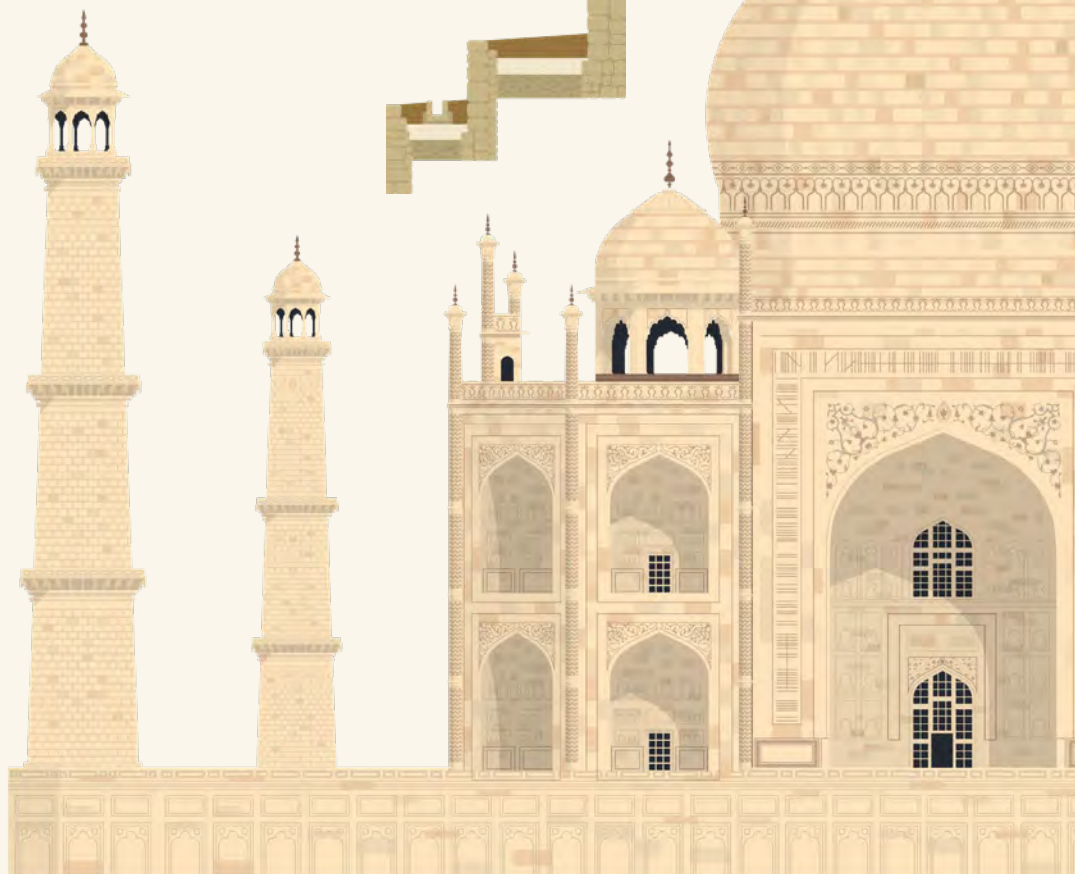
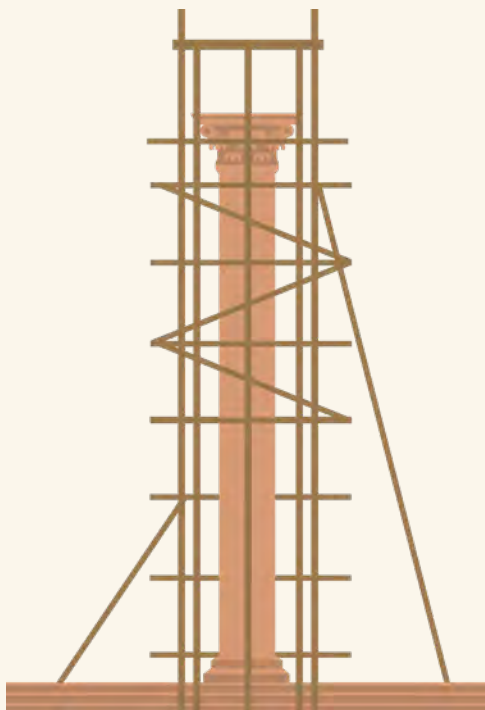
