

# Yesterday's Child

## TEACHER'S GUIDE

### Qin Shi Huang (259-210 B.C.), the First Emperor of China

#### Overview

- Qin Shi Huang, the First Emperor of China curriculum, is the inaugural entry in a new and ongoing series called *Yesterday's Child* that will describe ancient cultures and illustrate their contributions to modern life through comprehensive modules comprising narrative and educational activities.
- Curricula in *Yesterday's Child* are conceptualized as strengthening literacy and critical thinking skills.
- A prototype for other stories in the *Yesterday's Child* series, the First Emperor of China curriculum offers a unique, encompassing approach to learning about ancient cultures. It includes:
  - *The Tale of Yong and Bao*, an illustrated story of the Qin dynasty through the eyes of a young boy of that period.
  - A PowerPoint presentation that depicts the life and legacy of Qin Shi Huang, China's first Emperor.
  - Activities that are designed to enrich and enhance students' critical thinking and literacy skills through creative writing, art, music and culinary activities.
- All materials in the *Yesterday's Child* series will comply with the *National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies: A Framework for Teaching, Learning, and Assessment*, <http://www.socialstudies.org/standards/strands> (United States). Teachers of social studies and English language located outside the United States will also find ample material that will be applicable to their classes.
- All materials are produced to enable teachers to address different ways of learning in children, particularly those with literacy challenges.
- In the future, the *Yesterday's Child* series will offer opportunities for teachers to share best practices and contribute to content on AntiquityNOW's website.

## **Student Outcomes**

- To learn about China's beginnings as a unified nation
- To appreciate China's early culture through the lesson plan and accompanying activities
- To comprehend the various ways that China's legacy influences the world today
- To learn to think critically by analyzing information about the Emperor, his contributions both during his time and today, and the price paid by the Chinese people in carrying out his policies
- To strengthen writing skills through crafting original storylines and composing narratives about what was learned
- To creatively express what is learned through class discussions and activities
- To learn to appreciate other cultures and times and the importance of preserving the world's heritage
- To have the opportunity to discuss tolerance as it was practiced in ancient cultures and as it is—or should be—expressed today

## Vocabulary

(Definitions from Merriam-Webster <http://www.wordcentral.com/home.html>)

**afterlife:** an existence after death

**ancient:** of or relating to a period of time long past

**archaeology or archeology:** the science that deals with past human life as shown by fossil relics and the monuments and tools left by ancient peoples

**archaeologist or archeologist:** one who does scientific study of material remains (as fossil relics, artifacts and monuments) of past human life and activities



**archer:** a person who shoots with a bow and arrow

**infantry:** a branch of an army made up of soldiers trained, armed and equipped to fight on foot

**bureaucracy:** a body of government officials

**cavalry:** troops mounted on horseback

**charioteer:** a driver of a chariot

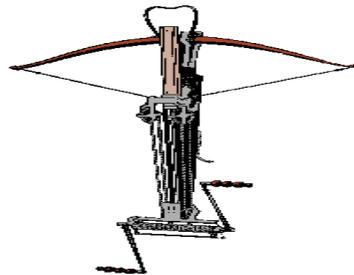


**communism:** a social system in which property and goods are owned in common

**Confucianism:** of or relating to the Chinese philosopher Confucius or his teachings or followers

**cosmology:** a branch of astronomy that deals with the beginning, structure and space-time relationships of the universe

**crossbow:** a short bow mounted crosswise near the end of a wooden stock that shoots short arrows



crossbow

**currency:** money in circulation

**dialect:** a variety of a language used by the members of a particular group or class

**dynasty:** a succession of rulers of the same line of descent

**empire:** a major political unit with a large territory or a number of territories or people under one ruler with total authority; *especially* : one having an emperor as chief of state

**economy:** a special arrangement or system for the careful use of money and goods

**eternal:** having no beginning and no end: lasting forever

**excavation:** the act of uncovering by digging away covering earth



**feudalism:** an former system of political organization in which a person served a lord and received protection and land in return

**human rights:** rights (as freedom from unlawful imprisonment, torture and execution) regarded as belonging fundamentally to all persons

**immortality:** endless life

**legacy:** something left to a person

**Legalism:** strict, literal or excessive conformity to the law or to a religious or moral code

**looting:** stealing

**Mao Zedong:** 1893-1976 Chinese Communist; leader of People's Republic of China (1949-76)



**mass production:** to produce in quantity, usually by machinery

**morality:** a system of moral rules where people are able to choose between right and wrong

**myth:** a story often describing the adventures of superhuman beings that attempts to describe the origin of a people's customs or beliefs or to explain mysterious events (as the changing of the seasons)

**policy:** a course of action chosen in order to guide people in making decisions

**populous:** having a large population

**reign:** the time during which a monarch reigns

**serf:** a servant or laborer of olden times who was treated as part of the land worked on and went along with the land if it was sold

**standard:** something set up by authority or by general consent as a rule for measuring or as a model

**stirrup:** either of a pair of small light frames often of metal hung by straps from a saddle and used as a support for the foot of a horseback rider

**tax:** a charge usually of money set by authority on persons or property for public purposes

**tolerance:** sympathy for or acceptance of feelings, habits or beliefs that are different from one's own

**unification:** the state of having put or come together to form a single unit