



# Terracotta Army

Discovered in 1974 by a group of local farmers, the Terracotta Army is a collection of sculptures of soldiers made out of terracotta clay that were buried with the first Emperor of China, Qin Shi Huang. So far excavations of the army of statues have revealed 1,800 terracotta soldiers. It is estimated that there are more than 8,000 statues total.



Qin Shi Huang was the first emperor of the Qin Dynasty. The sculptures are a replica of Emperor Qin Shi Huang's real army. It is estimated that it took over 37 years to build. The army was created to defend Qin Shi Huang's underground kingdom from attack. At first it was thought that each soldier was created to mimic a real life person. However, it was later discovered that there are simply 10 different designs that are repeated. The soldiers are divided into different pits. Four pits have been partially excavated. Three pits are full of statues of soldiers, horse-drawn chariots, and weapons while the fourth pit is empty. This discovery speaks to the idea that the army of terracotta soldiers was never finished.

Answer the following questions based on the reading.

1. Who was the first emperor of China? Qin Shi Huang
2. How many soldiers have been discovered so far? 1,800
3. Who were the first people to discover the Terracotta Army? A group of farmers
4. How many different designs of terracotta soldiers are there? 10
5. What is the significance of the fourth empty pit? The fourth empty pit is good evidence to prove that the Terracotta Army was never finished.