Architects of the East: Ancient China Drawing Sheet

Learning objective: To identify and illustrate key features of Ancient Chinese society, including the Great Wall, silk production, and traditional architecture.

Use your knowledge of Ancient China to bring this historical scene to life. Follow the steps below to complete your illustration. Refer to the word bank to label your finished masterpiece.

Draw: Create a landscape scene of Ancient China. Include a multi-tiered pagoda on a hill, a winding section of the Great Wall in the background, and a market scene in the foreground featuring a merchant with pack animals. Use a clean, illustrative style with clear outlines. Incorporate traditional patterns on the roof tiles of the buildings.

Label words: The Great Wall · Terracotta Warrior · Silk Road · Pagoda · Dynasty · Calligraphy

Steps:

1. Step 1: Draw a tall, curved building known as a pagoda in the centre of your page. Why were these structures often built with multiple levels?
2. Step 2: Add a section of the Great Wall winding through the landscape. Explain why this structure was essential for the safety of the empire.
3. Step 3: Draw a merchant travelling along a path representing the Silk Road. What goods might they be carrying to trade with other civilisations?

4. Step 4: Label your drawing using the words from the bank. Where would you place a Terracotta Warrior in your scene to protect the Emperor?

5. Compare and contrast: How does the architecture of an Ancient Chinese pagoda differ from a modern house you might see in the UK today?

6. Justify your answer: If you were an advisor to an Ancient Chinese Emperor, would you recommend spending wealth on building walls or on expanding trade routes? Why?