



Happiness



ART LESSON vol. 4



Joy

# THE TERRA COTTA ARMY OF SCHOLARS



## INTRODUCTION

Qin Shi Huang was king of the Chinese state of Qin from 246 BCE to 221 BCE during the Warring States Period. He became the first emperor of a unified China in 221 BCE. He ruled until his death in 210 BCE at the age of 50. He remains a controversial figure in Chinese history. After unifying China, he and his chief advisor, Li Si, passed a series of major economic and political reforms. He undertook gigantic projects, including the first version of the Great Wall of China, the now famous city-sized mausoleum guarded by a life-sized Terracotta Army, and a massive national road system, all at the expense of many lives. To ensure stability, Qin Shi Huang outlawed Confucianism and buried many scholars alive. All books other than those officially decreed were banned and burned in what is known as the Great Confucian Purge. Despite the tyranny of his

autocratic rule, Qin Shi Huang is regarded as a pivotal figure in Chinese history. The exquisite terracotta army that he had thousands of potters create represents the emperor's ability to control the resources of the newly unified China, and his attempt to recreate and maintain that empire in the afterlife. The statues of the infantry soldiers range between 5 foot 8 inches and 6 foot 2 inches; the commanders are 6 foot 6 inches tall. All pottery warriors and horses were made using local clay. The lower half of the bodies were made of solid terracotta clay and the upper half was hollow. After firing in the kiln the figures were completed with painted detail. It is evident that the statues were vividly painted, including a color called Chinese purple. Although most of the paint has fallen off, traces of it may be seen on some of the statues.



# DIRECTIONS

2. Using the extruder, squeeze out 3" diameter pipes 12" long. Using the slab roller, roll out a 1" thickness slab and cut into 4" squares for the bases. Pipes can also be made using slabs. (1,2,4)



1. Do some pre-knowledge work with the students. Follow up with a visit to the computer lab. Design a work sheet that requires them to find out specific information related to the Terracotta Scholar project.

3. Stand the pipe up on the base, center it, and lightly trace the outer edge of the pipe. Score both along the interior of this tracing line and the bottom of the pipe. Apply slip to the pipe end and place it on the base with light pressure. Weld a thin coil of clay around the base. Place a pencil size hole in the base to allow for air flow during firing. (3,5,6,7)



4. Pinch the top of the pipe together to form the shoulders. Make sure to score and slip this joining. Set the form aside to air dry for several hours or place in a damp closet overnight. Either method will reduce the water content of the clay and increase the strength of the form for further work. Put a hole in the base. (8,9)



5. Construct the head by rolling a ball of clay into an egg shape. Make the head slightly larger than what it would proportionately be. This allows for more facial expression. Use a similar process in constructing the face as is found in Triarco Art Lesson vol. 2 "The Terra Cotta Army of Scholars". (10)

*I hope they have 'How-To' pictures!*



6. Allow the head to partially air dry and then hollow it out with the ribbon tools. Cut a wedge shape into each side of the neck so that the head rests on the shoulders. Score, slip and weld the head to the body. Roll clay into 3/4-1" ropes for the arms. Arms should reach halfway down the body. Attach the arms at the shoulders by scoring, slipping and welding. You are now ready for the fun part of this project. (11,12,13)



Stylish Chinese headwear and hair.

Eyes that say something!

Facial hair, or not.

