

## **Teaching News Is Elementary**

### **March 31, 2017**

Each week, this lesson will share some classroom activity ideas that use the newspaper or other NIE resources. You are encouraged to modify this lesson to fit the needs of your students. For example, some classrooms may be able to use this as a worksheet and others might need to ask and answer the questions in a class discussion.

*Please be sure to preview all NIE content before using it in your classroom to ensure it is appropriate for all of your students.*

**Materials you will need for this lesson:** The Seattle Times print replica, computer or smart board, pencils or pens, paper

**Article: Terracotta Warriors**

**Section: D1**

**Print Replica Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2017**

### **Standards:**

*Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity:*

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.10

By the end of year, read and comprehend informational texts, including history/social studies, science, and technical texts, in the grades 4-5 text complexity band proficiently, with scaffolding as needed at the high end of the range.

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RI.4.2

Determine the main idea of a text and explain how it is supported by key details; summarize the text.

### **Objectives:**

Students will read an article and determine the main ideas and key details. They will be asked deeper level thinking questions and will also summarize the article.

**Pre- Reading Discussion:** An *inference*, is making a conclusion or opinion that is formed because of known facts or evidence Examine the following pictures and make an *inference* about what the story will be about:



- What do you see?
- Who is seen in the pictures?
- What emotions do you see?
- What do you see in the background that would help you with what the article will be about?
- What questions do you have about the photos?
- What is your previous knowledge about the terracotta warriors? Who were they? What were they protecting? Who made them? When were they found?

### **Vocabulary Building:**

Read this sentence, what do you think the highlighted words mean using *context clues*? A *context clue* is a word or words that are hints and refers to the sources of information outside of words that readers may use to predict the identities and meanings of unknown words.

An archaeologist's detailed records preserve the **context** in which objects are found

### **Context Guess:**

### **Context Definition:**

## **Reading Comprehension:**

1. Why was cavalry so important to Qin military success?
2. The armor of the cavalryman only goes to his waist. Why?
3. Because the First Emperor was so triumphant, he was determined to become immortal. What does that mean?
4. What did the First Emperor consume, thinking it would help him escape death?
5. In case he failed, he still made careful plans for his afterlife. What did he create at his own burial site?
6. What things did the First Emperor standardize throughout China?
7. When was the burial site found? How?
8. How is math and science used in archaeology?
9. Qin Shihuangdi's tomb complex already stands as the largest burial site in the world—the full size is still unknown. The current site measures more than \_\_\_\_\_ square miles and the burial mound above the Emperor's tomb stands more than \_\_\_\_\_ feet tall.
10. Opening the tomb carries great risk. Why?

**Summary:** Writing a summary is when you take a large text and reduce it to the main points for easier understanding. Try to summarize this article in 5-7 sentences.

Ask yourself:

- ❖ What are the main ideas of this article?
- ❖ What information stood out to you?
- ❖ What are important details that support the main idea?

## **Classroom Discussions or Journal Writing Prompts:**

Ying Zheng was born in 259 BCE, during what is known as the Warring States period. At the young age of 13, he was named king of the Qin (pronounced chin) state. He was an ambitious and controlling ruler with unprecedented vision and power. As king, he built a massive military intent on conquering all enemy states and achieved that goal in less than a decade.

- ❖ **What are most kids doing at age 13? What would it take to be a leader and warrior at this age?**

His troops may have numbered in the hundreds of thousands—an enormous force at the time. His army advanced across the warring states, conquering each in its path. With each victory, his territory expanded and his power grew. After his military united the rival states in 221 BCE, he declared himself Shihuangdi (pronounced shee whong dee)—the First Emperor of China.

- ❖ **After unifying the seven rival states, King Zheng gave himself the title Shihuangdi, which translates to First Emperor. Names are important. What does your name mean? What is the story of how you were named? Does your name match your personality and who you are?**
  
- ❖ **Why do you think Qin Shihuangdi built a life-size clay army to protect him in the afterlife? Did he think they would come to life?**
  
- ❖ **What would the First Emperor think if he knew that his warriors were now traveling the world?**
  
- ❖ **If and when archaeologists decide to open the First Emperor's tomb, what do you think they will find hidden inside?**