

**Lesson Title:** The Terracotta Warriors

**Country:** China

**Class:** History

**Grade level(s):** 6<sup>th</sup> grade

**Goals and Objectives:**

The student will be able to:

1. Describe the features of Qin Shi Huang Di's buried Terracotta Army.
2. Analyze literature as a means of learning about history.
3. Analyze the belief systems and religions of Ancient China.

**Time required/class periods needed:** Three 60-minute sessions

**Primary source bibliography:**

Images from National Geographic

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/search?q=terra+cotta+warriors>

"The Terra-Cotta Warriors" on YouTube

[http://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=terracotta+warriors&aq=f](http://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=terracotta+warriors&aq=f)

**Other resources used:**

- Terracotta Warriors Teaching Resources  
<https://www.google.com/search?q=terra+cotta+warriors+for+teachers&ie=utf-8&oe=utf-8>
- Lindesay, William and Gua Baofu. *The Terracotta Army of the First Emperor of China*. Hong Kong: Odyssey Publications 1999.
- Patent, Dorothy Hinshaw. *The Incredible Story of China's Buried Warriors*. New York: Benchmark Books, 1999.
- Peers, Chris J., and Michael Perry. *Imperial Chinese Armies: 200 B.C. – 589 A. D.* Oxford: Osprey Publishing, 1995.
- Qin Dynasty: <http://afe.easia.columbia.edu/tps/1000bce.htm>
- Huaniao paintings: <http://www.chinatraveldesigner.com/travel-wiki.aspx?id=3281>
- Sancai: <http://www.chinaonlinemuseum.com/ceramics-tang.php>
- Taotie: <http://www.cultural-china.com/chinaWH/html/en/13Traditions1323.html>

**Required materials/supplies:** None

**Vocabulary:**

Bi (pen/brush), Buddhism, Qin Shi Huang Di, Confucianism, Dynasty, Earthenware, Huaniao (literally flower bird paintings), Lacquer, Legalist, Porcelain, Sancai (three colors used in Tang pottery), Stoneware, Taotie (ogre found on Chinese bronze vessels from the Shang and Zhou Dynasties) AND any other words or phrases that you think would help.

**Procedure:**

1. Class Discussion on Ancient China. Create a class KWL chart about Ancient China. First column: what they already KNOW about the topic; middle column: what what they WANT to know about a topic; Last column: after lesson,, what they LEARNED. What they learned can line up with the items in the middle column but they don't have to.
2. Discuss the discovery of the Terracotta Warriors in 1974.
3. Research Emperor Qin Shi Huang Di: When did he live? What was his overall approach to government? How did the Qin Dynasty unify China? What ruling style did Qin Shi Huang Di choose, and how did it affect his rule? Why are his efforts to unify China important?
4. Discuss Legalism and what Legalists believe.
5. Why did Qin Shi Huang Di want to wipe out ideas about Confucianism?
6. Review vocabulary words.
7. Show websites about Terracotta Warriors.
8. Students will describe the features of Qin Shi Huang Di's buried army. Discussion should include the following?
  - What is the significance of the direction in which the terracotta warriors are facing?
  - What does the clothing and equipment of the figures tell about their courage?
  - Why was one of the pits in which the soldiers were found empty?
  - How many soldiers were uncovered?
  - What is surprising about the appearance of these figures?
  - What details help distinguish the different ranks of the soldiers?
  - Why were the soldiers created with such care, ensuring that each one was unique?
  - What does this suggest about the purpose of the terracotta army?
  - What was the customary formation of fighting forces in Qin Shi Huang Di's time?
  - Where is the fourth pit located in relation to the other pits?

**Assessment/evaluation:**

Students will be assessed on their answers to the following questions:

If You Were the Emperor.....

- 1) What type of statues would you place in your tomb? How would you arrange them? Did the First Emperor choose any figures you did not expect to see? Why did you think he chose them? What unexpected figures might you put in your tomb and why?
- 2) How would you make the Terracotta Army? Are there any techniques you could use that weren't available to Qin Shi Huang Di? How well do you think the statues were constructed?
- 3) The First Emperor planned to have musicians, acrobats, and strongmen entertain him in the afterlife. What would you take to the afterlife to entertain yourself?

The second part of the assessment will be on the vocabulary. Students will write definitions for each vocabulary word and use each word in their own sentence to demonstrate correct usage.