

MAIN IDEAS

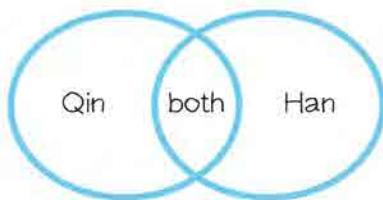
- 1 **Government** Shi Huangdi conquered the warring states, unified China, and built a strong government.
- 2 **Government** The Han Dynasty took over China and established a strong empire that lasted 400 years.
- 3 **Culture** Life in Han China set a pattern that is still seen today.



TAKING NOTES

Reading Skill: Comparing and Contrasting

Comparing and contrasting means looking for similarities and differences that can help you understand developments in history. As you read, look for clue words such as *like* or *similarly* that indicate two things are alike in some ways. Compare and contrast the rule of the Qin and Han dynasties. Record your information on a Venn diagram.



Skillbuilder Handbook, page R4



▲ Jade Funeral Suit This jade funeral suit is made up of 2,498 jade pieces sewn together with gold thread. The Chinese believed jade would preserve dead bodies for the afterlife.

Words to Know

Understanding the following words will help you read this lesson:

rival a competitor
(page 267)

Shi Huangdi viewed any government not under his control as a rival state.

rebel to defy an authority (page 269)
Tired of high taxes, the Chinese peasants rebelled against the emperor.

martial having to do with military forces (page 270)
Because Wudi used military force to gain land, he was known as a martial emperor.

identify to see oneself as part of a group (page 270)

People usually identify with groups that they admire or respect.

Qin
Shi Huangdi
Han Dynasty
bureaucracy

The Qin and the Han

Build on What You Know At the end of the Zhou period, several states were still at war. As you recall, the Chinese believed in the Mandate of Heaven. According to that belief, wars and other troubles were signs that the ruling dynasty had lost heaven's favor. A new ruler was needed.

The Qin Unified China

1 ESSENTIAL QUESTION How did the Qin Dynasty unify China?

The new ruler of China came from the state of **Qin** (chihn). (Some scholars think the name of China may come from this word.) The new emperor took the name **Shi Huangdi** (shee•hwahng•dee). He would unify and expand China.

A Legalistic Ruler In 221 B.C., Qin ruler Shi Huangdi began ending internal battles between warring states. He then conquered rival states and drove out nomadic invaders. China grew larger than it had been under the Zhou.

Shi Huangdi believed in the Legalist way of running the country. He tried to wipe out Confucian teachings. He had 460 critics and Confucianists killed. He also ordered the burning of books that contained ideas he disliked.

Terra Cotta Army
Thousands of clay
soldiers were buried
at the tomb of
Shi Huangdi. ▼



Uniting China Shi Huangdi wanted a strong central government. To gain personal control of the government, he set out to weaken the noble families. He took land away from defeated nobles. Shi Huangdi also forced the nobles to live at the capital so he could watch them. These actions weakened the power of noble families and strengthened the emperor's power.

Shi Huangdi set out to unite the lands under his control. To link the lands together, he built highways and irrigation projects. He forced peasants to work on these projects and set high taxes to pay for them. He also set government standards for weights, measures, coins, and writing. These steps made it easier to trade and do business everywhere in China.

The Great Wall Shi Huangdi planned to build a long wall along China's northern borders to keep out invaders. He forced hundreds of thousands of peasants and criminals to build it. Many workers died from hard labor. The deaths caused great resentment among the people.

The first Great Wall linked smaller walls that had been built during the Time of the Warring States. The earliest walls were built of earth. Later stone and brick were used. The Great Wall has been rebuilt and extended many times.

The Qin Dynasty Ends Shi Huangdi died in 210 B.C. He was buried in an elaborate tomb. Near his tomb, an army of terra cotta (baked clay) soldiers was buried. Archaeologists discovered the soldiers in 1974. (See Literature Connections, pages 272–276.)

