

The Dragon King



TRACK 25

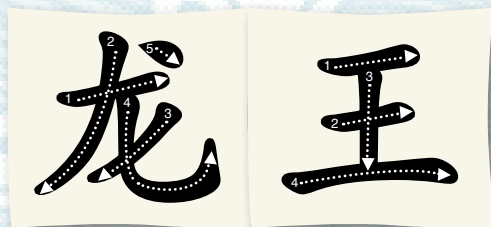
A Chinese dragon is not ferocious or fire breathing. He's a rather watery soul.

A demon weather forecaster

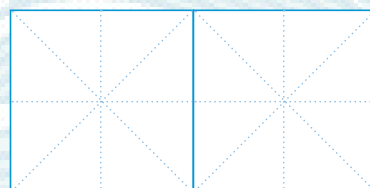
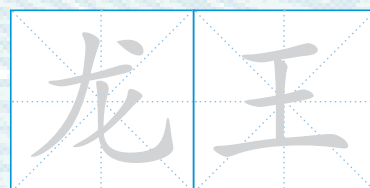
The Dragon King is a god in Chinese mythology. He is the divine ruler of the oceans, rivers and lakes and he is in charge of the weather. In past times of drought or flood, Chinese people prayed to the dragon for help.

Write now!

Practise writing dragon king.



lóngwáng dragon king



Funny looking

Dragons are mythical creatures. They have:

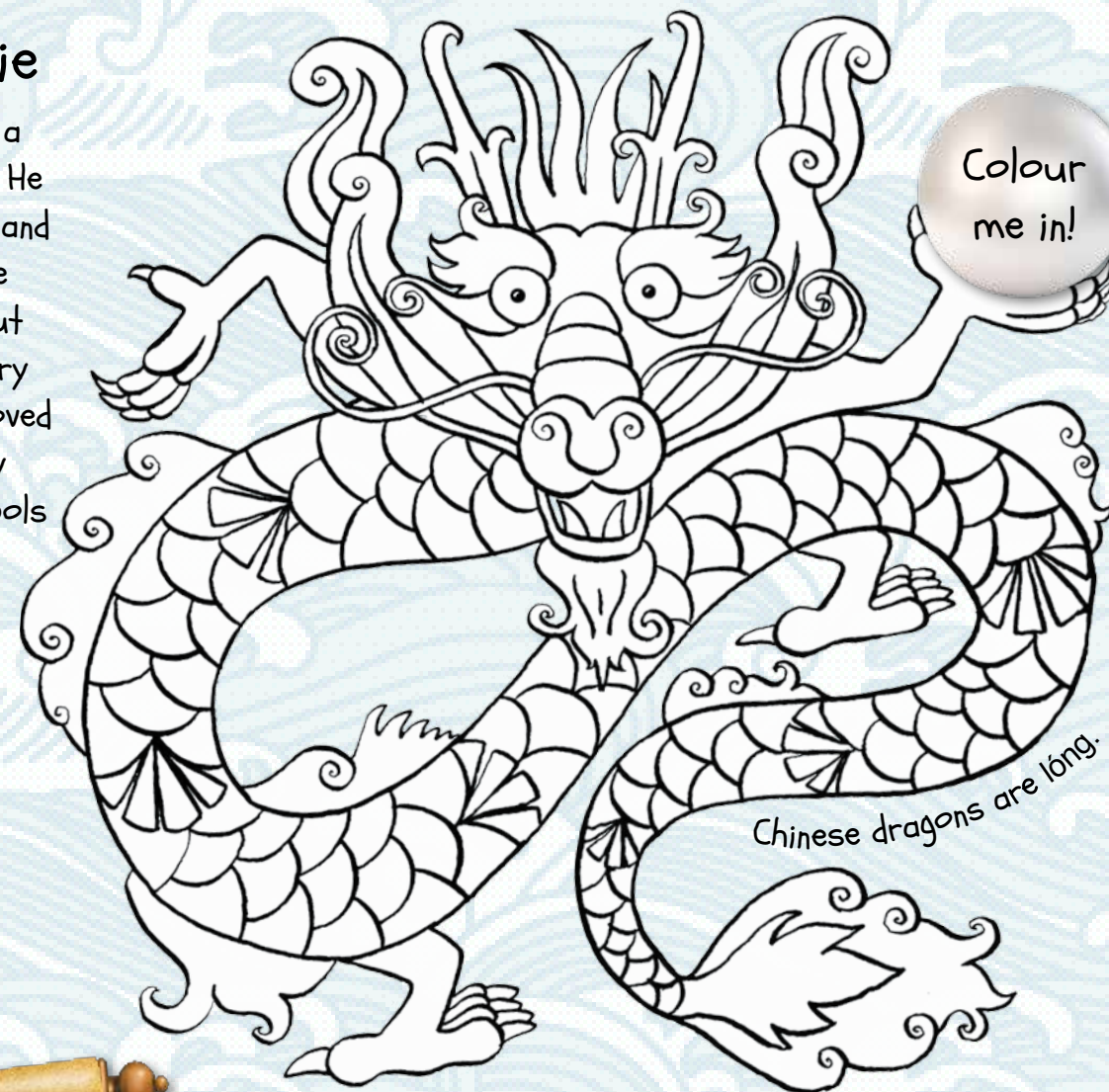
- a horse head
- ox ears
- a snake neck
- deer horns
- fish scales
- whiskers
- eagle claws

