

WORDS

- **ancient** = old
- **B.C.** = before the birth of Christ
- **brick** = hard block of baked clay used for building houses
- **cannonball** = heavy iron ball that you fire from a cannon
- **century** = a hundred years
- **complete** = finish
- **condition** = the state that something is in
- **connect** = link
- **construction** = building
- **damage** = destroy
- **desert** = dry land with little or no rain
- **destroy** = break, ruin
- **disappear** = to go away, not to be seen any more
- **emperor** = the man who rules a group of countries
- **fairly** = rather, pretty
- **government** = the people who rule a country
- **guard** = person who defends or protects a building
- **humans** = people
- **invader** = soldiers or an army that enters a country and takes control of it
- **mud** = soft, wet, sticky earth
- **peasant** = poor farmer
- **possible** = something that might happen or exist
- **protect** = guard, defend
- **section** = part of the wall
- **soldier** = a person who fights for his country in a war
- **store** = keep
- **stretch** = go from one place to another
- **supplies** = the things you need for daily life
- **take action** = to do something
- **tribe** = group of people of the same race who have the same language and traditions
- **World Heritage Site** = place, building or object that is very valuable and should not be destroyed

The Great Wall of China is the biggest object ever made by **humans**. It **stretches** across mountains, **deserts** and grasslands for over 6,000 kilometres. The **ancient** Chinese built the wall to keep **invaders** from the west out of their country. Today tourists from all over the world come and see it.

The Great Wall began as a series of many smaller walls that were not **connected** with each other. The first sections of the wall were built as early as 600 **B.C.** As time went on Chinese **emperors connected** them together to keep Huns, Mongols and other **tribes** out. Thousands of soldiers, criminals and **peasants** worked on building the wall. It was finally **completed** during the Ming dynasty in the 17th **century**.

The Chinese wall is made of dirt, **mud**, stone and **brick**. It is between 5 and 9 metres tall and up to 8 metres wide. A small road runs on the top of the wall. Towers every few hundred metres were built to **store** military **supplies**. They served as watch posts and were used to send information. **Guards** fired **cannonballs** or used smoke signals to inform other towers of **possible invaders**. At times up to a million Chinese **soldiers guarded** the wall. Towards the end of the Middle Ages the great wall lost its military function.

Over the **centuries** parts of the wall have been **damaged** by weather, earthquakes and war. The **government destroyed** some parts of the wall to build new roads or for other **construction** projects. In the western part of China sandstorms have covered part of the wall. As a result almost half of the wall has **disappeared** completely, while about 30% is in **fairly** good **condition**.

In 2006, the Chinese **government** started **taking action** to **protect** the Great Wall. Today the wall is a **World Heritage Site**, a symbol of China and a big tourist attraction. The most visited **section** is a part near Beijing which 6 million tourists go to every year.



1. Answer the questions

Why was the Chinese wall built? _____

When was the Great Wall completed? _____

What is the wall made out of? _____

What functions did the towers have? _____

What has damaged the wall over the past centuries? _____

How much of the wall is still in good condition? _____

How important is the wall for the Chinese today? _____

2. Match the words with the definitions

A	ancient		man who rules a group of countries
B	emperor		group of people of the same race, with the same language and traditions
C	guard		to enter a country and take control of it
D	invade		guard, defend
E	peasant		old
F	protect		the things that you need in your daily life
G	supplies		person who defends or protects a building
H	tribe		person who fights for his country in a war
I	soldier		poor farmer

3. True or False

	T	F
The ancient Chinese built the Great Wall to keep invaders out of their empire.		
The whole wall was built in the 16 th century.		
The wall is made out of mud, brick and stone.		
The towers were places where the enemy could pass through.		
The Chinese needed the wall to defend itself up to the 20 th century.		
Only about a third of the wall is in good shape.		
Millions of tourists visit the Great Wall today.		
The Chinese government want to make it a World Heritage Site.		

4. Fill in the blanks with the words from the box.

The Great Wall of China attracts millions of _____ from all over the world. Many of them _____ the wall near Beijing where its _____ is best. The Great Wall started out as a _____ of smaller walls that were _____ with each other. It was _____ in the 17th century. In past times the wall _____ the Chinese from foreign _____, but today it has no function any more.

The Great Wall is made out of mud, brick and _____. It is up to 9 metres high and so wide that _____ can drive on its top. Every few hundred metres there are _____. They were used as _____ posts and to store _____. Guards also used them to inform other guards when an _____ was coming.

In the past centuries much of the wall has been _____ by earthquakes, wars and the _____. In the past decades the _____ has tried to restore the wall. Today, it is a World _____ Site and a symbol of China.

- cars
- completed
- condition
- connected
- damaged
- enemy
- government
- Heritage
- invaders
- protected
- series
- stone
- supplies
- tourists
- towers
- visit
- watch
- weather

Key

Match the words with the definitions

A	ancient	B	man who rules a group of countries
B	emperor	H	group of people of the same race, with the same language and traditions
C	guard	D	to enter a country and take control of it
D	invade	F	guard, defend
E	peasant	A	old
F	protect	G	the things that you need in your daily life
G	supplies	C	person who defends or protects a building
H	tribe	I	person who fights for his country in a war
I	soldier	E	poor farmer

True or False

	T	F
The ancient Chinese built the Great Wall to keep invaders out of their empire.	✓	
The whole wall was built in the 16 th century.		✓
The wall is made out of mud, brick and stone.	✓	
The towers were places where the enemy could pass through.		✓
The Chinese needed the wall to defend itself up to the 20 th century.		✓
Only about a third of the wall is in good shape.	✓	
Millions of tourists visit the Great Wall today.	✓	
The Chinese government want to make it a World Heritage Site.		✓

Fill in the blanks with the words from the box.

The Great Wall of China attracts millions of **tourists** from all over the world. Many of them **visit** the wall near Beijing where its **condition** is best. The Great Wall started out as a **series** of smaller walls that were **connected** with each other. It was **completed** in the 17th century. In past times the wall **protected** the Chinese from foreign **invaders**, but today it has no function any more.

The Great Wall is made out of mud, brick and **stone**. It is up to 9 metres high and so wide that **cars** can drive on its top. Every few hundred metres there are **towers**. They were used as **watch** posts and to store **supplies**. Guards also used them to inform other guards when an **enemy** was coming.

In the past centuries much of the wall has been **damaged** by earthquakes, wars and the **weather**. In the past decades the **government** has tried to restore the wall. Today, it is a World **Heritage** Site and a symbol of China.