The Great Wall
Thousands of
people visit a
portion of the
Great Wall during
a holiday. ▼

REVIEW Why did Shi Huangdi kill so many Confucianists?





GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER
INTERPRETING MAPS

Place Which physical feature does the Great Wall border?

The Han Dynasty

2 ESSENTIAL QUESTION How did the Han rule China?

Shi Huangdi's son was a less effective ruler than his father. People rebelled during his rule. A civil war broke out during the last years of his reign. Eventually, a military general named Liu Bang (lee•oo bahng) defeated the Qin forces. He ended the civil war and reunified China. In 202 B.C., he started the **Han Dynasty**. The Han Dynasty lasted until about 220 A.D., during the same time period as the Roman Empire.

Han Government Liu Bang kept the Qin policies of strong central government, but he lowered taxes. He made punishments less harsh. In Han China, peasant men owed the government a month of labor per year on the emperor's public projects. He put peasants to work building roads, canals, and irrigation projects.

The Han rulers set up a **bureaucracy**. In this way of governing, officials chosen by the ruler ran offices, or bureaus. The officials helped enforce the emperor's rule. The Han rulers put family members and trusted people in local government positions. They set up a system of tests to find the most educated and ethical people for the imperial bureaucratic state. To do this they tested individuals on their knowledge of Confucianism.

Empress Rules When Liu Bang died in 195 B.C., his widow, the Empress Lü, ruled for their young son. Lü outlived her son and continued to place infants on the throne. This allowed her to retain power because the infants were too young to rule. When she died in 180 B.C. all her relatives were executed.

Expanding the Empire From 141 to 87 B.C., a descendant of Liu Bang named Wudi (woo•dee) ruled the Han Empire. He was called the Martial Emperor because he used war to expand China. Wudi made many military conquests. He brought southern Chinese provinces, northern Vietnam, and northern Korea under his control. He chased nomadic invaders out of northern China. By the end of his rule, China had grown significantly, in fact nearly as large as it is today.

The Han faced rebellions, peasant revolts, floods, famine, and economic disasters. Somehow they managed to stay in power until A.D. 220.

REVIEW How did the Han rulers find people for government jobs?

Life in Han China

3 ESSENTIAL QUESTION What was life in Han China like?

Many Chinese today call themselves the people of the Han. They identify strongly with their ancient past. The Han were industrious people whose civilization prospered.

Women of Han
These ladies of the Chinese court have elaborate dresses and hair styles. ▾

Daily Life in Han China A large part of the Han society lived and worked on farms. Farmers lived in villages near the lands they worked. Most lived in one- or two-story mud houses. Barns, pigsties, and storage buildings were also located there. Rich farmers probably had an ox or two to pull a plow. Poor farmers had to pull the plows themselves. Both rich and poor had a few simple tools to make farming a bit easier.

Chinese farmers wore simple clothing and sandals, much like clothing today. For the cooler months, their clothing was stuffed like a quilt. Farmers in the north raised wheat or millet. Those in the south raised rice. Families kept vegetable gardens for additional food. Fish and meat were available, but expensive. As a result, most people ate small portions of meat and fish.



City Living Not everyone lived in the country. Han China had cities as well. The cities were centers of trade, education, and government. Merchants, craftspeople, and government officials lived there. In some ways, the cities were not too different from today's cities. They were crowded and had lots of entertainment, including musicians, jugglers, and acrobats. According to some writers, the cities also had street gangs.

REVIEW How were the lives of farmers different from those of city dwellers?

Flying Horse This bronze statue of a horse is considered one of the finest pieces of Han art. ▼

Lesson Summary

- In 221 B.C., the Qin ruler Shi Huangdi unified China and ruled by harsh Legalist principles.
- The Han Dynasty ruled over a large and successful land.
- The Han Chinese way of life is reflected in Chinese life today.

Why It Matters Now . . .

Strong government remains important in Chinese life today.



