

Discovering Ancient China with Ellie

Learning objective: To understand the key achievements and daily life of the Ancient Chinese civilisation.

Read the text carefully and answer the questions below using full sentences. Use your best handwriting and check your spelling.

Ellie the elephant has travelled through time to explore Ancient China. This fascinating civilisation began along the banks of the Yellow River thousands of years ago. Ancient China was ruled by an Emperor, who lived in a grand palace. The people were known for their incredible inventions, including paper, the magnetic compass, and gunpowder. One of the most famous sights Ellie visited was the Terracotta Army, an enormous collection of thousands of life-sized clay soldiers created to protect the first Emperor in the afterlife. Trade was also very important. Merchants travelled along the Silk Road, a long network of paths that linked China to the rest of the world. They exchanged precious items like silk, spices, and tea for gold and wool. By studying these historical records, we can see how the people of Ancient China shaped the world we live in today. From their advanced farming techniques to their beautiful art, the legacy of this great civilisation remains a vital part of our human story.

Word bank: Dynasty · Emperor · Terracotta · Silk Road · Invention · Civilisation

1. Name two inventions from Ancient China mentioned in the passage. (2 marks)

2. What was the purpose of the Terracotta Army? (2 marks)

3. Why do you think the route used by merchants was given the name 'Silk Road'? (2 marks)

4. How did the geography of the Yellow River likely help the early Chinese civilisation to grow? (2 marks)

5. Which of the ancient inventions mentioned in the text do you think is the most important to the modern world? Explain why. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a scene of a merchant on the Silk Road, showing them carrying bundles of silk to trade for other goods.



Extension challenge: Research one other invention from Ancient China not mentioned in this text and write a short paragraph explaining what it was used for.