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24.5 — MELBOURNE WINTER — 13.10
MASTERPIECES

TERRACOTTA
WARRIORS &
CAI GUO-QIANG

HISTORY CHALLENGE | LEVELS 7-8

DURING YOUR VISIT





**CHRONOLOGY:
CONTINUITY AND CHANGE**

DID YOU KNOW?

The Qin army was one of the best equipped and most organised armies in history. Bronze was the preferred metal and was used to make sharp and durable weapons.

Find an object in the exhibition from each of these periods and photograph the object and its label:

- Eastern Zhou dynasty
- Western Zhou dynasty
- Spring and Autumn period
- Warring States period
- Qin dynasty
- Han dynasty



**CHINA'S FIRST EMPEROR:
HERO OR VILLAIN?**

Qin Shihuang's power and achievements are evident within the exhibition. As you are walking through the exhibition, find and photograph objects that reflect his achievements including:

- a weapon
- some currency
- some writing
- an object used for measuring



**ANCIENT CHINA:
INVENTIONS AND INNOVATIONS**

DID YOU KNOW?

Ding (cauldrons) were used for cooking, storage and ritual offerings. They are one of the most important vessels seen in Chinese ritual bronzes. The number of ding a noble owned indicated his rank.

As you are walking through the exhibition, notice the different materials. Make a note of each material you see and its different use. Consider the following questions for each of these materials: bronze, gold, jade, pottery, porcelain, gunpowder.

- What types of objects are made from this material?
- What skills and technology would have been required to create this object?
- Why do you think this material was selected for this object?



**TERRACOTTA WARRIORS:
AN ARMY FOR THE AFTERLIFE**

DID YOU KNOW?

The warriors were originally painted; their face and skin was a natural tone and their clothing was brightly coloured. The clothing and accessories of each warrior reveal its role and rank. For example an elaborate headdress indicates a high rank, a hat tied under the chin indicates officer class. Civil officials are dressed in loose fitting robes.

Look closely at each of the figures and notice the different features. List the different types of people or animals represented. Choose one figure and write a detailed description commenting on its clothing, accessories, facial features and hair style. Imagine how it would feel to stand in the emperor's tomb looking at all the warriors.

**BELIEFS, VALUES AND PRACTICES:
ANIMALS**

Make a list of the different animals (mythical and real) you see represented in the exhibition. Some of the animals may have been stylised. Consider how the animal might relate to the object. For example, roof tile ends were often decorated with animal symbols to protect the building.



**BELIEFS, VALUES AND PRACTICES:
THE AFTERLIFE**

While in the exhibition, think about what ideas and beliefs the ancient Chinese had about the afterlife. Find and record three or four objects that could be used as evidence for an idea or belief held by the ancient Chinese.

Find and record three or four objects that could be used as evidence of ancient Chinese beliefs and ideas about the afterlife.



CONTEMPORARY CONNECTIONS:

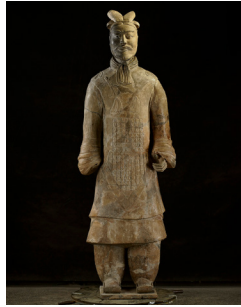
DID YOU KNOW?

Gunpowder is thought to have been discovered by accident in the ninth-century CE by alchemists seeking to find a life-lengthening elixir. The Chinese word for gunpowder is *huoyao*, which means 'fire medicine'.

Look at the works of art by Cai Guo-Qiang. Consider how they relate to Chinese history and beliefs. Some things you might like to think about are:

- his choice of materials: paper, gunpowder, silk and porcelain
- the motifs in his works: birds, flowers and plants
- how the scale and placement of the works affect you

LIST OF WORKS



Armoured general
铠甲将军俑
Qin Dynasty 221–207 BCE
earthenware
196.0 cm
Excavated from Pit 1, Qin Shihuang's mausoleum site, Lintong District, Xi'an, 1977
Emperor Qin Shihuang's Mausoleum Site Museum, Xi'an (002524)



Model Helmet
石胄
Qin Dynasty 221–207 BCE
stone
34.0 cm
Shaanxi Provincial Institute of Archaeology, Xi'an (007089)



Chariot #1 (Qin dynasty replica) 1
号铜车马 (复制品)
bronze
152.0 x 225.0 cm
Emperor Qin Shihuang's Mausoleum Site Museum, Xi'an (MMYL007)



Cai Guo-Qiang
born Quanzhou 1957; lives in New York
Tranescence II (Peony) 2019
花瞬II
Coloured gunpowder on silk
350.0 x 3100.0 cm
© Cai Guo-Qiang



Female attendant
粉彩女俑
Western Han Dynasty
207 BCE–9 CE
earthenware, pigments
47.0 x 15.5 x 8.0 cm
Shaanxi Provincial Institute of Archaeology, Xi'an (M193:25)



Lidded vessel, Ding
带盖铜鼎
Warring States Period
475–221 BCE
bronze
27.0 x 27.8 x 27.8 cm
Excavated at Juanling, Shanyang County, Shangluo, 1998
Shangluo City Museum, Shangluo (总0710 D198)



Goose-foot lamp
雁足形铜灯
Warring States Period
475–221 BCE
bronze
13.5 x 11.7 cm
Shaanxi Provincial Institute of Archaeology, Xi'an (001050)

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SUPPORTERS

This exhibition is organised by the National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne, in partnership with Shaanxi Provincial Cultural Relics Bureau (陕西省文物局), Shaanxi History Museum (陕西历史博物馆), Shaanxi Cultural Heritage Promotion Center (陕西省文物交流中心), and Emperor Qin Shihuang's Mausoleum Site Museum of the People's Republic of China (秦始皇帝陵博物院).

NGV LEARNING SUPPORTERS

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