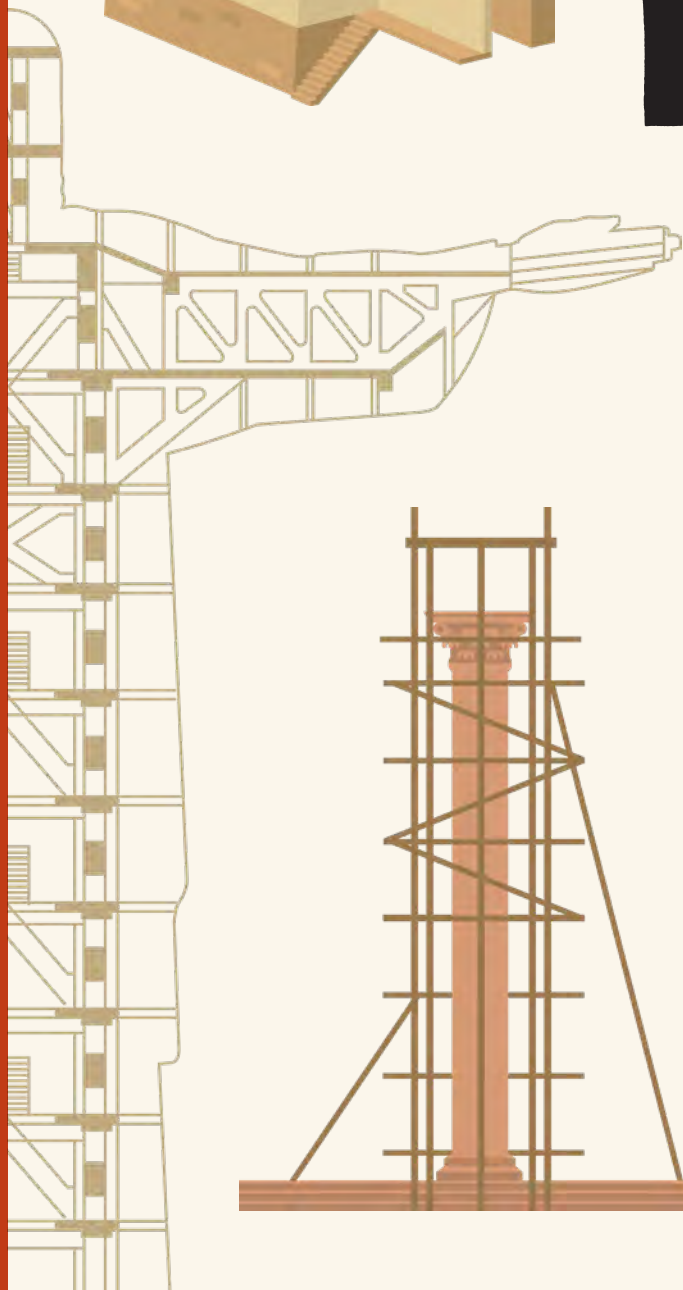