★ Draw your own 'mixy matchy' dragon. Use your imagination.



He's a goodie

In China a dragon is a goodie, not a baddie. He is beautiful, friendly and wise; powerful, brave and noble. Throughout China's ancient history dragons have been loved and worshipped. They have also been symbols of the Emperor's strength and power.



Chinese dragons are lóng.

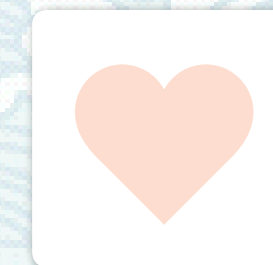
Story time

There is more than one dragon. It is even possible for a lowly fish to become a dragon. But first it must jump up a big waterfall called Dragon Falls. For a hundred years a fish tried until he finally managed it. The exhausted fish was rewarded by heaven and transformed into a shining golden dragon. He now spends his time chasing pearls in the sky. Other fish stay behind, trying the jump...



Wedding bells

The dragon and phoenix are symbols of good luck at Chinese weddings. Find their sticker characters to go on the hearts.



龙 lóng
The dragon is the most powerful and majestic animal in Chinese mythology.



凤 fèng
The phoenix is a symbol of beauty and grace – seen as a perfect match for the dragon.

Emperor antics



China was ruled by emperors for 4,000 years, up until 1912. They have left a legacy of very BIG buildings.

TRACK 26

Who's who?

Here are some pictures of Chinese emperors. Draw a line from their introductions to their pictures.

(Answers on page 64.)



'I'm called Pu Yi. I became Emperor when I was two years old. They call me the Last Emperor.'

'I united the empire. Many call me the First Emperor. When I died they buried an army of clay soldiers with me.'

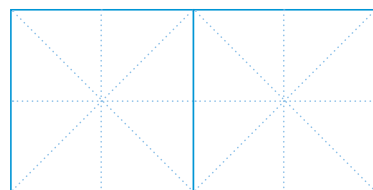
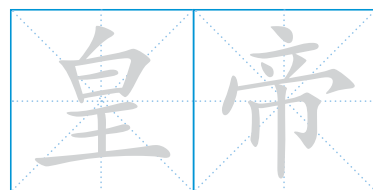
'I could be a myth, but they call me the Yellow Emperor. I ruled 4,000 years ago.'

Write now!

Practise writing the characters for 'emperor' here. Then make a hat, fit for an emperor.



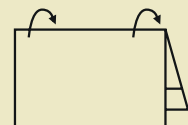
huángdì emperor



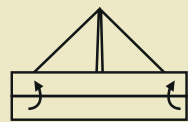
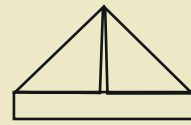
Make a hat

Follow these simple instructions, using an A4 piece of paper for a teddy-sized hat, or A3 for a hat for you. Then decorate it emperor style!

