

WALLS

Partition walls inside the pits were built to bear the weight of the earth above and prevent the soldiers from being crushed. They also divided the soldiers into different army units.

ANIMALS

More than 600 clay horses stand with the army. Elsewhere in the tomb complex, archaeologists have found sculpted animals as well as the bones of animals that were sacrificed.

SOLDIERS

Most of the army is made up of soldiers, including archers, charioteers, infantry, and a rear guard. They carried bows, spears, and swords—some of which were still sharp when the army was discovered!

DID YOU KNOW?

The Terracotta Army was discovered by local farmers while digging a well in 1974.

PAINT

The figures were modeled by hand and painted in bright colors. Most have now lost their color, but traces can still be seen on some of them.

FACES

The discovery of at least eight different face shapes suggests that several basic face molds were used. Artists then added individual details so that no two faces look exactly alike.

CIVILIANS

Most of the figures are soldiers, but some were made to represent officials, performers, and acrobats—there to serve and entertain the emperor Qin Shi Huang in the afterlife.

The mighty clay army built for an emperor

Take an up-close look at this amazing feat of ancient Chinese craftsmanship, buried underground for more than 2,000 years.

In 1974, archaeologists in China began a huge excavation project to unearth an estimated 8,000 life-size terracotta (clay) figures buried near the tomb of a powerful ruler called Ying Zheng. Ying Zheng was famous for conquering rival kingdoms and uniting much of what is now China under his rule in 221 B.C.E. He called himself Qin Shi Huang, which means “First Sovereign Emperor.” The figures the archaeologists



Ying Zheng united much of what is now China into one country.

were uncovering were the Terracotta Army, which had been made to guard Ying Zheng in the afterlife. It was an enormous project, requiring thousands of workers and decades of work. Each figure was assembled from individually crafted clay parts, then fired and placed with extraordinary precision. Let's take a look at some of the most impressive features of this remarkable feat of ancient craftsmanship.

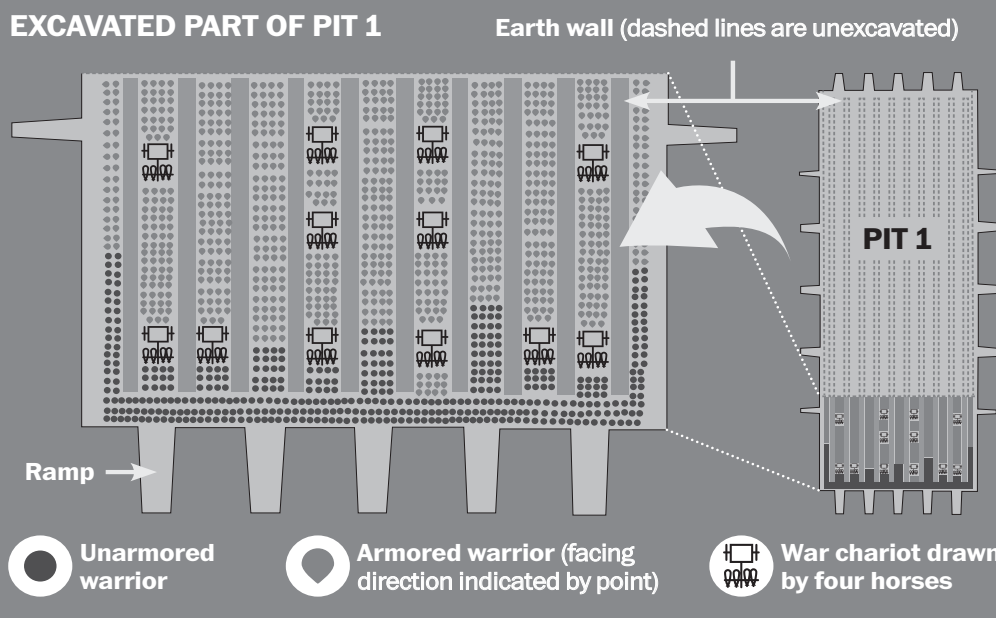


THE TERRACOTTA ARMY

Experts think Qin Shi Huang employed as many as 700,000 workers across 40 years to create his vast tomb complex, including the Terracotta Army, which he

believed would protect him in the afterlife. It was a lot to build—and also a lot to uncover! Archaeologists are still excavating the site today. To get a sense of the

scale, the graphic below shows the section of Pit 1—one of three main pits—that has been excavated, and the figures that have been found inside.



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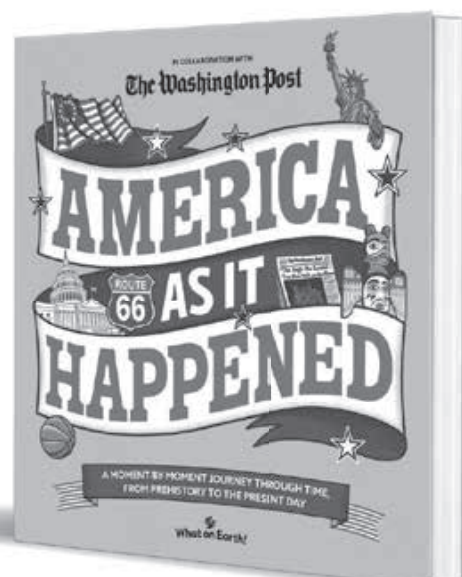
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