HOW THE
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WONDERS
OF THE WORLD WERE
BUILT



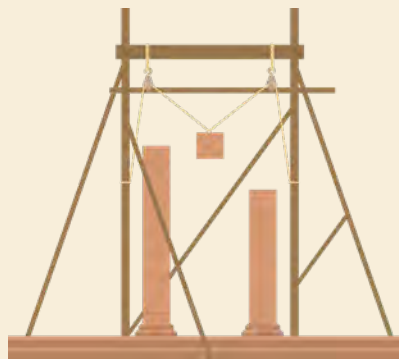
HOW THE

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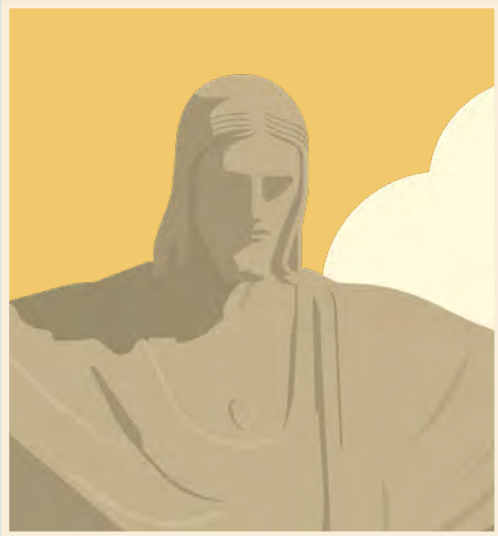
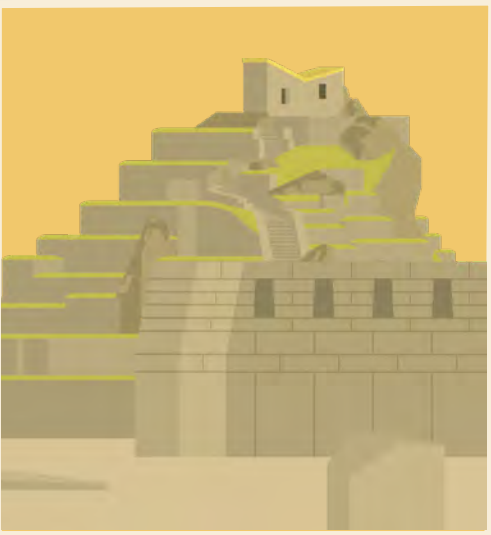
WONDERS

OF THE WORLD WERE

BUILT



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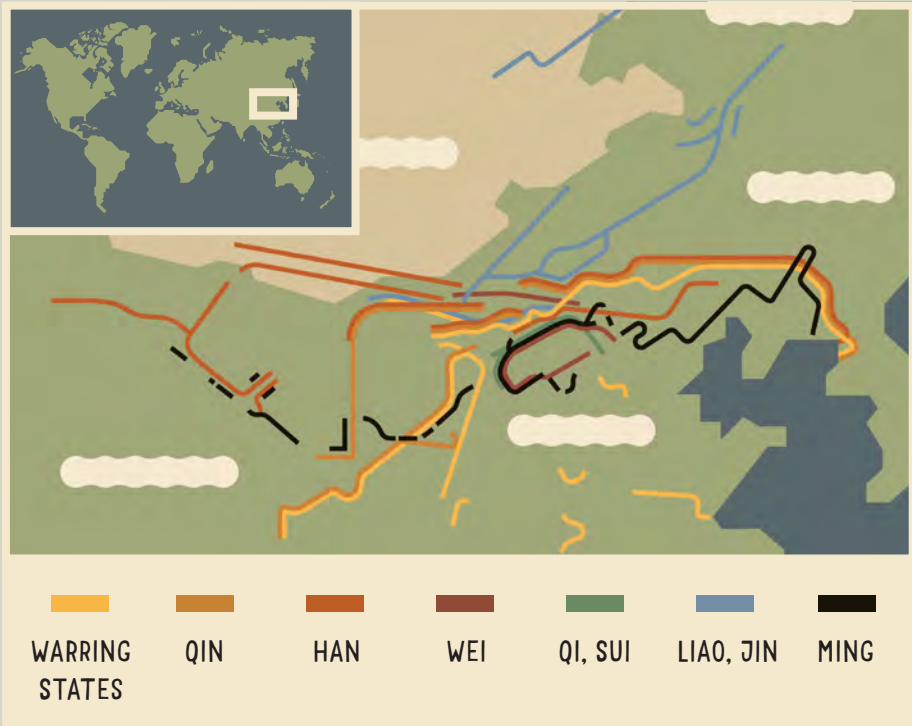
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The Great Wall of China

CHINA 7TH CENTURY BC

The Great Wall of China is called The Great Wall of China mainly in Europe and in America. In China, the wall is called The Long Wall, which is a somewhat more precise label. It is quite difficult to measure it, but if we were to count all the bends and breaks. We will reach the staggering number of 21,196 km.



Timeline

The beginnings of the construction date back to the 7th century. BC to the period of the Warring States. This was ended and the states joined and one China emerged. The main building of the wall dates back to the period of the first Qin Dynasty, around 210 BC. During the Han Dynasty in the 1st century BC and during the period of the Jin Empire (1138–1198), construction took place of the fortifications north of today's Great Wall of China, at the boundary of Outer and Inner Mongolia. The last period of construction is during the Ming Dynasty (1368–1644).

