

# “Digging Up The Past” Discussion Prompts

Name\_\_\_\_\_ Period\_\_\_\_\_

## Page 872

~Preview the article’s title and graphic aids. What do you think the article will focus on?

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~These terra-cotta soldiers are only a small number of the thousands of statues unearthed at the sight of Shi Huangdi’s tomb. What details do you notice in the rows of statues?

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## Page 873

Reread lines 1-13. This passage establishes the focus of the selection: the discovery and excavation of the emperor’s tomb.

~Who found the tomb? What did they do when they realized what they’d found?

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~How many clay soldiers have workers dug up?

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~When did the emperor begin building his tomb? When was it finished?

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~ What is the focus of the information presented in lines 14-22?

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~What information is provided in the first 2 paragraphs?

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~Based on the title and first two paragraphs, how do you think this selection will differ from “The First Emperor” ?

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~”The First Emperor” described the emperor as a tyrant. What information in this passage reinforces this view?

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## Page 874

~What information do readers learn from the graphic on this page?

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## Page 875

~How far away from the pits is the emperor’s burial ground?

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## “Digging Up The Past” Discussion Prompts

~What does the author mean by “It once stood at 400 feet” (lines 60-61)?

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~Based on information from both articles, why do you think the emperor's burial ground remains untouched?

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~Lines 67-72. How might excavations like this one encourage people to learn about the past?

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**Page 876.**

**Selection Wrap Up:** Use the better answer formula to respond to this question. The author describes Shi Huangdi and his people as having had “tremendous energy and genius” (lines 92-93). In what ways did the emperor and his people exhibit these qualities? Use information from “The First Emperor” and “Digging Up the Past” to support your answer.

[illegible]