

CHINA

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Crabtree
Forest

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Next Stop: China!

Welcome to China! In this book you will find some of the most important landmarks in China. From the highest mountains to the deepest valleys, ancient carvings to awesome structures, China's got it all!

FIVE China Facts

- 1 China has more people living in it than any other country.
- 2 China is huge. It is the third-largest country in the world, after Russia and Canada.
- 3 China is home to 56 ethnic groups. Together they are the Chinese people, and all have contributed to China's history and culture.
- 4 China was once ruled by powerful families called dynasties, and some of the grand palaces, temples, and forts they built can still be visited today.
- 5 Paper-making, printing, gunpowder, and the compass were all invented in China.



WHAT IS A LANDMARK?

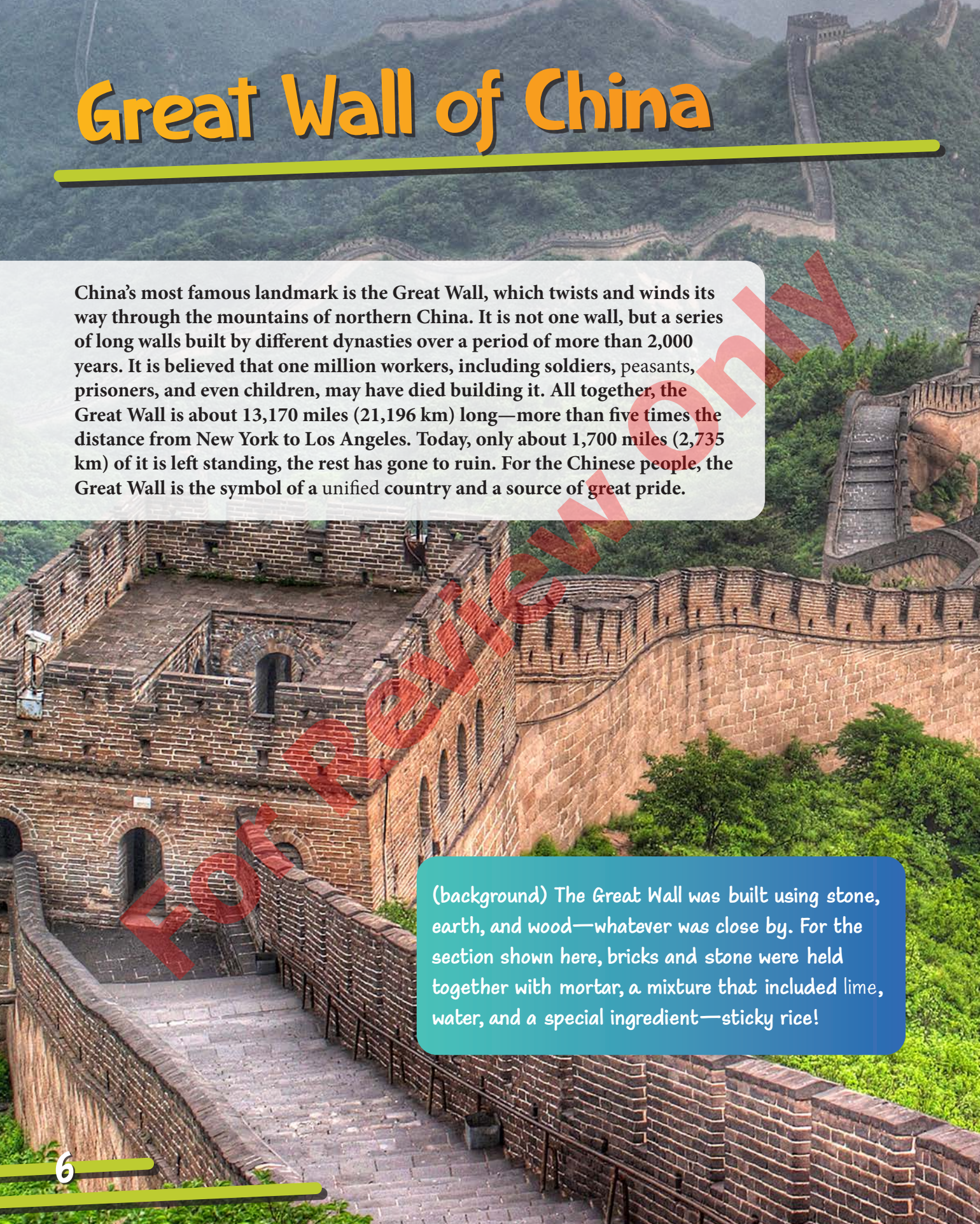
Landmarks are unique natural or human-made structures that tell us where in the world we are. In your neighborhood, a landmark might be a large tree in the center of town, a special building, or a park. Countries also have landmarks, but on a much bigger scale. Examples of landmarks might be large mountains and waterfalls, ancient buildings and statues, and modern bridges and towers.

MAP OF CHINA

This map shows the shape of China, its 23 provinces and 11 regions in different colors, and the general location of the landmarks in this book.