Emperor

The complex of the original defensive walls from the 3rd century BC gradually grew to prevent raids of semi-nomadic marauding tribes. The first emperor who began to connect the defensive walls was Qin Shi Huang, founder of the Qin dynasty. However, the wall acquired its current form only during the Ming Dynasty in the 14th–17th centuries.



EMPEROR
QIN SHI HUANG

Meng Tian

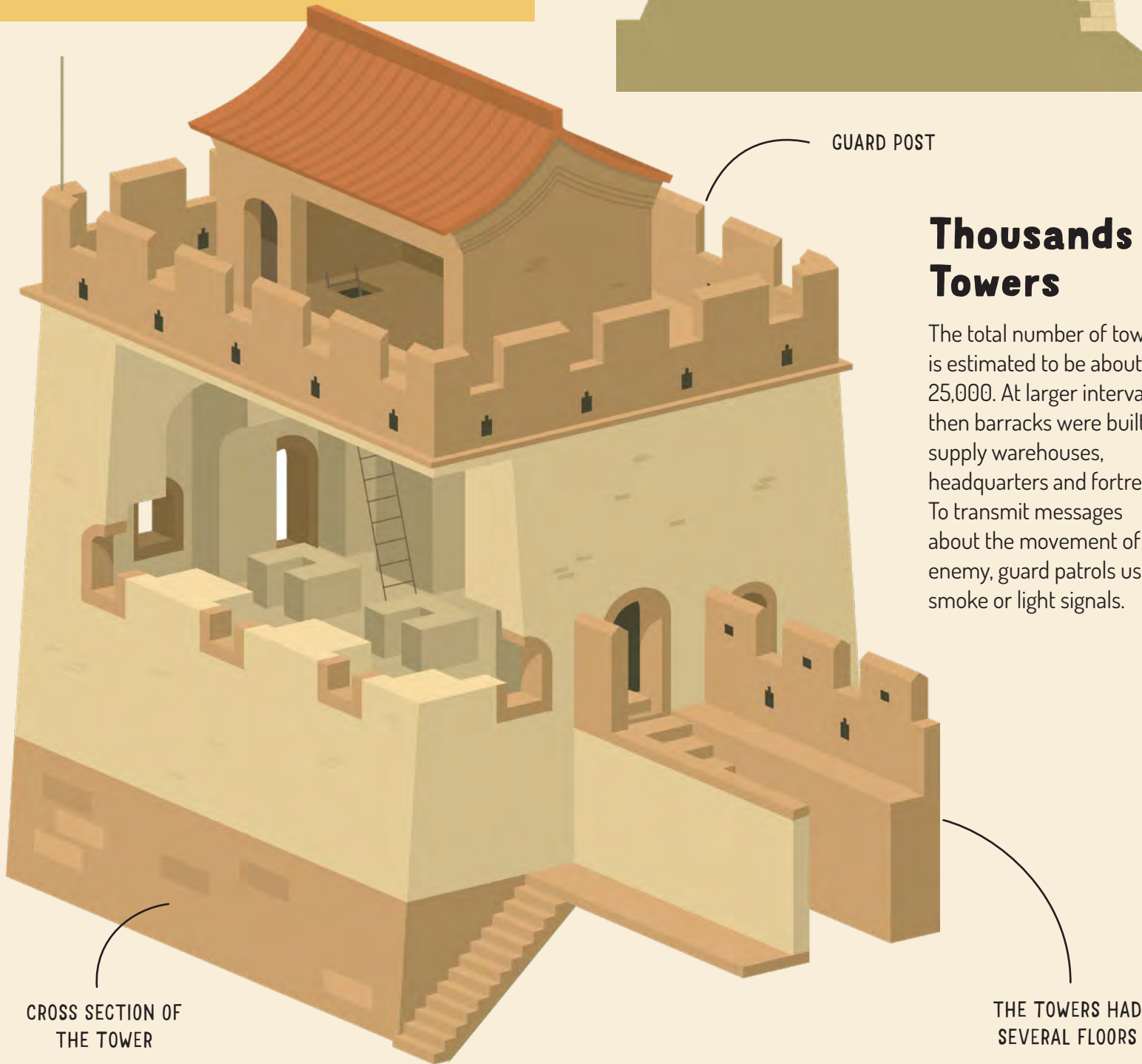