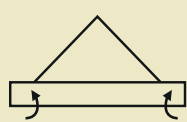
1 Fold the paper in half.



2 Fold down each corner so they meet in the middle.

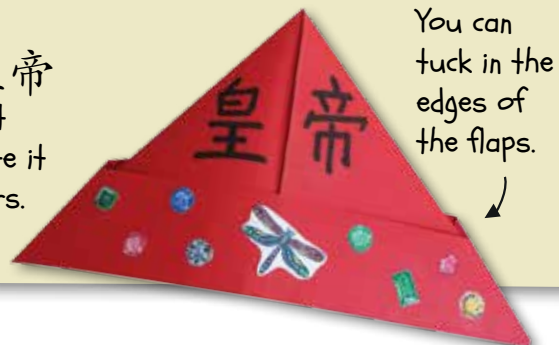


3 Fold up the flap at the bottom.



4 Turn over and do the same on the other side.

5 Write 皇帝 on your hat and decorate it with stickers.



You can tuck in the edges of the flaps.

The Forbidden City

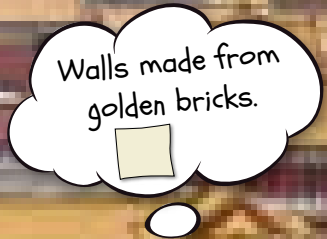
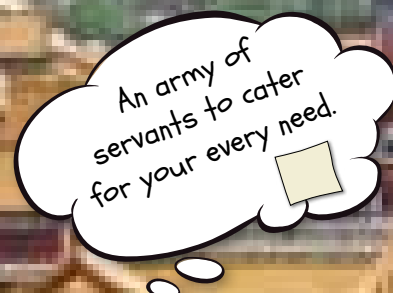
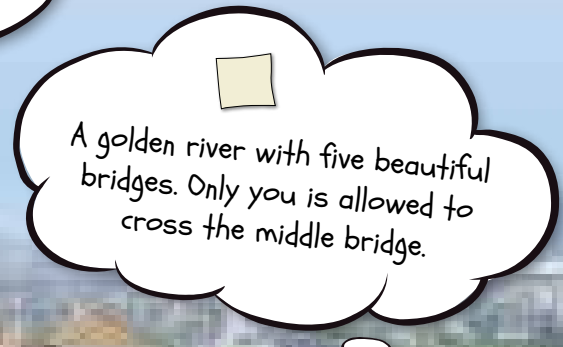
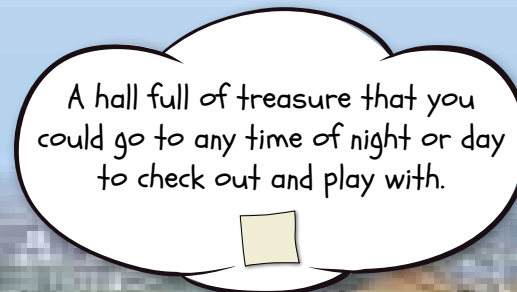
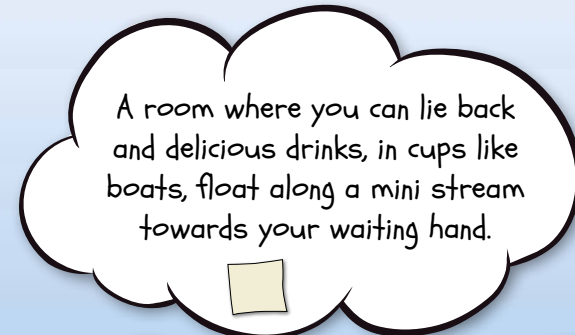
The Forbidden City in Beijing was built between 1406 and 1420 under the orders of the powerful Yongle Emperor of the Ming Dynasty. Altogether 24 different emperors lived there over 500 years.

故宫

Gùgōng
the Forbidden City

Your turn...

If you were designing a palace of your own, which bits from the Forbidden City would you want in it? You choose (tick the boxes).



