

Name _____ Date _____

The Terracotta Army

Learn more about this topic! Each section gives more detail on one of the lyrics from the song. Read each section, and then respond by answering the question or taking notes on key ideas.

1. b''

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.

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Notes

2. b'

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.

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Notes

3. b'

Notes

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.

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