



**Year Level: Year 4/5**  
**Genre: Historical Report**

## Clay Army

*In 1974 a farmer was digging a well in eastern China when he found a clay head resting five metres down. A little further down he discovered a clay body which looked like a soldier. He had discovered the burial site of an emperor of China. The site spread over 50 square kilometres and included three pits.*

*It is believed that the three pits contained over 8,000 clay soldiers, 130 chariots with 520 horses and 150 cavalry horses. Many of these are still buried in the burial pits. The purpose of the clay army was to help Emperor Qin Shi Huangdi rule another empire in the afterlife.*

*After the digging ended, 7,500 life-sized clay soldiers were found. Each had real weapons and armour, and clay horses. It took 700,000 men 30 years to put the models together. Most of the clay models were broken or chipped which made it very difficult for all the repairs to be completed. However, it was a rewarding job repairing the models.*

*Historians and scientists believe that the head and limbs were originally created separately and put together later in a type of assembly line production. Eight face moulds seem to have been used and clay was then added to create different facial features. The soldiers varied in height, uniform and hairstyle to suit their rank. The last stage of production involved painting each clay soldier using a protective lacquer finish. This gave the emperor's army a realistic appearance. Under Qin Shi Huangdi's strict control, each workshop had to inscribe its name on the items it produced to ensure the highest quality standards were met.*

*If you go to Xian in China today, you can see all the clay soldiers that have been repaired. You can also see the pieces that still need to be fixed. It is a long, hard job but a rewarding one because Emperor Qin Shi Huangdi's clay army is one of the most amazing discoveries in the world.*

### QUESTIONS:

#### *Main Idea (MI)*

#### **1) The historical report is mainly about ...**

- a) the importance of Emperor Qin Shi Huangdi.
- b) the method of production used to assemble the clay soldiers.
- c) the discovery of the clay soldiers.
- d) how unusual discoveries occur.

**Figurative Language (FL)**

**2) What is the phrase 'a clay head resting' an example of?**

- a) personification
- b) a simile
- c) an exaggeration
- d) alliteration

**Facts and Details (FD)**

**3) When did the farmer discover the clay pieces?**

- a) 1794
- b) 1974
- c) 1747
- d) 1947

**Sequencing (S)**

**4) What would have been the last stage of the original production process?**

- a) constructing the clay soldiers' faces from one of eight moulds
- b) creating the soldiers' limbs
- c) assembling the soldiers' bodies
- d) painting each clay soldier with lacquer

**Cause and Effect (CE)**

**5) Why were the clay soldiers given different uniforms and hairstyles?**

- a) to individualise them
- b) to indicate their particular rank and position
- c) to make them look realistic
- d) to make them look pretty

**Conclusions and Inferences (CI)**

**6) It was hard to repair the pieces because...**

- a) no one could find all the pieces.
- b) there were so many broken parts.
- c) no one wanted to help put them back together.
- d) there were too many clay soldiers.

**Comparing and Contrasting (CC)**

**7) How are the clay soldiers of Xian similar to modern soldiers?**

- a) They both use weapons.
- b) They both protect an Emperor.
- c) They both belong to an infantry.
- d) They both use grenades.

**Conclusions and Inferences (CI)**

**8) The clay army was constructed for the Chinese emperor because he...**

- a) wanted to rule in the afterlife.
- b) was old and sick.
- c) was very rich.
- d) loved playing with toy soldiers.

**Words in Context (WC)**

**9) In the report, 'original' means...**

- a) first.
- b) later.
- c) second.
- d) different.

**Words in Context (WC)**

**10) What do you think Xian is?**

- a) a country
- b) a bridge
- c) a town
- d) a tunnel

**Fact and Opinion (FO)**

**11) Which of these tells what someone thinks or feels?**

- a) A clay soldier was found by a farmer.
- b) It is a rewarding job repairing the models.
- c) The clay soldiers are spread over 50 square metres.
- d) The clay soldiers were found in a grave.

**Summarising (SM)**

**12) Which one of these could never happen?**

- a) One day all the models will be repaired.
- b) The emperor asks for his models back.
- c) Many people will be able to see the models.
- d) The farmer never finished his well.