Shoulder pads and arm bands

Breast plates and back plates

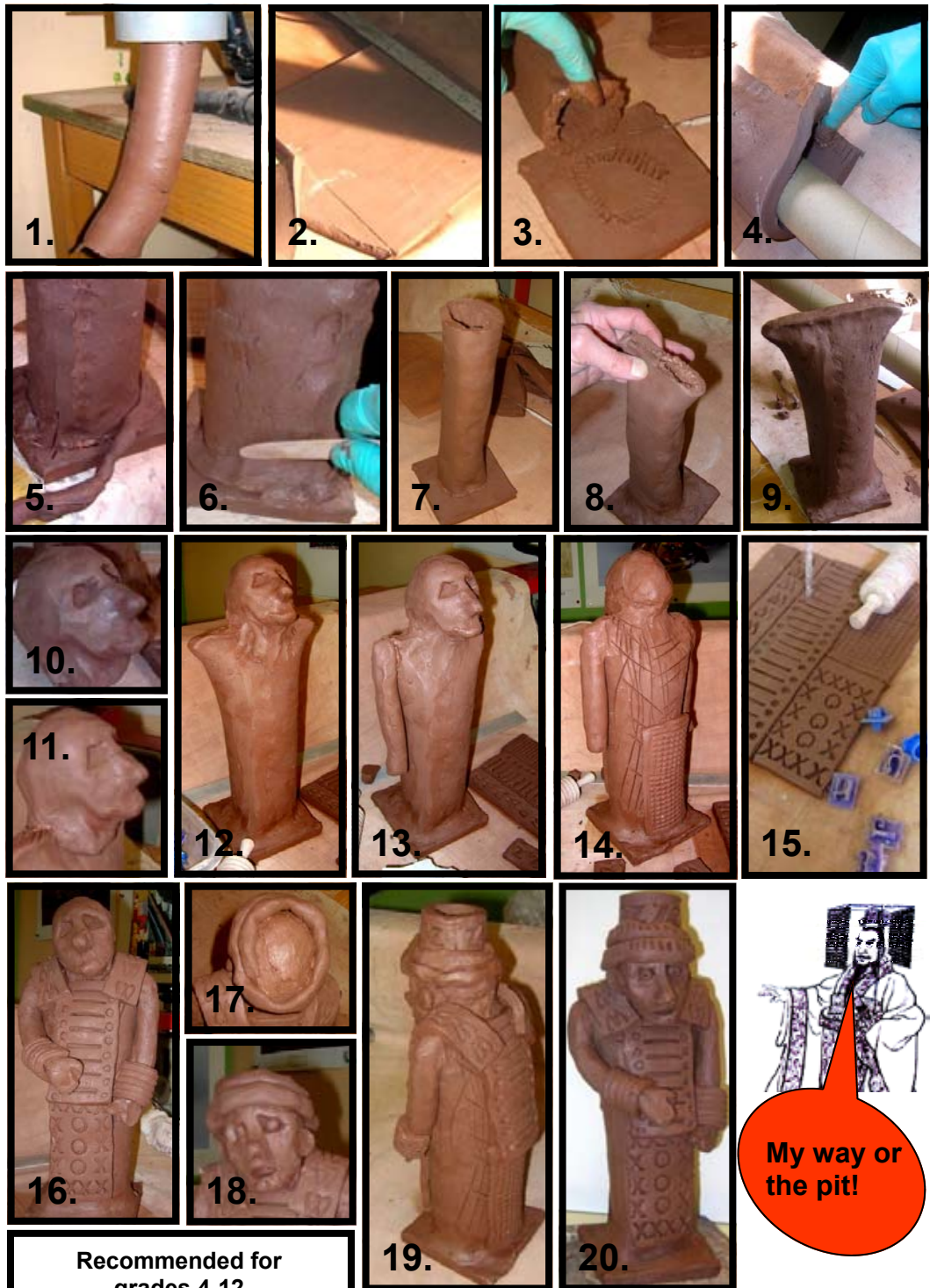
Man skirts, very Chinese!

