

# The Great Wall of China

The wall was built to protect the northern border in times of war. It was a wall, but also had watchtowers, beacon towers to send signals, and blockhouses to house soldiers. There were soldiers guarding the walls and towers. There were also towns built along the wall where the soldiers lived, so they could quickly get to the wall in case of a large attack. It is estimated that over 1 million soldiers guarded the great wall between the 12<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries.

## Facts about the Great Wall of China

- There are over 7,000 lookout towers that are part of the Great Wall.
- Today the walls continue to erode, however historians are trying to protect what sections they can.
- The wall averages around 10 metres high and 4.5 metres wide.
- It is the longest man-made structure in the world.
- Wide moats were often dug outside the wall in flat areas to make an enemy's approach more difficult.
- Smoke signals were used to indicate an attack. The more enemies that were attacking, the more smoke signals they would make.
- The wheelbarrow, which the Chinese invented, no doubt was a great help in building much of the wall.
- The wall is built through mountains and valleys. Its highest point is over 5,000 feet above sea level.

## A great tourist attraction

**Design a tourist brochure to encourage people to visit the Great Wall. Use the following information. Draw pictures.**

If you visit China you must visit the great Wall of China. It is one of the most important tourist attractions in China, and in 1987. it was listed as a UNESCO world heritage site.

It is also a wonderful experience to walk along the wall and feel the history and wonderful atmosphere of the wall.

The wall is over 8500 km long, and goes from the east to the west of China. The first parts were built over two thousand years ago by the Ming Emperors, in order to protect the central regions of the country from being attacked. All along the wall special buildings called 'beacon towers' were built. When some parts of China were attacked by enemies, fires were lit in the beacon towers so that people on other towers could see them and send warnings to the army.

Nowadays some of the sections are in ruins, but other sections have been repaired. The most famous section is called Badaling. It is near Beijing, and there is a cable car to transport tourists. If you are visiting you should take strong shoes and walk carefully. The best time to visit is in spring or autumn, so that you can enjoy mild weather and fantastic views

