

**N G V**

24.5 — MELBOURNE WINTER — 13.10  
MASTERPIECES

**TERRACOTTA  
WARRIORS &  
CAI GUO-QIANG**

**HISTORY CHALLENGE | LEVELS 7-8**

**AFTER YOUR VISIT**





**CHRONOLOGY:  
CONTINUITY AND CHANGE**

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
The Han rulers were critical of the decadence and harsh rule of Qin Shihuang. Han tombs continued to be large and elaborate, but the human and animal figures were much smaller. This made them cheaper to produce and easier to transport.

Place each of the objects you photographed during your visit along a timeline in chronological order. For each of these objects, answer the following questions:

- What is its function?
- Who might have used the object?
- What can we learn about the society at the time from looking at this object? (It may be something related to beliefs, values and practices or what was considered important.)

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

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
This coin was introduced by the first emperor to replace all other types of currency used in the seven states. The hole in the middle allowed people to string coins together and carry them easily.

Use the evidence you collected during your visit of Qin Shihuang's achievements to draw up a table with the following subheadings:

- Object/image
- Interesting features
- Role in establishing control (for example, unified currency made trade between the states easier)

**ANCIENT CHINA:  
INVENTIONS AND INNOVATIONS**

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
Gold and precious stones were used to make ceremonial objects for the nobility in ancient China. When the Chinese first started to work with gold, it was cast in moulds so many of these objects are solid gold.

Discuss your findings about the materials and technology seen in the exhibition with your class (refer to the questions listed on the 'during your visit' page). Consider how these innovations from the past connect with our lives today. Compare the types of materials and technologies used in ancient China with other ancient civilisations.



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

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**New discoveries are still being made about the terracotta warriors. It has recently emerged that the chemical make-up of the soil at the burial site may be the reason why the weapons are so well preserved.**

The emperor's tomb has never been excavated. Why might this be? Conduct some research into the conservation of the terracotta army. What are some of the key threats to these artefacts? What measures are being taken by conservators to protect the objects?



**BELIEFS, VALUES AND PRACTICES:  
ANIMALS**

Share your findings about animals in the exhibition. Do any of these beliefs about animals still continue today? How are beliefs about animals reflected in the art of other cultures?

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

**DID YOU KNOW?**

**This bronze tiger, protectively holding its cub, was created during the Zhou dynasty, around 3000 years ago.**

Discuss what you have learnt about ancient Chinese beliefs about the afterlife through your research and your gallery visit. Compare and contrast the beliefs of the ancient Chinese with other ancient societies that you have studied. How do these beliefs relate to contemporary beliefs about the afterlife?

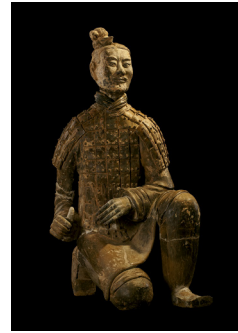
# LIST OF WORKS



*Armoured military officer*  
 中级铠甲军吏俑  
 Qin Dynasty 221–207 BCE  
 earthenware  
 190.0 x 56.0 x 58.0 cm  
 Excavated from Pit 1, Qin Shihuang's mausoleum site, Lintong District, Xi'an, 1978  
 Emperor Qin Shihuang's Mausoleum Site Museum, Xi'an (002758)



*Qin state coin with half tael inscription*  
 秦半两  
 Qin Dynasty 221–207 BCE  
 bronze  
 3.5 x 0.15 cm  
 Collected by Suide County Museum, Yulin, 1993  
 Yulin Institute of Cultural Heritage Conservation, Yulin (钱001)



*Kneeling archer*  
 跪射俑  
 Qin Dynasty 221–207 BCE  
 earthenware  
 120.0 cm  
 Emperor Qin Shihuang's Mausoleum Site Museum, Xi'an (002812)



*Large cavalryman*  
 彩绘骑马俑  
 Western Han Dynasty  
 207 BCE–9 CE  
 earthenware, pigments  
 68.0 x 63.0 x 23.0 cm  
 Xianyang Museum, Xianyang (YQD014)



*Ornament with zoomorphic design*  
 兽面金方泡  
 Spring and Autumn Period  
 771–475 BCE  
 gold, inlaid stones  
 3.3 x 3.9 x 0.1 cm  
 Baoji City Archaeological Team, Baoji (BYM2:27)



*Tiger mother with cub*  
 衔子铜虎  
 Western Zhou Dynasty  
 1046–771 BCE  
 bronze  
 10.0 x 20.0 cm  
 Excavated at Xizhou Ruins, Rujiazhuang, Baoji, 1988  
 Baoji Bronze Museum, Baoji (07648/IA11.584)

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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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