

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



# The Terracotta Army

It's 1974 in China's Shaanxi province,  
Farmers were trying to dig a well.  
Instead, they struck something with a shovel.  
Could that be a man's head? It was too hard to tell.  
It turns out what they found was a clay figurine.  
They told officials, and then came an archaeological team.  
They were stunned when their excavation uncovered  
Thousands of clay statues next to each other:  
Life-size terracotta warriors and horses,  
And chariots in chambers that were enormous.  
The Terracotta Army is what it's called now—  
About 8,000 warriors and more in the ground.  
They had well-preserved swords, battle axes, and spears.  
And each one was crafted with intricate details  
To represent what they looked and dressed like in real life.  
So many questions arose, like who built them, and why?  
The Terracotta Army is just one piece  
Of a larger mausoleum that took a lot to complete.  
About 39 years and 700,000 men,  
With China's first emperor is where it would begin.  
Qin Shi Huang, the first Emperor of Qin,  
At the young age of 13, he became king  
Of the Qin state. And later in 221 BCE,  
He became emperor with a kingdom to run.  
He unified China, conquering six other states,  
And brought a lot of change during his reign. He even laid  
The foundations for the Great Wall, and he standardized

The Chinese writing system. Yes, he must have been wise.  
He was known to have a great interest in immortality  
And was always searching for ways to achieve longevity.  
Believe it or not, as a teen,  
He even asked artisans to start building his mausoleum.  
In ancient China, it was common to bury the dead  
With cherished objects that resembled the life they led.  
It was believed that familiar objects would help ease  
Their trip to the afterlife, as we proceed.  
To this day many come to China to view  
The Terracotta Army guarding Qin Shi Huang's tomb.