3 Lesson Review

Terms & Names

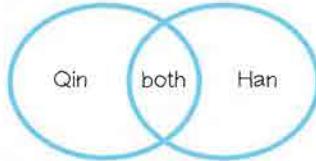
1. Explain the importance of

Qin	Han Dynasty
Shi Huangdi	bureaucracy

Using Your Notes

Comparing and Contrasting Use your completed graphic to answer the following question:

2. In what ways were the Qin and Han dynasties similar?



Main Ideas

3. What ruling style did Shi Huangdi choose, and how did it affect his rule?

4. Why was the ruler Wudi important in the achievements of the Han Dynasty?

5. How is the Chinese way of life today similar to that of Han China?

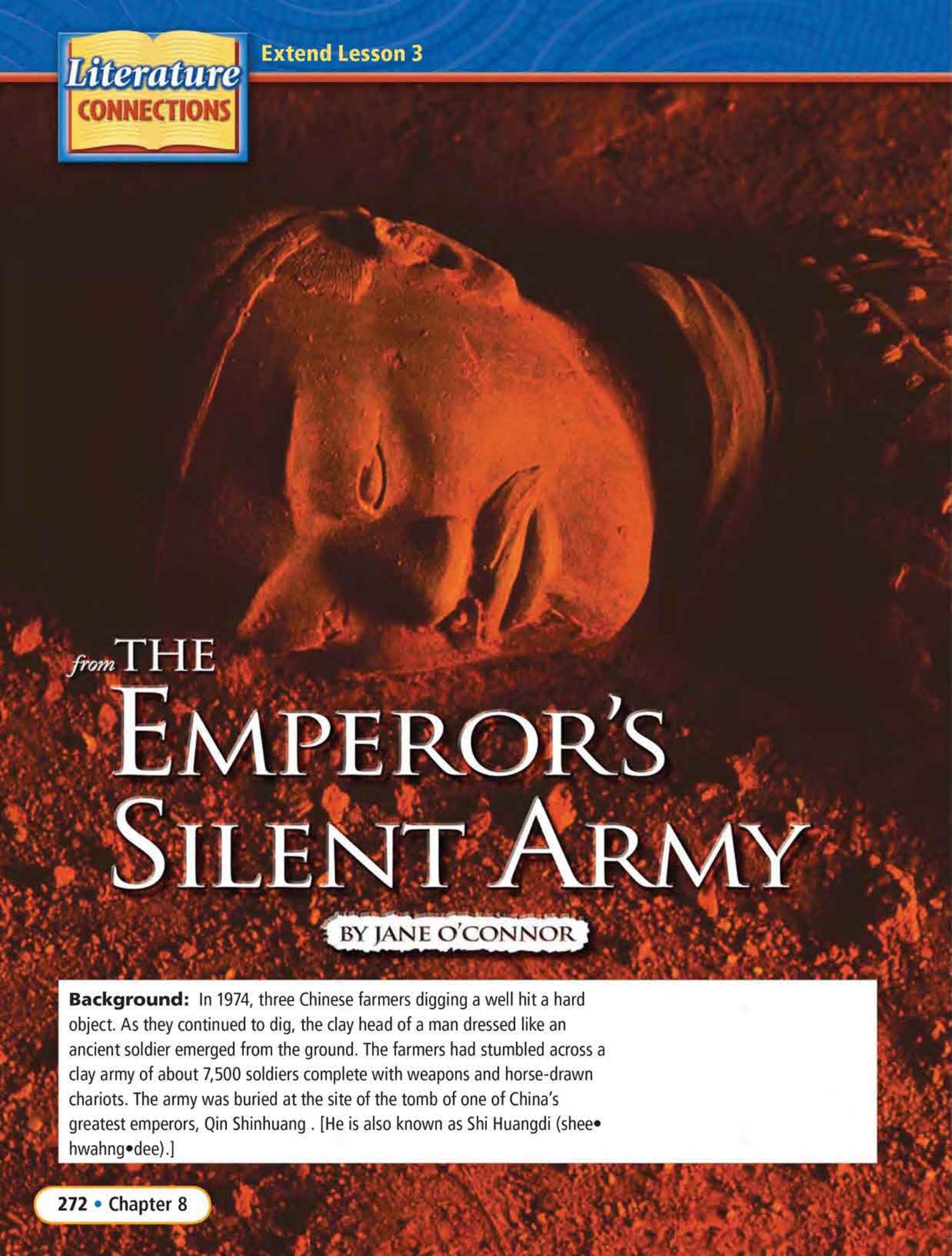
Critical Thinking

6. **Making Inferences** Why were Shi Huangdi's efforts to unify China important?