Great Wall of China

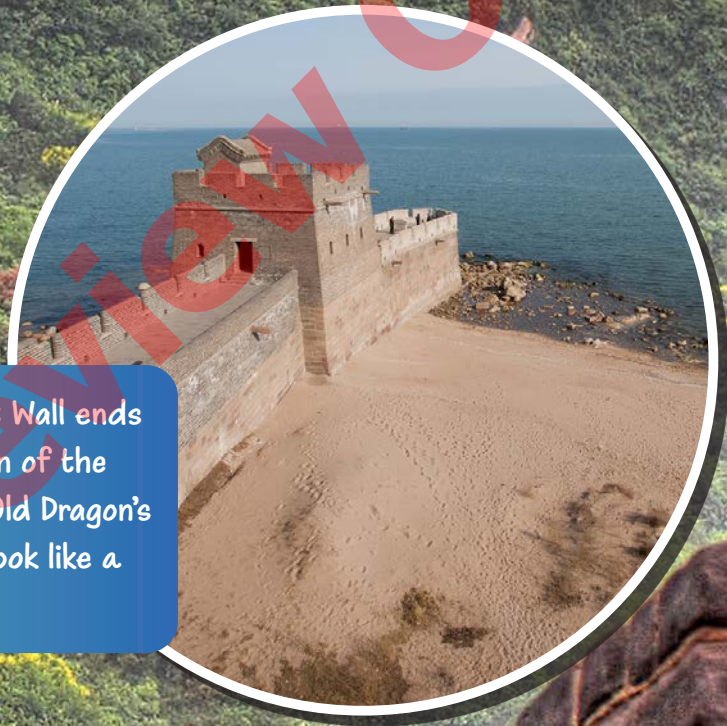
An aerial photograph of the Great Wall of China, showing its iconic zig-zag pattern as it snakes across lush green mountain ridges. The wall's structure is clearly visible, with battlements and watchtowers. A large, semi-transparent red watermark with the word 'Copyright' is oriented diagonally across the center of the image.

China's most famous landmark is the Great Wall, which twists and winds its way through the mountains of northern China. It is not one wall, but a series of long walls built by different dynasties over a period of more than 2,000 years. It is believed that one million workers, including soldiers, peasants, prisoners, and even children, may have died building it. All together, the Great Wall is about 13,170 miles (21,196 km) long—more than five times the distance from New York to Los Angeles. Today, only about 1,700 miles (2,735 km) of it is left standing, the rest has gone to ruin. For the Chinese people, the Great Wall is the symbol of a unified country and a source of great pride.

(background) The Great Wall was built using stone, earth, and wood—whatever was close by. For the section shown here, bricks and stone were held together with mortar, a mixture that included lime, water, and a special ingredient—sticky rice!



(left) The Great Wall was built to defend China from invaders. The Ming Great Wall, shown here, had more than 17,000 towers, from which guards kept a lookout for enemies and signaled to one another.

