老师想开始上课。 **English:** \_\_\_\_\_

3.5 Write out 秦始皇帝 a few times in the boxes below, trying to use the correct stroke order.

秦 Qín									
始 shǐ									
皇 huáng									
帝 dì									

★ Task 3 complete



4. Explore this interactive page about the Terracotta Army:

<http://www.dkfindout.com/us/history/ancient-china/terra-cotta-army/>

*Tip: click on the flashing dots*

★ Task 4 complete

## 5. Terracotta Army in Chinese

The Chinese for Terracotta Army is 兵马俑 bīng mǎ yǒng.

兵 means 'soldier' (it can also mean 'weapon'). This character looks and sounds a little like another one you might have learned. **Clue:** it's in a word for a sport. When you've tried to work out which sport, write it out below in English **and** Chinese, then check your answer on the next page.

Which sport? \_\_\_\_\_

Now look up the other two characters in Terracotta Army. Explain why you think they are used?

马 mǎ      **Explanation:** \_\_\_\_\_

俑 yǒng      **Explanation:** \_\_\_\_\_

★	Task 5 complete	
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## 6. So where in China are the 兵马俑?

The Terracotta Army is located at the edge of the historic city of Xi'an, which is the capital of Shaanxi Province. Xi'an is a lovely name. Let's take a look at it! It's written as 西安. Both characters are spoken in the high-pitched first tone: Xī'ān. Can you say it?

西 means 'West' or 'western'. You may recognise it from another word you have learned ... ?

Used in 东西 it means 'thing' (买东西 = buy things, shopping), but here it means 'western' (just as 东 from 东西 means 'East' or 'Eastern'!).

6.1 Looking at the character 安 ān, can you figure out why it could mean 'peace' or 'safety'?

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

6.2 How could you translate the name 西安 in a poetic way? **Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

6.3 Using a map, find the city of Xi'an. Put a dot on the map of China below where Xi'an is located and, drawing a line, label it with the characters 西安. You can add the label for the 兵马俑 as well if you like.



★	Task 6 complete	
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## 7. Sketching a warrior

This is an optional task. Search Google Images for 'Terracotta Army' or 'Terracotta warrior', choose a picture of a soldier and sketch it in the space below. Make sure you add the title 兵马俑 in clear, neat characters. (If you wish, use a separate sheet and attach it to your project.)

**Extension task:** Why not do some more research and colour your figure as the original warriors were painted and add the Chinese characters for the different colours. **OR:** Look up the Chinese for different parts of the body and label them on your warrior in Chinese.



★	Task 7 complete	
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## 8. The incredible uses of 的

You probably already know about using 的 to show the possessive, when something *belongs* to somebody: 我的 my, 你的 your, 她的 her, 他的 his, 我们的 our.

Well, 的 is an amazing little helper when it comes to *describing* things as well. Here are some examples:

很好**的**老师 A very good teacher

好喝**的**果汁 Tasty fruit juice

不忙**的**人 A 'not-busy' person, or, people who are not busy

Can you see what type of word always comes after 的 in these sentences? It's a noun, a 'thing word'.

Now have a look at the words before 的. What are they? They are adjectives or 'describing words'.

**Don't worry if this is a bit difficult at first. It becomes easy, and it's going to be soooooo useful for your Chinese!**

Think of it this way:

**Everything that comes before 的 describes the thing that comes after 的, so the order is:**

**Adjective + 的 + noun**

8.1 Can you translate this next one on your own? **Tip:** 有趣 yǒu qù = interesting, fascinating

秦始皇帝是一个很有趣的人。

Qín shǐ huáng dì shì yí gè hěn yǒu qù de rén.

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

8.2 Now try completing the missing blocks in the sentence below which needs to read (in Chinese), 'China has a very long history.'

中国\_\_\_\_很长(cháng = long)\_\_\_\_ 历史。

8.3 Lastly, if 红色 hóng sè means 'red', and 上衣 shàng yī means 'jacket', how would you use 的 to say 'red jacket' in Chinese?

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

★ Task 8 complete

Well done!



太棒了!

## Your Achievements

Congratulations on completing 1 MEP Project!

- You now have a valuable understanding of how the Chinese empire was formed.
- You know about the unique character of Ying Zheng, King of Qin and then Emperor of China. You also know about some of the changes he made. For example, by introducing one standard for Chinese characters, people from different regions of China could understand each another through writing.
- You know why the Terracotta Army was created.

