



QIN SHI HUANGDI

OBJECTIVE:

1. To understand the life and legacy of Emperor Qin Shi Huangdi, one of the most powerful rulers in ancient history.
2. To identify two artifacts left by this Emperor that still survive today: The Great Wall and the Mausoleum of Qin Shi Huangdi (Terracotta Warriors).

LIFE AND LEGACY

UNITING SEVEN WARRING STATES

The power of King Zheng emerged out of the Warring States period. Before its unification ancient China was divided into seven states that fought against each other. The state of Qin led by King Zheng, conquered all of the other states in 221 B.C. and united them into what is known today as China. King Zheng changed his name to Qin Shi Huangdi and made himself the First Emperor of the Qin Dynasty.

In order to keep control of his country, Qin built a strong government. He outlawed the teachings of Confucius and killed many scholars. Books were burned and many lives were sacrificed. Emperor Qin was a Legalist and believed that man was basically evil and needed to be controlled. Along with his advisor Li Si, he established a strong authoritarian government with strict punishments for disobedience and disloyalty. He is referred to as a tyrant by some historians. Qin Shi Huangdi abolished the feudal system and set up a centrally governed imperial bureaucratic system that lasted until the 20th century. He gave land to peasant farmers. He also unified the country by standardizing weights and measures and unifying currency.

LASTING ARTIFACTS

THE GREAT WALL

The Emperor built the Great Wall to keep enemies from the north out of his united country. It took 500,000 men and 32 years to build the wall. The length of the first great wall was approximately 1500 to 2600 miles long. Sentries were stationed along the length of the wall and archers defended it.

THE MAUSOLEUM OF QIN SHI HUANGDI

Qin Shi Huangdi was buried in one of the most amazing tombs ever constructed. It took over 700,000 men approximately 36 years to construct. It contained approximately 8000 unique life size figures of warriors, acrobats, musicians, horses, various animals, and chariots.

Questions for discussion: What was the Warring States period in ancient Chinese history? How did Qin Shi Huangdi show that he was an absolute monarch? How are people treated in a country where the government follows Legalism? What was the first Great Wall of China constructed out of? Which dynasties continued to build and improve the Great Wall? Why did Qin Shi Huangdi have himself buried with so many life size figures made out of terra cotta?

More information and links about Emperor Qin Shi Huangdi may be found in Volume No. 1, Issue No. 2 of the Figures In Motion Club E-Newsletter, Focus on Ancient China Part II. ([Sign Up Here](#))

Make a moving action figure of Qin Shi Huangdi (see drawing on right) in *Famous Figures of Ancient Times: Movable Paper Figures to Cut, Color, and Assemble*. ([Learn More](#))