7. Notice what the well dressed Chinese Scholar over there is wearing. Most of the clothing is made from 3/8" slab clay cut in strips, decorated with alphabet and number stamps pressed into the clay to create patterns. Each piece is then scored, slipped and attached. Press each strip to conform to the shape of the underlying body. Put an air hole in the back of the head. Decorate with Potter's Slip to accent the clothing. Air dry for one week and fire at Cone 04-05. (14-20)

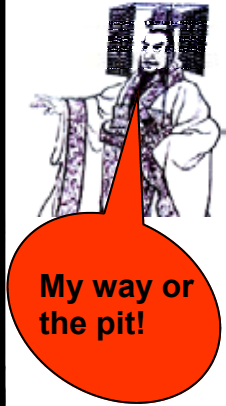




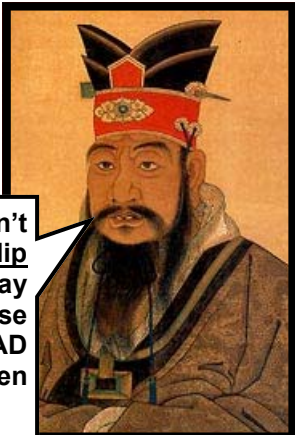
HOW-TO  
 →  
 IN PICS



Recommended for  
 grades 4-12



**Confucius say:** Don't forget to score, slip and weld **ALL** the clay connections because when you don't, **BAD THINGS** can happen in the kiln.



Later portrait of Confucius, from the provincial museum of Shandong, China

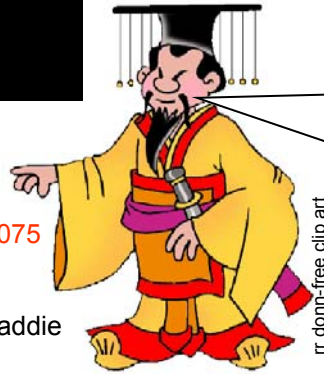
## Objectives/Outcomes

Students will be introduced to one of the greatest archeological finds related to one of the oldest cultures on earth. Just as each of the clay soldiers was unique in its appearance, so will each of the clay scholars be unique due to the creative interpretation of the student. This one project will introduce the student to a number of ways to work with clay - one of the most plastic of sculptural materials, and one of the most durable. The process of making the clay scholar teaches patience over several art periods.

# MATERIALS LIST

- \*Brent Clay Extruder HD # RZ14792
- \*North Star Slab Roller #RZ14425

- AMACO No. 77 Terra-Cotta Clay # 139-0075
- Clay Cutter # 148-0510
- Plastic Decorating Wheel # 151-1400
- Royal Brush Sculpting/Ribbon Classroom Caddie # RA11038
- Potter's Slip #RA01302
- Slabbing Strips # RA02957
- 18" Hardwood Rolling Pin # 148-0225
- Alpha/Number Clay Stampers # RA16491



These two pieces of honorable equipment are excellent long term investments for any school ceramics program. And, they're not Made in China!\*

# EXTENSION/INTEGRATION

**Middle and High School:** It is true that Emperor Qin buried the scholars alive because he did not want any intellectuals questioning his thinking, or lack thereof, in how he ruled the Celestial Kingdom, ie China. It is up to the Army of Scholars, risen from the creative minds of the students and tempered in the heat of the kiln to, once again, argue the case for free thinking, an open society, and a transparent government. Have a debate with the clay scholars sitting on the table and turning from side to side as their creators argue their point.

**Elementary:** You may find that, as the instructor, the student creator and the created terracotta scholar become one and the same. Have the students play act by using their clay scholars tell a story about something of China's history. If possible, create a small Chinese looking backdrop and video tape the performance. Edit and put on the computer for easy access to other students. Play acting with your own created characters brings history to life and gives it meaning.



想  
think!



# RESOURCES

- [www.travelchinaguide.com/attraction/shaanxi/xian/terra\\_cotta\\_army](http://www.travelchinaguide.com/attraction/shaanxi/xian/terra_cotta_army)
- <http://ancienthistory.pppst.com/rome.html>
- <http://harcourtschool.com/newsbreak/terra.html>
- <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2001/11/ancient-china/hessler-text>
- <http://www.globalmountainsummit.org/terra-cotta-warriors.html>
- <http://china.mrdonn.org/index.html>



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Scholar