

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

China

Biography – Qin Shi Huang Di



Qin

Shi Huang Di

HOW HE AFFECTED THE REGION? Shi Huang Di was a powerful Qin Emperor in China's first Dynasty. He ordered the building of the Great Wall of China and had thousands of terra-cotta warriors made to guard his tomb.

→As you read the biography below, look for ways that Shi Huang Di's strength and determination helped him accomplish many achievements during his reign as emperor.

Shi Huang Di's name at birth was Cheng. Cheng was crowned king of the Qin, a Chinese state, at the age of 13, but his rule did not become official until he turned 21. His first act as ruler was to begin taking over the other six Chinese states one at a time. Cheng was a strong military leader. He often made **ruthless** decisions in order to take control of the enemy states.

In 221 B.C.E., China became unified for the first time. Cheng renamed himself Shi Huang Di, meaning **First Emperor**. He was very confident in his abilities as a leader. He **proclaimed** that his dynasty would last "**10,000 generations.**"

Shi Huang Di earned many lasting achievements during his reign. He ordered the Great Wall to be built. This was to protect China from war clans in the north. Shi Huang Di adopted a single form of money, currency, to be used throughout China. It was a round copper coin with a square hole in the middle. Irrigation canals and roads were built all over the empire. The Qin even established one language to be spoken and written by all people in China.

Even though Shi Huang Di accomplished many great things, he was not a popular leader. His people worked hard to build the great wall, dig irrigation canals, and build a huge palace for Shi Huang Di. They did not get paid for this work. The Qin emperor also ordered more than 10,000 life-sized warriors to be made out of terra-cotta. These handmade figures were meant to guard Shi Huang Di's tomb after his death.

Eventually, Shi Huang Di stayed in his palace almost all the time. He would only speak to a small number of trusted people in person for fear that someone might try to kill him. He had already survived three attempts on his life.

Shi Huang Di died suddenly in 210 B.C.E.. He had ruled as the first emperor of unified China for 37 years. The accomplishments of Shi Huang Di left a lasting mark on Chinese culture. His determination and ideas for change made China very strong. The Qin dynasty was the foundation for all future emperors.

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Qin Shi Huang Di (259 B.C.E. – 210 B.C.E.)

Directions: Read the biography of Qin Shi Huang Di. After you have finished reading answer the following questions in a complete sentence.

1. What was Shi Huang Di's name at birth?

2. When did he become emperor?

3. Use your knowledge from the readings and notes about the Qin. Why was Shi Huang Di's decisions "**ruthless.**"? Give an example of one of his "**ruthless**" decisions.

4. When did Shi Huang Di unify China? What did he rename himself?

5. List 4 of Shi Huang Di's lasting achievements.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

6. Why Was Shi Huang Di not a popular leader?

7. Why did Shi Huang fear for life towards the end of his reign?

8. Write a newspaper obituary about Shi Huang Di's life. Include three details that you learned from this reading.
