



WARRIORS

Teachers' notes

Written by Krista Bell
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Warriors by Krista Bell is two stories in one. The fictional narrative follows Vincent, a Chinese/Australian boy travelling through China with his father. The story takes place the evening before their visit to the Terracotta Warriors in Xi'an. As they sit in a restaurant having dinner, Vincent's father tells him the stories of how the Terracotta Warriors came to be made and how they were found 2000 years later.

In addition to the fictional narrative, the reader is given background non-fictional information which gives them a taste of Chinese history and culture.

Before Reading:

Have you read any books about China?

Have you ever been to China?

What do you know about China?

What does the Warrior on the cover page tell you about the story?

After reading:

Discussion and creative writing activities.

Who is the narrator of the story about Emperor Qin?

Where are Da and Vincent when the story is told?

Vincent

Build a character profile for Vincent

What does Vincent's passport tell you about Vincent?

Where is he going?

Where is he flying from?

What souvenirs did he buy in China?

What places did he visit?

What grade is Vincent in?

In the book there is a postcard written by Vincent to his class.

Can you write a diary entry for Vincent on the night before he visits the Terracotta Warriors and one for how he feels then one after he has visited the Warriors?





Ying Zheng

Do some further research in to the life of Ying Zheng. Some of the questions you may like to consider are:

How old was Ying Zheng when he became King of Qin state? When did he become Emperor?

What kind of a leader was Emperor Qin?

What are some of the good things he did for his country?

What did Emperor Qin believe about his death?

What did the regent advise Ying Zheng to do?

Draw a timeline following the life of Ying Zheng

How would you feel if your father died and left you a country to lead?

How would you feel if at thirteen you became the leader of a country?

Write a story about your life as new young ruler of an imaginary country.

Consider:

How you would dress and eat?

Who would help you to rule?

Who might be against your ruling your country?

What good things might you do to make your people happy?

What things would you do that might make your people unhappy?

The farmers

Why were the farmers digging in the field?

What did the farmers find in the field?

Why do you think the farmers were reluctant to mention their findings?

How do you think the discovery of the Terracotta Warriors may have changed the farmers' lives?

Can you retell the story of the discovery of the Warriors from the point of view of one of the farmers?

Further classroom activities:

Art

What is terracotta? What other materials do Chinese artists use?

Draw a Terracotta Warrior, copying the uniform. Each Terracotta Warrior has a different expression. Give your warrior his own facial expressions.

Write a sentence explaining why your warrior has the facial expression you drew.





Music

Watch or listen to the audio of the dance Feng Huang (Phoenix) <http://www.musicaviva.com.au/education/mvis/performers/sirocco>

Examine the instruments. Compare eastern to western instruments.

Integrated studies

What is the capital of China now?

When was Xi'an the capital of China?

Research one other historic place in Xi'an: The Wild Goose Pagoda; The Bell Tower; the Drum Tower and find out two important facts about each of them.

What is a mausoleum?

What is the mausoleum referred to in Warriors?

How is this mausoleum in the book different to most mausoleums?

What did the imperial leaders of China believe about the after-life? Describe how this is similar to the beliefs of the Egyptian Pharaohs.

Have you travelled overseas?

Make up your own travel preparation list for travelling to China. Include: a list of items you will need to bring clothes; medical needs, toiletries; a book to read; travel equipment; a map with instructions of how to get to your hotel; a map with lists of cities and the route you will go on. Don't forget to check the weather in the country at the time you are travelling. Work out how much money (Yuan) will you need for a day of sightseeing and living in China. Include costs of food, hotel, buses, and entry to a historical site. Can you find any useful Apps for travel in China?

You can design your own passport, tickets, and postcards.

Food

Have you tried any of the food mentioned in the book?

Can you find a recipe for dumplings?

Can you invite someone in to the class to make dumplings?