7. **Comparing** How were Shi Huangdi's methods of uniting his lands similar to those of Persian rulers?

Activity

Making a Map Take out the world map that you started in Chapter 2. Add the borders of Han China to the map and then draw the Great Wall of China. Choose an appropriate symbol for the wall.



from THE
**EMPEROR'S
SILENT ARMY**

BY JANE O'CONNOR

Background: In 1974, three Chinese farmers digging a well hit a hard object. As they continued to dig, the clay head of a man dressed like an ancient soldier emerged from the ground. The farmers had stumbled across a clay army of about 7,500 soldiers complete with weapons and horse-drawn chariots. The army was buried at the site of the tomb of one of China's greatest emperors, Qin Shihuang. [He is also known as Shi Huangdi (shee•hwahng•dee).]



BURIED SOLDIERS

Qin Shihuang became emperor because of his stunning victories on the battlefield. His army was said to be a million strong. In every respect except for number, the terracotta army is a faithful replica of the real one.

So far terracotta troops have been found in three separate pits, all close to one another. A fourth pit was discovered, but it was empty. The entire army faces east. The Qin kingdom, the emperor's homeland, was in the northwest. The other kingdoms that had been conquered and had become part of his empire lay to the east. So Qin Shihuang feared that any enemy uprising would come from that direction.

The first pit is by far the biggest, more than two football fields long, with approximately six thousand soldiers and horses. About one thousand have already been excavated and restored. None of the soldiers in the army wears a helmet or carries a shield, proof of the Qin soldiers' fearlessness. But the archers stationed in the front lines don't wear any armor either. They needed to be able to move freely in order to fire their arrows with accuracy. And so these frontline sharpshooters, who were the first targets of an approaching enemy, also had the least protection.

Following the vanguard¹ are eleven long columns of foot soldiers and lower-ranking officers, the main body of the army, who once carried spears, battle-axes, and halberds². The soldiers are prepared for an attack from any direction; those in the extreme right and extreme left columns face out, not forward, so that they can block enemy charges from either side. Last of all comes the rear guard, three rows of soldiers with their backs to the rest of the army, ready to stop an attack from behind.

Stationed at various points among the foot soldiers are about fifty charioteers who drove wooden chariots. Each charioteer has a team of four horses and is dressed in full-length armor. In some carts, a general rides beside the charioteer, ready to beat a drum to signal a charge or ring a bell to call for a retreat....



1. **vanguard:** troops moving at the head of an army.

2. **halberd:** a long-handled weapon used as both spear and a battle-ax.

Pit 2 is far smaller than Pit 1. With an estimated 900 warriors of all different ranks, Pit 2 serves as a powerful back-up force to help the larger army in Pit 1. There are also almost 500 chariot horses and more than 100 cavalry horses.

The terracotta horses are Mongolian³ ponies, not very big, but muscular and full of power. With their flaring nostrils, bared teeth, and bulging eyes, the chariot horses all look as if they are straining to gallop across a battlefield. The mane of each chariot horse is trimmed short and its tail is braided. That is so it won't get caught in the harness. . . .

Pit 3, by far the smallest, contains fewer than seventy warriors and only one team of horses. Archeologists think that Pit 3 represents army headquarters. That's because the soldiers are not arranged in an attack formation. . . .

