Ancient China: A Journey Through History

Learning objective: To assess knowledge and understanding of the achievements, social structure, and beliefs of Ancient China.

Read each question carefully. Use your historical knowledge to answer in full sentences where required. Remember to show your working for any calculations involving currency.

Ellie the elephant has been reading ancient scrolls to learn about the history of China. She discovered that the Qin Dynasty was the first to unite the country under one Emperor. During this time, they began building a massive defensive wall and created thousands of clay soldiers to protect the Emperor in the afterlife. Later, trade routes like the Silk Road allowed goods such as silk, tea, and spices to travel across the world, changing how different civilisations interacted forever.

Word bank: Dynasty · Emperor · Silk Road · Great Wall · Terracotta Army · Invention · Ancestor · Agriculture · Philosophy

1. Name one major construction project started during the Qin Dynasty and explain its original purpose. (2 marks)

2. Why was the Silk Road so important for the development of Ancient China? Give two reasons. (2 marks)

3. Max the monkey wants to buy 3 bundles of silk for a museum display. Each bundle costs £4.50. If he pays with a £20 note, how much change should he receive? (3 marks)

4. Describe the role of the Emperor in Ancient Chinese society. What was the 'Mandate of Heaven'? (4 marks)

5. Ancient China is famous for its inventions, such as paper and the compass. Choose one invention and explain how it might have changed daily life for the people living at that time. (4 marks)

6. Extended Writing Task: Ellie the elephant wants you to write a diary entry from the perspective of an artisan building the Terracotta Army. Describe what you are making, why it is important to the Emperor, and how you feel about the task. (5 marks)

7. Identify one way in which geography (such as the Yellow River or mountain ranges) influenced where people settled in Ancient China. (5 marks)

Draw: Draw a sketch of a Chinese junk ship or a section of the Great Wall of China, labelling at least two features you have included.

Extension challenge: Total: /25. Research task: Find out which dynasty invented the first form of printing and write three sentences about how this helped share knowledge across the empire.