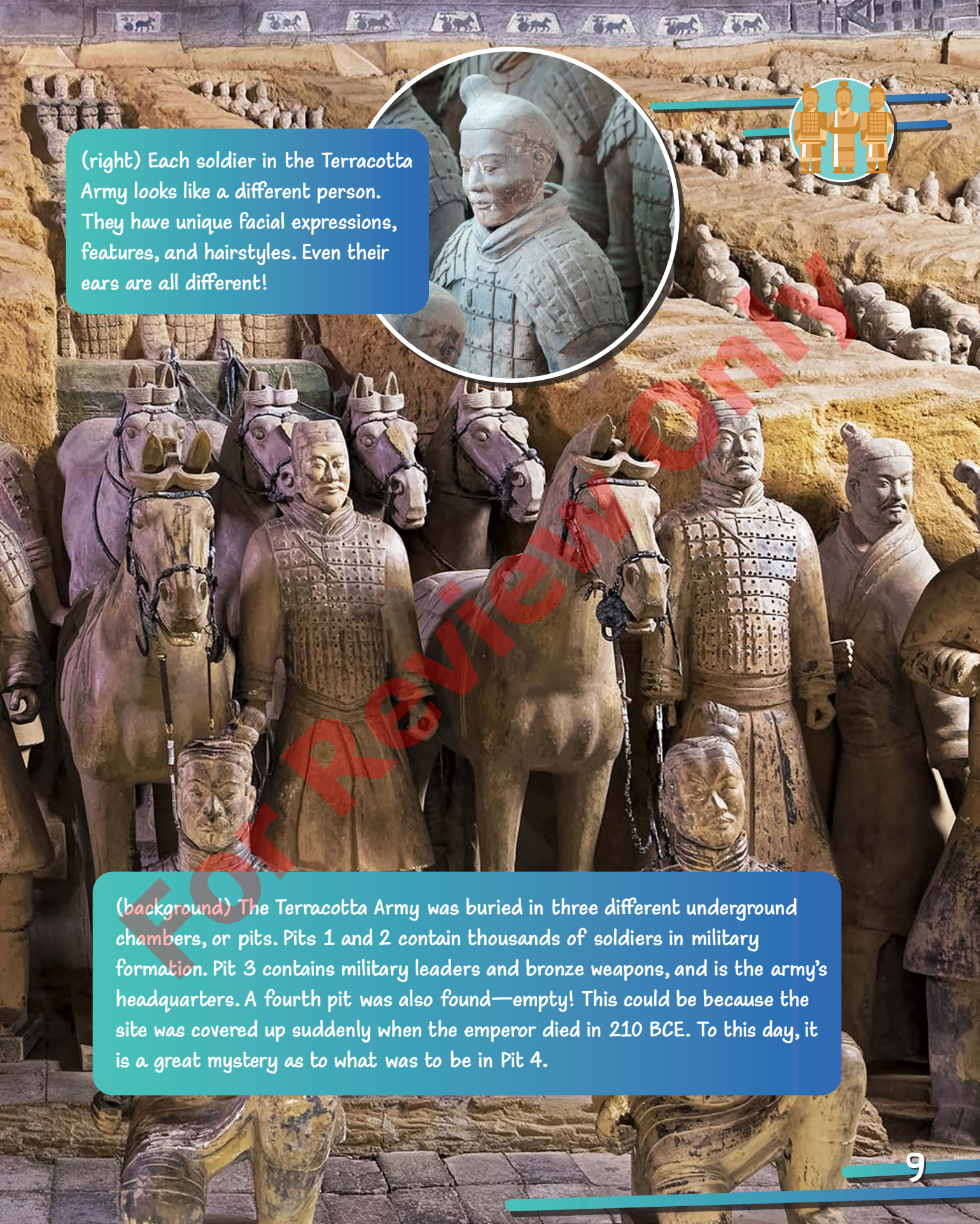


(right) In the east, the Great Wall ends at the Yellow Sea. This section of the wall is called Loalongtou, or "Old Dragon's Head," because it is said to look like a dragon drinking water.

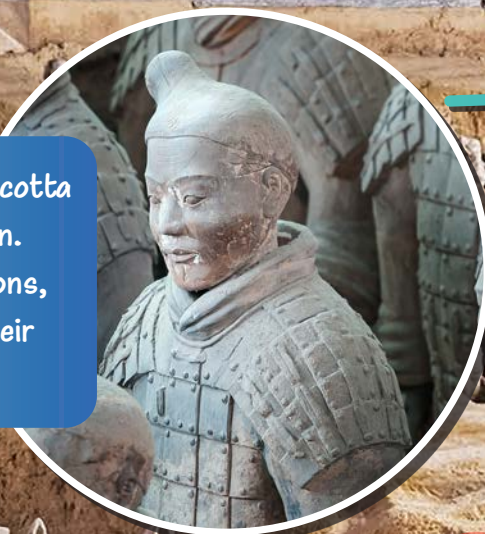
Terracotta Army

Row upon row of clay soldiers known as the Terracotta Army lay buried underground for 2,000 years. Their job was to defend China's first emperor in the afterlife. It took more than 700,000 craftsmen 40 years to make the figures, which includes 8,000 soldiers, 130 chariots, and 670 horses. There are also statues of acrobats, musicians, and animals. At the time the figures were buried, they were brightly painted. Today, the paint has faded and the figures appear yellowy-brown, the color of the clay they are made from. More than a million people visit the site each year to see them, and a traveling exhibit of terracotta soldiers visits museums around the globe.





(right) Each soldier in the Terracotta Army looks like a different person. They have unique facial expressions, features, and hairstyles. Even their ears are all different!



(background) The Terracotta Army was buried in three different underground chambers, or pits. Pits 1 and 2 contain thousands of soldiers in military formation. Pit 3 contains military leaders and bronze weapons, and is the army's headquarters. A fourth pit was also found—empty! This could be because the site was covered up suddenly when the emperor died in 210 BCE. To this day, it is a great mystery as to what was to be in Pit 4.

Forbidden City

The Forbidden City was built in the heart of Beijing, the capital city. For 500 years it was the place where Chinese emperors lived and government business was done. The 980 buildings of the Forbidden City are protected by a wall with gates and a moat—which were also used to keep ordinary people out! The buildings inside are painted mostly red and yellow. Red because it is a symbol of good fortune in China, and yellow to symbolize the supreme power of the emperor. At the time the palace was built (1406 to 1420 CE), only the emperor and his family were allowed to use the color yellow! Today, the Forbidden City is open to everyone and people come from all over China—and the world—to learn about imperial China.

(background) The Hall of Supreme Harmony was the most important building in the Forbidden City and was used for ceremonies. Like many old buildings in China, the roof corners turn upward. These are called “flying eaves.” They let daylight in, and keep rain out.



(left) Dragons were a symbol of the emperor. More than 10,000 of them decorate the Forbidden City.



(right) Small statues of mythical creatures lined the roofs of official buildings to keep evil spirits away. The more statues a roof had, the more important it was.