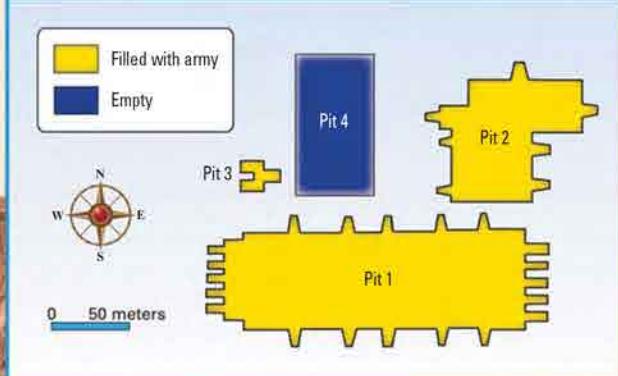
Altogether, the three pits of warriors and horses make up an unstoppable army. . . .

REVIEW Which army groups are represented in each pit?

3. Mongolian: coming from the area of Mongolia.

▼ Pit 2 Soldiers These are a backup force for the soldiers in Pit 1.

Top View Diagram of Terra Cotta Army Pits



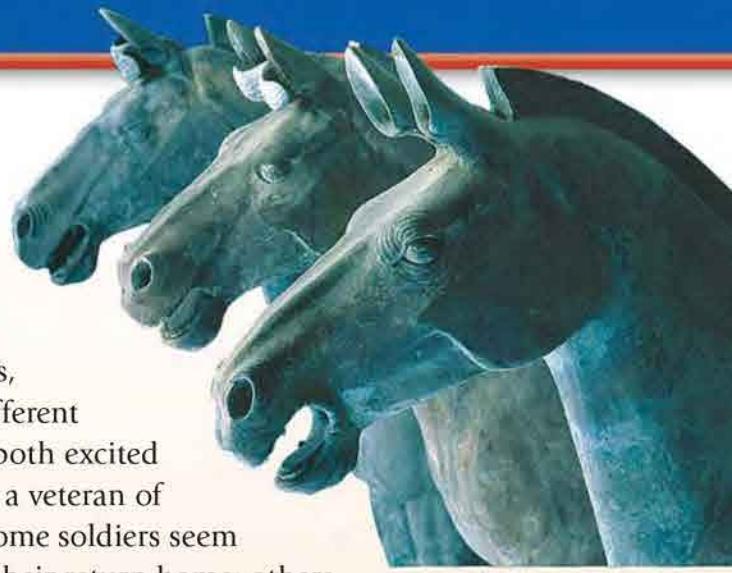
About two thousand soldiers have been unearthed, yet, amazingly, so far no two are the same. The army includes men of all different ages, from different parts of China, with different temperaments. A young soldier looks both excited and nervous; an older officer, perhaps a veteran of many wars, appears tired, resigned.⁴ Some soldiers seem lost in thought, possibly dreaming of their return home; others look proud and confident. Although from a distance the figures appear almost identical, like giant-size toy soldiers, each is a distinct work of art. . . .

The uniforms of the terracotta figures are exact copies in clay of what real soldiers of the day wore. The soldier's uniform tells his rank in the army. The lowest-ranking soldiers are bareheaded and wear heavy knee-length tunics⁵ but no armor. Often their legs are wrapped in cloth shin guards for protection.

The generals' uniforms are the most elegant. Their caps sometimes sport a pheasant feather; their fancy shoes curl up at the toes; and their fine armor is made from small iron fish scales. Tassels on their armor are also a mark of their high rank.

REVIEW How would you describe the uniforms of the soldiers?

4. **resigned:** giving in passively to sorrow or misfortune.
5. **tunic:** a loose-fitting knee-length garment.



▲ Mongolian Ponies
More than 600 horses were found in the tombs. Some were cavalry horses, and others pulled war chariots.

Reading & Writing

- 1. READING: Finding Main Ideas** What information about the emperor's army can you gain from the text, pictures, and diagrams in the story?
- 2. WRITING: Response to Literature** Write a speech asking for donations to continue the archaeological work at the site of the tomb. Deliver the speech to your classmates.