The Great Wall of China



TRACK 27

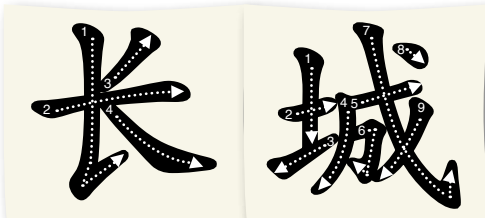
Not called 'Great' for nothing, the Great Wall of China is over 8,000 km (5,000 miles) long. It's three times higher than a tall man, and one of the biggest projects in human history.



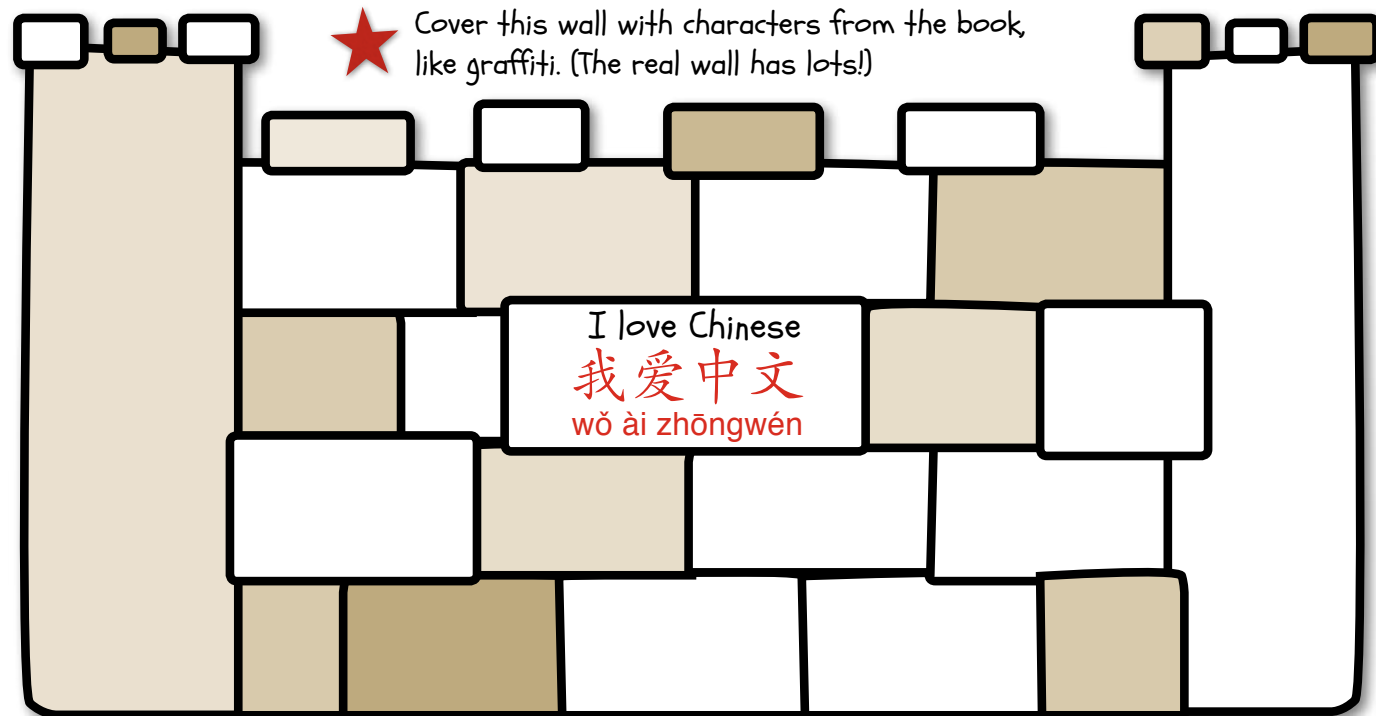
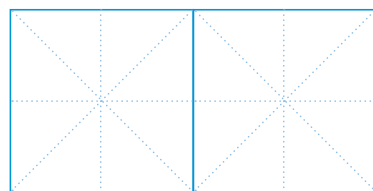
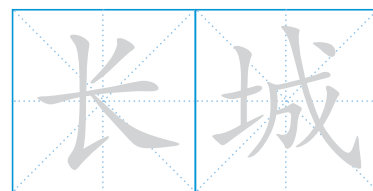
Which wall in these two pictures is the Great Wall of China, 1 or 2?

Write now!