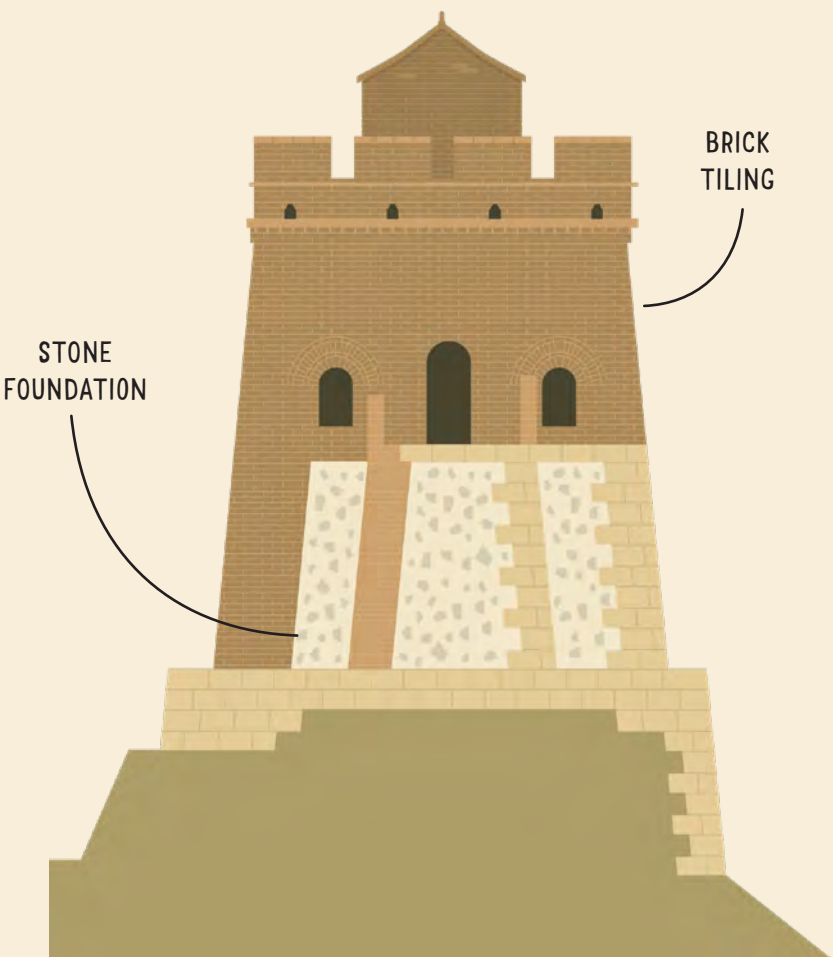
A wide range of builders and architects took part in the construction, but most of the names have been forgotten or deleted to remind only of the name of the ruler who had it built. One of prominent names that is recalled in connection with the construction of the wall recalls is Meng Tian, one of the main generals of the Qing Dynasty, who personally managed and led the construction work on the wall.



