



# WALL OF CHINA PROJECT

**Target Age: K-3<sup>rd</sup> Grades**

## Skills Used

Following directions, introduction to fractions, measuring with a ruler using half-inches, 2-D to 3-D concept transfer, creative interpretation, tactile stimulation, small motor skills development and learning to use the Internet

## **History of the Great Wall of China**

The Great Wall of China was built in bits and pieces over the centuries. Individual provinces in China had each built walls to protect their own territories from attack. Emperors Qin and Han started connecting the sections of wall to make all of China safer. Finally, during the Ming Dynasty, the Great Wall was completed. The Great Wall took nearly 2,000 years to build from the Warring States Period (476 BC - 221 BC) to the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644). It eventually extended for 8,851.39 kilometers or 5,500 miles.

To get an idea of the time that passed in building the Great Wall, go to [http://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/Chinese\\_Customs/Chinese\\_Dynasties.htm](http://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/Chinese_Customs/Chinese_Dynasties.htm). This link provides a history and description of the dynasties. Note that some dates in Chinese history may overlap or disagree. This is due to a number of reasons dealing with the Gregorian Calendar (<http://galileo.rice.edu/chron/gregorian.html>) as well as how transitions between dynasties were often not on a specific date but over a period of time.

Because the Great Wall of China was started so long ago, the people at the time did not have the kinds of building materials that we have today. They did not have concrete and steel. They did not even have bricks. Instead, during the Qin Dynasty, they packed dirt and gravel between planks of wood to make the wall. In areas of China where there wasn't enough wood, they piled stones or used heavy reeds or tree branches with packed dirt in between.

During the Han Dynasty, the Chinese people were able to use more stone, and they began making large stone buildings to use as watchtowers along the wall.

By the time of Emperor Ming, people had learned how to make bricks in kilns. They also could cut granite and marble. They used these materials to make sturdy walls that were high and very wide. The top of the wall was actually a road that warriors and civilians could travel on.

Photos of the Great Wall of China:

[http://www.travelchinaguide.com/china\\_great\\_wall/construction/material.htm](http://www.travelchinaguide.com/china_great_wall/construction/material.htm)  
<http://www.china-mike.com/china-tourist-attractions/great-wall-china/construction-history/>  
[http://www.travelchinaguide.com/picture/china\\_great\\_wall/facts/qin-han-dynasty.htm](http://www.travelchinaguide.com/picture/china_great_wall/facts/qin-han-dynasty.htm)

## Student Project

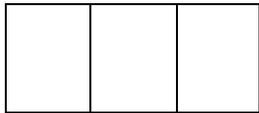
You will be building a Play-Doh model of the Great Wall of China. It will have three (3) sections: The first section will show how the Great Wall looked during the Qin Dynasty. The second part will show the changes that Emperor Han made and the third section will show how different the wall looked during the Ming Dynasty. These three sections will be connected on the board so that it becomes one long Great Wall.

### Materials:

- 3 different colors of Play-Doh
- A plastic fork, knife, and spoon
- A stiff base made of foam board (approx. 18" X 6")
- A ruler
- Pencil and magic marker
- Small twigs and stones from outdoors (optional)

### Directions:

1. Use a pencil and your ruler to divide the board into three sections, like this:



With your magic marker, carefully go over the lines to make them stand out.

2. Look at the pictures on the web pages to get an idea of the shapes of Qin's, Han's and Ming's walls, which were all different.
3. Decide which color you will use for Qin's part of the wall. Roll the Play-Doh into a ball and then press it until it is shaped the way the Great Wall looked during Qin's Dynasty. Your wall should be 2 inches wide on the bottom, 1 inch wide at the top and 3 inches high. Use your ruler to measure.
4. Place Qin's Wall on the left section of the board. It should start at the left edge of the board and continue across until it touches the line between the first and second sections. Put it near the top edge of the board to leave room below for writing.
5. With your second color of Play-Doh, shape a second wall the same way, but this time add a square-shaped piece for the watchtower in the middle of the wall. During Han's Dynasty, large stone watchtowers were added to the Great Wall. Your watchtower should be 2 inches long X 2 inches wide X 3 inches high.
6. Place Han's Wall and watchtower onto the middle section of the board. By gently pressing, attach Han's Wall to the end of Qin's Wall.

