

Name \_\_\_\_\_

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# The Terracotta Army - Answer Key

Use the text to answer each question below.

1. In 1974, farmers in China's Shaanxi province unexpectedly found a site where thousands of terracotta soldiers, horses, and chariots had been long buried underground. This assembly became known as the Terracotta Army. Each statue features intricate details that represent the clothing, armor, and weapons a soldier would have worn in the army led by China's first emperor, Qin Shi Huang. Approximately 8,000 statues have been excavated, each with distinct details. The Terracotta Army remains at its original site to this day, "guarding" Qin Shi Huang's mausoleum, or tomb. They are a popular destination for people who want to see the craftsmanship of the statues in person.

From this passage, we can infer that the statues of the Terracotta Army were created with a great deal of care. Which detail supports this?

**A.**

There are approximately 8,000 statues, each with distinct, historically accurate features.

*This detail about how thousands of individual statues have their own distinct details supports the inference that they were each created with a great deal of care.*

B. The terracotta soldiers were found by accident by farmers in China's Shaanxi province.

C. The statues include soldiers, horses, and chariots.

D. China's first emperor, Qin Shi Huang, commanded the creation of these statues.

2. Terracotta is made from natural clay and used in ceramics. The term derives from the Italian words for “baked earth,” which is fitting for the material’s reddish-brown hue. It was used frequently in ancient pottery, sculpture, and architecture. It is a versatile material, capable of being molded into just about any shape, and can also provide structural integrity for buildings. Its versatility led to its widespread use, and there are many buildings across the world that still contain terracotta elements.

Based on this passage, which of these is true of terracotta?

A. Although useful in ancient times, terracotta no longer sees any use in modern times.



**B.**

Terracotta has a wide array of uses in art and architecture.

*According to the passage, terracotta “is a versatile material” that “was used frequently in ancient pottery, sculpture, and architecture,” as well as “provide structural integrity for buildings.”*

C. Terracotta is not an ideal building material, but it was the best thing ancient civilizations had available.

D. No one is sure what the word “terracotta” means.

3. Qin Shi Huang was the first emperor of a unified China. He became king of the Qin state in 246 BCE at age 13 and became emperor upon conquering six other states in 221 BCE. During his reign, China underwent significant social and political changes, such as the introduction of the standardized Chinese writing system, which made the various dialects found throughout China follow a standard format in writing. Qin Shi Huang was interested in studying the idea of immortality, or living forever. He believed there existed medicine that could extend human longevity, or how long we live naturally. He commissioned artisans to begin constructing his mausoleum when he was 13, wishing for a resting place that fit his royal needs. This tomb is where the Terracotta Army stands to this day.

Based on this passage, with which of these statements would Qin Shi Huang most likely have agreed?

- A. Preserving unique regional dialects is more important than having one standard way of writing and speaking.
- B. It's better to lead a short, active life than a long one.
- C. There needs to be a writing system that all Chinese people can read and understand.
- D. Once people die, they no longer need any of the luxurious things they had in life.

✓

*According to the passage, Qin Shi Huang saw "the introduction of the standardized Chinese writing system, which made the various dialects throughout China follow a standard format in writing." As the "first emperor of a unified China," he thought it was important that all Chinese people could read and write the same text.*