Write the characters for the Great Wall in the squares.



chángchéng the Great Wall



★ Cover this wall with characters from the book, like graffiti. (The real wall has lots!)

True or false?

Circle A or B. Answers on page 64.

- 1 What was the wall for?
 - a. To keep out invaders and enemies
 - b. As a beautiful border
- 2 What was it made of?
 - a. Concrete blocks
 - b. Dirt, gravel and big stones
- 3 Who built it?
 - a. The emperor's wives
 - b. A mixture of 500,000 commoners and soldiers
- 4 How long did it take to build?
 - a. Over a thousand years
 - b. Two years
- 5 How long is it?
 - a. From London to Rome
 - b. From London to Brighton
- 6 How old is it?
 - a. 200 years old
 - b. Over 2,000 years old
- 7 Can it be seen from the moon?
 - a. Yes
 - b. No



The Mongol invaders

The Great Wall was built to keep out the threat from fierce Mongol invaders at China's northern border. Chinese people just couldn't defeat them. A massive wall seemed like the best answer.

★ Colour in the Mongol warrior. Follow the colour key.



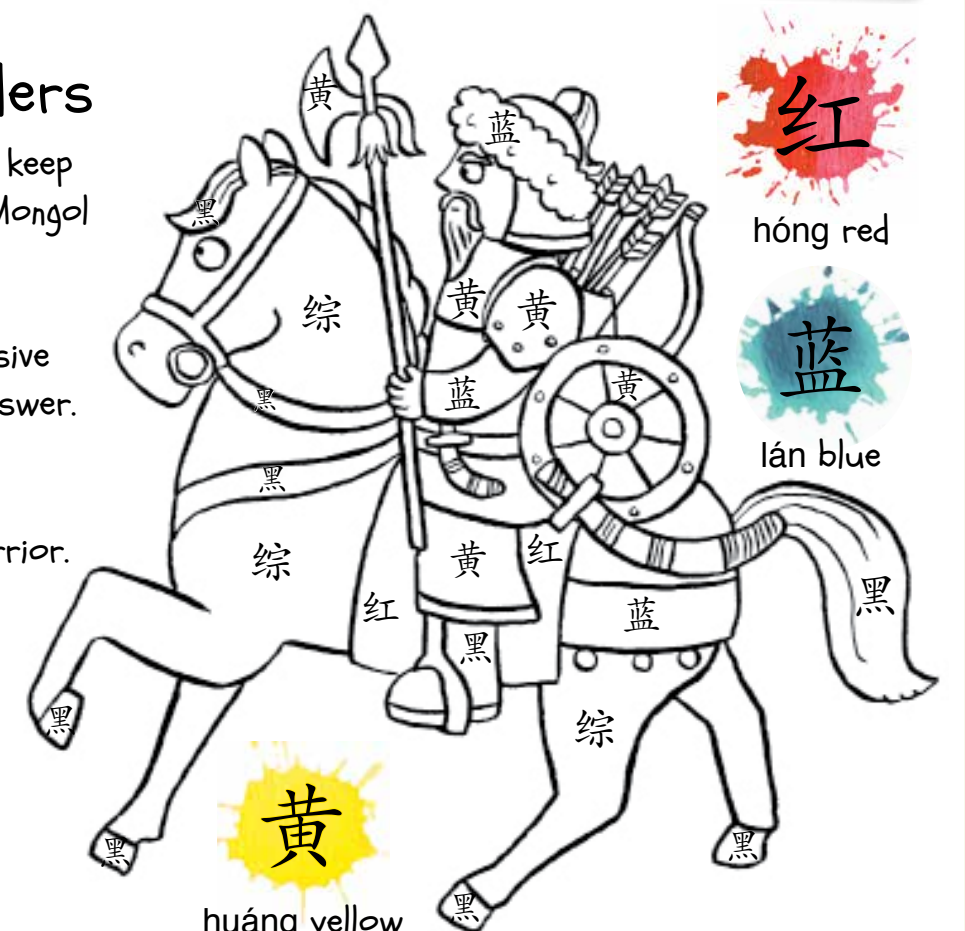
zōng brown



hēi black



huáng yellow



hóng red



lán blue