7. Use your third color to form Ming's Wall. Look again at the pictures to see how the wall was constructed of large bricks and stone and how the towers resemble the outside of a castle. The wall was very wide so that there could be an actual road running along the top. Make your Ming Wall 2 inches wide and 3 inches high with a road in the center. The watchtower should be 3 inches long X 3 inches wide X 3½ inches high.
8. Place your Ming Wall and Tower on the third section of the board and connect it to Han's Wall.
9. With your pencil, draw two lines on the board below each wall. Write the correct dynasty name on the lines, then go over them with magic marker.

Qin Dynasty

Han Dynasty

Ming Dynasty

10. Look at the pictures again. Pay attention to the materials that were used to make each wall. For the Qin Dynasty, use the the plastic fork, spoon and knife to carve the shapes of stones, wood planks and branches into the Play-Doh (or use real twigs and stones). Do the same for the Han Dynasty wall, this time showing the introduction of large carved stones, and the Ming Dynasty wall, where kiln-fired bricks were used.



# WALL OF CHINA PROJECT

**Target Age: 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grades**

## Skills Used

Following directions, 2-D to 3-D visual perception, creative interpretation, tactile stimulation, small motor skills development and learning to use the Internet

## **History of the Great Wall of China**

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To get an idea of the time that passed in building the Great Wall, go to [http://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/Chinese\\_Customs/Chinese\\_Dynasties.htm](http://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/Chinese_Customs/Chinese_Dynasties.htm). This link provides a history and description of the dynasties. Note that some dates in Chinese history may overlap or disagree. This is due to a number of reasons dealing with the Gregorian Calendar (<http://galileo.rice.edu/chron/gregorian.html>) as well as how transitions between dynasties were often not on a specific date but over a period of time.

Because the Great Wall of China was started so long ago, the people at the time did not have the kinds of building materials that we have today. They did not have concrete and steel. They did not even have bricks. Instead, during Qin's Dynasty, they packed dirt and gravel between planks of wood to make the wall. In areas of China where there wasn't enough wood, they piled stones or used heavy reeds or tree branches with packed dirt in between.

During the Han Dynasty, the Chinese people were able to use more stone, and they began making large stone buildings to use as watchtowers along the wall.

By the time of Emperor Ming, people had learned how to make bricks in kilns. They also could cut granite and marble. They used these materials to make sturdy walls that were high and very wide. The top of the wall was actually a road that warriors and civilians could travel on.

## Student Project

Build a model-sized Great Wall of China out of clay that shows how the construction of the changed from the Qin and Han Dynasties to the Ming Dynasty.

### List of suggested materials for your project:

- 18" X 6" wooden board or heavy duty foam board
- Modeling clay, a pointed etching tool
- Thin wedging shims, broken into small pieces
- Twigs, dried grass, hay, small stones and rocks
- Colored craft foam, cut and painted to resemble bricks and stones
- Acrylic paint and brushes
- Index cards, markers

Use the photos and articles from these websites to help you with details as you build your wall:

[http://www.travelchinaguide.com/china\\_great\\_wall/construction/material.htm](http://www.travelchinaguide.com/china_great_wall/construction/material.htm)

<http://www.china-mike.com/china-tourist-attractions/great-wall-china/construction-history/>

[http://www.travelchinaguide.com/picture/china\\_great\\_wall/facts/qin-han-dynasty.htm](http://www.travelchinaguide.com/picture/china_great_wall/facts/qin-han-dynasty.htm)

### Instructions:

1. Use a short plank of wood or other sturdy material as a base, 18" long by 6" wide.
2. Measure the board's length into thirds and draw two straight lines with a marker to separate the three sections. Label each section from left to right: Qin Dynasty (221BC–206 BCE), Han Dynasty (206 BCE–220 AD), and Ming Dynasty (1368-1644 CE).
3. On an index card, list the materials used in each time period to construct the wall:
  - Qin: rammed (hard-packed) dirt and gravel between planks of wood, piles of stones, sanded reeds and juniper tamarisk wood.
  - Han: the same materials, adding mud and stones to build large rectangular watchtowers along the wall.
  - Ming: kiln-fired bricks and tiles, large blocks of granite and marble, mortar made from clay, lime and rice flour between the stones. They also had watchtowers built into the wall.
4. Form a wall (about 1" wide) out of clay running left to right in the Qin section. Make it slightly wider on the bottom. Add some small stones, broken pieces of wood slats, twigs, dried grass, hay and colored foam pieces to show how the wall might have looked during Emperor Qin's Dynasty.

