

# Ancient China – wonders and wealth of the East

Tombs from the Shang Dynasty (around 1000 BC) contained the skeletons of prisoners of war, dogs and horses. Some of the human victims had their heads chopped off. Other humans were kneeling with their mouths wide open.

In Chinese writing, each character represents a complete word or idea. The 2000-year-old Shuowen 'alphabet' is made up of 364 pictograms, 125 indicators, 1,167 combination characters and 7,697 symbols to indicate meaning and pronunciation.

The first emperor of China was Shi Huang Di. He wanted to live forever and was always looking for potions that would prevent his death. Even if he wasn't going to rule forever, he hoped his descendants would rule for 10,000 years.

The Silk Road was a trading route between ancient China, Western Asia and Europe. China traded fur, iron and silk for dancing girls, slaves, glass and silver. Traders also carried knowledge about religion, philosophy and inventions from east to west.



Laotze wrote the *Tao de ching*, or *Book of Changes*. He believed that everything was balanced with a mixture of yin and yan — good and bad, black and white, night and day, poverty and wealth, disaster and happiness. He also believed that natural things were better than man-made things. His followers were called Taoists. Some Taoists went into the mountains to live as hermits and escape interference by governments.

By 240 BC, Chinese scientists had observed Halley's Comet, invented the decimal system of writing fractions, used zero and understood how curved surfaces affected reflections.

**Find the eRrors**  
 Did you know that anachronisms are things that don't belong in a particular time? Click on the image of ancient China to make it bigger, then find as many anachronisms as you can.

When Shi Huang Di was buried, 7,500 life-size statues of his warriors were buried with him.

Legalists were people who believed that strict laws and cruel punishments would stop people committing crimes.

## eUNIT Outcomes:

Do this activity first

### Web Wizardry 5

Did you know that you can save ink and paper when you collect printouts off the Internet?



History Outcomes		Computer Skills	
<b>eLesson1</b>	Analyse how 'great' the Great Wall was in ancient times	<b>eLesson1</b>	Make slides for a PowerPoint presentation
<b>eLesson2</b>	Describe the tomb of Shi Huang Di and his army of terracotta warriors	<b>eLesson2</b>	Customise bullets and tabs in a PowerPoint presentation
<b>eLesson3</b>	Evaluate the ideas of Confucius	<b>eLesson3</b>	Use graphics from ClipArt, the Internet and other files in a PowerPoint presentation



Black Line Master 5

## Site Map

