

## S2 The Terracotta Army



The Terracotta Army is a part of a burial tomb built for Emperor Qin Shi Huang, the first emperor of China. He was buried with over 8,000 life-size statues of soldiers. It was discovered by two farmers in 1974 while they were digging a well about a mile from the tomb of the emperor.

### ***Why was the Terracotta Army created?***

Emperor Qin wanted to live forever. During his life, he spent a lot of money on building a huge tomb that he filled with these terracotta soldiers to protect him in the afterlife. He died in 210 BC, over 2000 years ago.

### ***What did the soldiers look like?***

The soldiers were made with terracotta – a hard-baked clay. The soldiers were made to look realistic. They range in height from 5 feet 11 inches to 6 feet 7 inches. Every soldier looks

different. They all have unique facial expressions and hairstyles. Even though there are over 8,000 soldiers, no two soldiers look the same.

***How did they build so many soldiers?***

Building over 8,000 life-size soldiers was not an easy task, especially because they were all made so uniquely. It is estimated that around 700,000 people worked on this project over several years. The different parts of the body – torso, head, arms and legs – were made separately and then put together. Features such as facial hair, ears, etc. were added later.

***What else was buried with the emperor?***

The emperor was not buried with just 8,000 terracotta soldiers. Hundreds of horses and chariots were also discovered by archaeologists who worked on the site after the discovery. They even found statues of government officials and entertainers in other parts of the tomb. The emperor had prepared for a wonderful afterlife.

***What happened after they were discovered in 1974?***

Many of the statues were broken and archaeologists have been carefully putting them back together for many years. Today, it is possible to see these soldiers in the Terracotta Army Museum in China. Some of the soldiers have also been on display in other museums around the world.