

# HISTORY OF CHINA

Year 4

# The Shang Dynasty (1600 BC)

- The Shang Dynasty was the first real dynasty in China. They ruled China from around 1600 B.C until 1100 B.C. During this 400 year period of history, there were 30 separate kings that rules 7 different capitals.
- One of the most important contributions made during the period that the Shang Dynasty ruled China was the invention of writing. The earliest written records found in China come from this time period.

# The Great Wall of China (215 BC)

- Early emperors had built walls in northern China to protect their nations against attack from outside forces. These walls were spread across the landscape and not connected. Emperor Qin ordered his people to connect the existing walls together (to protect them from the Huns of Mongolia), and to expand them, covering the distance of over 400 miles.
- Over 300,000 peasants were forced to help build the Great Wall of China. Many of which died during construction. It took several years for the Great Wall of China to be completed.

# Emperor Qin & Terracotta Army (210 BC)

- The Terracotta Army is part of a massive burial tomb built for Emperor Qin. In the tomb there are over 8000 life size statues of soldiers buried along with the Emperor. The Emperor felt this huge army would protect him and help him keep his power in the afterlife. No two statues look alike and there are soldiers of all ages with different ranks, facial features and hair styles. Some of the soldiers look calm while others look angry and ready to fight.

# Japan Invades China (1931-1945)

- The Japan-China War started in July 1931, when the Japanese claimed that they were fired on by Chinese troops at the Marco Polo Bridge near Beijing. Using this as an excuse, the Japanese launched a full-scale invasion of China and invaded Manchuria. Essentially, this was an attempt by the Japanese Empire to gain control over the whole province, in order to eventually encompass all of East Asia. This incident proved to be one of the causes of World War 2. The war against China has led to 4 million Chinese casualties with 60 million made homeless.

# China Hosts The Olympics (2008)

- China hosted the Olympics in 2008 in the country's capital, Beijing. The opening ceremony was held on the 8<sup>th</sup> of August at 8pm, this was planned as the number 8 means prosperity in Chinese culture. Over 202 countries participated in the event, with other 10,500 athletes and over 70,000 volunteers participating. The Olympic slogan was "One World, One Dream" which is the ideal of the Chinese people to share the joy of the Olympics with the global community. The Chinese worked hard to make the Olympics more eco-friendly, they fitted solar panels in the Olympic village to provide some of the electricity for the game and they collected rain water to help provide water for drinking and bathing.

# World's Second Largest Economy (2010)

- In 2010, China became the world's second largest economy after the United State and overtaking Japan. China is the world's fastest growing major economy. China is the largest exporter (items leaving China) and the second largest importer (items coming into China) in the world. It has the largest manufacturing economy in the world and produces the majority of the worlds goods. These goods include toys, electronics, food, clothes and jewellery.