List your three most 'amazing facts' about the Terracotta Army and/or Qin Shi Huangdi's tomb:

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Now, reward yourself by watching this sweet animation about the Terracotta Army:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mP5p4QbvPtc>

Finally, scientists have just made a new discovery that has completely challenged the question of who actually built the Terracotta Army. If you are interested, have a read of the newspaper article from *The Independent* on the next page!

***If your teacher signs you off,  
you will collect 1 Badge!***

## **Ancient Greeks may have built China's famous Terracotta Army – 1,500 years before Marco Polo**

***'We have discovered something more important even than the Terracotta Army,' says Chinese archaeologist***

The Terracotta Army discovered in 1974 near Xi'an *Getty Images*



Ancient Greek artists could have travelled to China 1,500 years before Marco Polo's historic trip to the east and helped design the famous Terracotta Army, according to new research.

The startling claim is based on two key pieces of evidence: European DNA discovered at sites in China's Xinjiang province from the time of the First Emperor in the Third Century BC and the sudden appearance of life-sized statues.

Before this time, depictions of humans in China are thought to have been figurines of up to about 20cm.

But 8,000 extraordinarily life-like terracotta figures were found buried close to the massive tomb of China's First Emperor, Qin Shi Huang, who unified the country in 221BC.

The theory – outlined in a documentary, *The Greatest Tomb on Earth: Secrets of Ancient China*, to be shown on BBC Two on Sunday – is that Shi Huang and Chinese artists may have been influenced by the arrival of Greek statues in central Asia in the century following Alexander the Great, who led an army into India.

But the researchers also speculated that Greek artists could have been present when the soldiers of the Terracotta Army were made.

One of the team, Professor Lukas Nickel, chair of Asian art history at Vienna University, said: "I imagine that a Greek sculptor may have been at the site to train the locals."

Other evidence of connections to Greece came from a number of exquisite bronze figurines of birds excavated from the tomb site. These were made with a lost wax technique known in Ancient Greece and Egypt.

There was a breakthrough in sculpture particularly in ancient Athens at about the time when the city became a democracy in the 5th century BC.

Previously, human figures have been stiff and stylised representations, but the figures carved on the Parthenon temple were so life-like it appeared the artists had turned stone into flesh. Their work has rarely been bettered – the techniques used were largely forgotten until they were revived in the Renaissance when artists carved statues in the Ancient Greek style, most notably Michelangelo's David.

Dr Li Xiuzhen, senior archaeologist at the tomb's museum, agreed that it appeared Ancient Greece had influenced events in China more than 7,000km.

"We now have evidence that close contact existed between the First Emperor's China and the West before the formal opening of the Silk Road," the expert said.

"This is far earlier than we formerly thought.

"We now think the Terracotta Army, the acrobats and the bronze sculptures found on site have been inspired by ancient Greek sculptures and art."

And Professor Zhang Weixing, lead archaeologist at the tomb site, said: "The archaeological work undertaken here recently is more important than anything in the last 40 years.

"By systematically examining the First Emperor's main tomb and subsidiary burials we have discovered something more important even than the Terracotta Army."

The mitochondrial DNA samples revealed Europeans had settled down in China and died there during the time of the First Emperor and even before then.

Hamish Mykura, of the National Geographic Channel, which made the documentary with the BBC, said: "The scope of these archaeological finds and what they mean for world history are astonishing.

"The new revelation that two of the world's ancient super powers may have been in contact is a vital reminder today of the need for intercultural communication on a global scale."

And BBC presenter Dan Snow said: "I hope audiences will find the new evidence as astonishing and thought-provoking as I did.

"It is extraordinary to think that history as we know it is changeable."

The Terracotta Army – more than 8,000 figures buried less than a mile from the tomb – was found in 1974, but new geophysical survey evidence suggests the complex is much bigger than previously thought at 200 times the size of Egypt's Valley of the Kings.

And the bones of 10 young women buried with precious jewellery made of gold and pearls have been found at the site.

Disturbingly, it is thought these women were the First Emperor's concubines, who were murdered and mutilated as part of his funeral. There are 99 similar graves.

And the skull of a very high-ranking male was found with a crossbow bolt embedded in the back of the skull.

It is thought the bolt was fired at close range, suggesting the man was executed.

Chinese archaeologists believe it could be the remains of Prince Fu Su, the First Emperor's eldest son, who was murdered along with his siblings by their younger brother Prince Hu Hai following their father's death. The grave contains a total of seven different bodies, all of whom had been killed.