5. In the Han section, connect a new section of wall to the Qin wall, but put a square watchtower in the middle. Make it from clay, about 2" long X 2" wide and center it in the wall. Remember, these were made from larger stones and mud used as mortar. You may etch the shapes of the stones into the clay and paint them when dry, or use colored craft foam for the stones.
6. In the Ming section of your project, form a wider wall and attach it to the Han wall you just made. Sections of the wall built during the Ming Dynasty were much wider than earlier ones. The top was used as a road by warriors and travelers. The sides of wall were higher than the road, providing safety and protection.
7. Put a larger square watchtower in the middle of your Ming wall. Now cut out an archway—a short tunnel—through the bottom of the building. Archways like this allowed people and armies to go from one side of the wall to the other. Larger arches bridged the wall over rivers and valleys.
8. Once your clay wall is dry, paint it to make it look more authentic. Add trees and other scenery. Finish your project by gluing the index cards in the correct sections.



# EXPAND YOUR THINKING PROJECT

Target Age: 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grades



Emperor Qin Shi Huang's accomplishments were centuries ahead of his time. Emperor Qin made changes that many people in his time considered too drastic, but he had a vision for China that would cause it to become a very powerful nation. Several modern advancements that we take for granted may have had their origins in Qin's decrees in early China.

## 1. United We Stand...

Qin unified the warring states of China into one nation. Draw a color map showing the individual states of China before they were united. Here's a sample:



Select another country that was originally made up of several states or provinces that were later unified into one nation. Draw a color map of showing these original states.

Describe one important way in which unifying China and unifying your selected country accomplished a similar goal.

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## 2. What's in YOUR Wallet?

Emperor Qin standardized the money used throughout China. Most developed countries in today's world use the American dollar to set the exchange rate standard for buying, selling, borrowing and investing. If there were no money standard today, tell how our world might resemble China before Qin's decree.

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## 3. Guarding National Security

Qin started building what we now call the Great Wall of China. What was its purpose? Compare this wall to the controversial border fence that separates parts of the United States' southern border from Mexico. Do you think this fence should be extended the way the Great Wall of China was? Would it accomplish its purpose?

Compare China's Great Wall with the Iron Curtain that separated East Germany from West Germany. Was the purpose of the Iron Curtain to keep people out or to keep people in? Show how this was either similar to or different from the purpose for the Wall of China.



There are several walls that exist around the world today to divide people. One of these is the Korean Demilitarized Zone, separating North from South Korea. It is not a long wall of stone, but instead, it is a 250 km or more than 155 mile long buffer zone with razor sharp barbed wire, 24/7 guards and even landmines to keep people from crossing over. What are they protecting and from whom? Explain the purpose of the Korean "Wall" and compare it to the Great Wall of China. <http://www.history.com/topics/demilitarized-zone>

Explore other walls around the world at:

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/in\\_depth/world/2009/walls\\_around\\_the\\_world/default.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/in_depth/world/2009/walls_around_the_world/default.stm).

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#### **4. Speed Limit**

During his reign, Emperor Qin commanded that roads be built throughout China. These were early versions of today's highways. How did this advancement benefit the Chinese people?

How would life in the modern nations around the world be different if there were no main highways? What areas of your life would be most affected and why?



# CREATIVE WRITING PROJECT

**Target Age: 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> Graders**

## **Subject: Qin Standardizes China's Currency**

Write a short story about Yong and his mother traveling to the market to sell vegetables and to buy rice flour. At the market were people from different Chinese provinces. The problem was that the provinces all used different forms of money.

Imagine how Yong's mother and the others at the market must have argued about the prices of the vegetables and flour. Write their conversation in the form of a dialog. Were they ever able to agree on a fair price? Did Yong's mother finally sell her vegetables and buy the flour, or did she find a way to trade without using money, such as bartering or exchanging goods instead of money?

When Emperor Qin heard that people in his provinces were having problems selling and buying food and supplies, he found a way to fix it. The next time Yong and his mother went to the market, what was different? Finish your story by telling what they experienced.

