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## YING ZHENG



This map—created by Maximilian Dörrbecker (Chumwa) based on <u>several different map sources</u>—depicts the Great Wall of China in its various stages of construction. Online via Wikimedia Commons; license: <u>CC BY-SA 2.5</u>. Click on the image for a full-page view.

Who was Ying Zheng? A thirteen-year-old prince, he ascended the throne of Qin (Ch'in) in 247 BC, after his father died. Within twelve years his armies had crushed most of the neighboring states. He had one overriding goal: To unify the country. It had never been done before.

China was a land of <u>contrasts</u> then as it is <u>now</u>. From arid <u>desert</u> to <u>waterfalls</u>, from "<u>stone forests</u>" to fragile flowers alongside the <u>Great Wall</u>, the country and the landscape are diverse. Its ancient music was beautifully haunting.

In the 3rd century BC, diverse and independent war lords were unwilling to recognize one supreme ruler. To unify seven disparate states, Zheng had to use extraordinary force. He obviously made many <u>enemies</u> along the way.

For the first time one state (Qin) exacted obeisance from its neighbors. For the first time one man (Zheng) was in charge. For the first time the walls of the former independent states were <u>linked together</u> - and extended - to form the Great Wall. (Follow the link to see it <u>from space</u>.) And, for the first time, China had an emperor.

To commemorate his achievements, <u>Ying Zheng</u> took a new name. Believing <u>his deeds</u> (don't miss this video documentary) surpassed the accomplishments of other <u>ancient</u> rulers (the <u>San-Huang</u> and <u>Wu-Di</u>) he used both of those names (Huang-Di) to create a new title: Emperor. Adding the name of his state, Ying Zheng became Qin Shi Huang-Di (pronounced "chin sher hwang- dee"). It means "The First Emperor," a title that <u>lasted</u> 2,000 years.

As supreme feudal ruler, Shi Huangdi founded the Chinese <u>imperial system</u> and standardized Chinese writing, laws, coinage, weights and measures. He also imposed harsh laws and cruel punishment for those who disobeyed him.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/YING-ZHENG-First-Emperor-of-China

See Learning Tasks for this story online at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/YING-ZHENG-First-Emperor-of-China

## Media Stream



<u>Plum Blossom - Flower</u> Image online courtesy, Wikimedia Commons. License: CC BY-SA 2.0. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Plum-Blossom-Flower</u>









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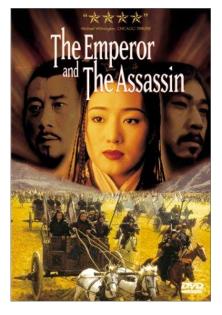
Jiuzhaigou Waterfalls Image online courtesy, Wikimedia Commons. License: CC BY-SA 3.0. View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Jiuzhaigou-Waterfalls

## Stone Forests

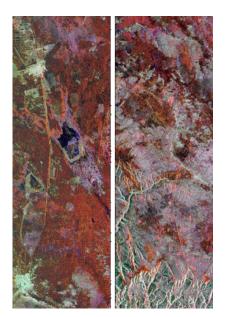
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## Great Wall Scene

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<u>The Emperor and the Assassin</u> Image online courtesy, Wikimedia Commons. View this asset at: http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/The-Emperor-and-the-Assassin



# View of the Great Wall from Space

Image online courtesy, NASA. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/View-of-the-Great-Wall-from-Space</u>



## Ying Zheng

Image online, courtesy the <u>China Culture</u> website. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Ying-Zheng</u>

#### Chinese History Timeline

Opium War (1839-1842)	Taiwan (1949-)		ral Revolution 66-1976)			
Kuomintan (1912-19		e's Republic of C (1949-)	hina Tiananmer	n Square D (1989)	Demonstrations	
Northern Song (960-1127)	Liao (916-1225)		Dynasty 15-1234)		Dynasty 8-1644)	
Southern (1127-1		Western Xia (1038-1227)	Yuan D (1279-		Qing Dynasty (1644-1911)	
Western Jin S (265-316) (420-5	outhern Dynasti 38)Song-Qi-Liar		Dynasty 1-617)	Five Dyr (907-9		
Eastern (317-4)	Jin N 20) (386-588)N	orthern Dynastie Wei-E Wei-W we		Dynasty 907)	Ten Kingdom (907-979)	
Xia Dynasty (2000BC-1500BC)			Qin Dynasty (221BC-207BC)		Eastern Han (25AD-220)	
Shang Dyr (1700BC-10		Eastern Zhou 770BC-221BC)	Western Ha (206BC-AD		e Kingdoms 80)Wei-Shu-W	

#### <u>Chinese History Timeline</u> Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons. View this asset at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Chinese-History-Timeline</u>



## Linking the Great Wall

From, Building the Great Wall, online courtesy National Geographic Channel at YouTube.

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