## **Subject: Stone Warriors to Guard Emperor Qin's Tomb**

How do you think Yong felt when he found himself at the feet of one of the giant stone warriors guarding Emperor Qin's tomb? Was he scared or really curious?

Imagine that after Yong touched the stone warrior's boot the statue came alive. The giant warrior smiled down at Yong and asked his name. They began talking. Write a fictional story about their conversation. Here are some questions to get you started:

What would Yong ask the warrior? What would the man tell Yong about why he was standing there and why the army of warriors was so important to China? What very important facts would Yong learn about this period in his country's history?



# COLORING ACTIVITY

## Chinese Opera Mask

Decorate the mask below. You can go to this site for ideas:  
<http://pinterest.com/search/pins/?q=chinese+opera+makeup>





# WALL OF CHINA WORD SEARCH

See if you can find these words and phrases in this puzzle below:

China	emperor	warriors
Great Wall	Qin Dynasty	wood
towers	discover	miles
guard	border	long
stone	protect	four
mountains	history	antiquity

C Q S G R E A T W A L L N G I  
X I M M M E U Y D P I P H I Z  
Z N C K O K H I S T O R Y K U  
W D Y E Y U S Q L N P Y J P E  
O Y T Y A W N S L V I D B R G  
O N Q B N U E T V P P W E O T  
D A V H T L W U A Q L V G T C  
T S P V I S C W C I O T C E H  
E T Z M Q P J S A C N Q K C I  
G Y L P U D I O S R E S V T N  
U W O G I H F I B O R D E R A  
A M N U T V D U S O N I X H M  
R G G Z Y S E V I W X B O B A  
D K E I L F G N J M K S Q R L  
E M P E R O R S T O N E N R I  
I F C T O W E R S I F O U R S

**Fun Fill-In Story (use words from your puzzle):**

The G\_\_\_\_\_ W\_\_\_\_\_ is in C\_\_\_\_\_. The First E\_\_\_\_\_ ordered his people to build it during the Q\_\_\_\_\_ D\_\_\_\_\_, but it took f\_\_\_\_\_ dynasties (from the Warring States period to the Ming Dynasty) to complete it. The Great Wall is 8851.39 km or 5,500 miles l\_\_\_\_\_, and stretches over m\_\_\_\_\_ and through valleys. It is made of packed dirt, w\_\_\_\_, bricks, and s\_\_\_\_\_. It was built to p\_\_\_\_\_ China's b\_\_\_\_\_. W\_\_\_\_\_ used to stand g\_\_\_\_\_ in its t\_\_\_\_\_. The Great Wall is an important part of our world's h\_\_\_\_\_.

Which three words in the puzzle are not in the Fun Fill-in Story? \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.



# WALL OF CHINA WORD SEARCH

## Teacher's Answer Sheet

See if you can find these words and phrases in this puzzle below:

China	emperor	warriors
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towers	discover	miles
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stone	protect	four
mountains	history	antiquity

C Q S G R E A T W A L L N G I  
X I M M M E U Y D P I P H I Z  
Z N C K O K H I S T O R Y K U  
W D Y E Y U S Q L N P Y J P E  
O Y T Y A W N S L V I D B R G  
O N Q B N U E T V P P W E O T  
D A V H T L W U A Q L V G T C  
T S P V I S C W C I O T C E H  
E T Z M Q P J S A C N Q K C I  
G Y L P U D I O S R E S V T N  
U W O G I H F I B O R D E R A  
A M N U T V D U S O N I X H M  
R G G Z Y S E V I W X B O B A  
D K E I L F G N J M K S Q R L  
E M P E R O R S T O N E N R S  
I F C T O W E R S I F O U R S

**Fun Fill-In Story (use words from your puzzle):**

The **Great Wall** is in **China**. The First **Emperor** ordered his people to build it during the **Qin Dynasty**, but it took **four** dynasties to complete it (from the Warring States period to the Ming Dynasty). The Great Wall is 8851.39 km or 5,500 miles **long**, and stretches over mountains and through valleys. It is made of packed dirt, **wood**, bricks, and **stone**. It was built to **protect** China's **border**. **Warriors** used to stand **guard** in its **towers**. The Great Wall is an important part of our world's **history**.

Which three words in the puzzle are not in the Fun Fill-in Story? discover, miles and antiquity.