GENERAL MENG TIAN

Building Method

At first, the earthen structure was probably built using wooden beams. It was gradually replaced by construction from more durable materials of stone and fired and unfired bricks here. The type of stone depended on the local conditions. The foundations were built of large stone blocks or the building was based on a solid rocky subsoil. The building method differed, but we can generally say that an earthen construction was first built from gradually packed down layers of soil and stones. It was placed between wooden walls or a reinforced wooden or reed grate. Then the side walls were lined with stones or bricks.



Thousands of Towers

The total number of towers is estimated to be about 25,000. At larger intervals then barracks were built, supply warehouses, headquarters and fortresses. To transmit messages about the movement of the enemy, guard patrols used smoke or light signals.

Ming Dynasty

The wall acquired today's form during the Ming Dynasty when it was rebuilt to generous dimensions using durable materials. The Ming Dynasty was a time of development and prosperity. Irrigation systems were built, cotton growing and the processing of silk and typical Chinese porcelain spread. This period was the last Chinese national dynasty, before the conquest of the Manchurian Qing Empire in 1644. After the fall of the Qing in 1912, the Republic of China was founded.



PORCELAIN



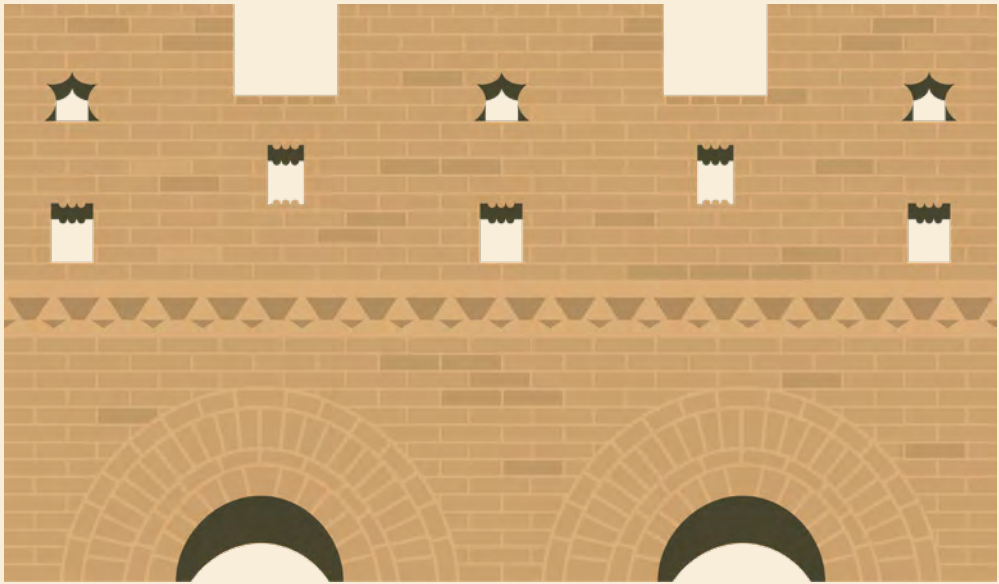
FLAG OF THE MING DYNASTY



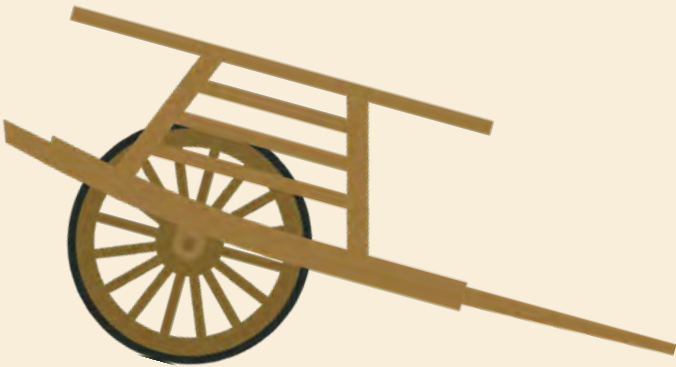
WOMEN'S CLOTHING FROM THE PERIOD OF THE MING DYNASTY

Who built the wall?

Since it was such a monumental project, it is likely that the spectrum of people working on the construction site was really broad. In the first phase, they were mainly peasants. The emperor Qin Shi Huang reportedly forced up to several million inhabitants of the empire to work. In the following phases, they were slaves and prisoners. Already during the Ming Dynasty, this task was entrusted to soldiers and skilled craftsmen who received payment for it.



DETAIL OF THE MASONRY



WHEELBARROW



WORKER WITH SPINDLE



WORKER CARRYING MATERIAL

ROBBER
NOMAD



The Advantage of the Terrain

The Great Wall often uses terrain to enhance its defensive function, thus, it frequently leads along mountain ridges in difficult-to-access terrain. The wall itself was not intended to repel a massive attack by enemy troops, but it was to make it difficult for the semi-nomadic tribes undertaking marauding raids into the interior of the empire.



DAO
(SWORD)

SPEAR

ROCKET

FIRE
LANCE



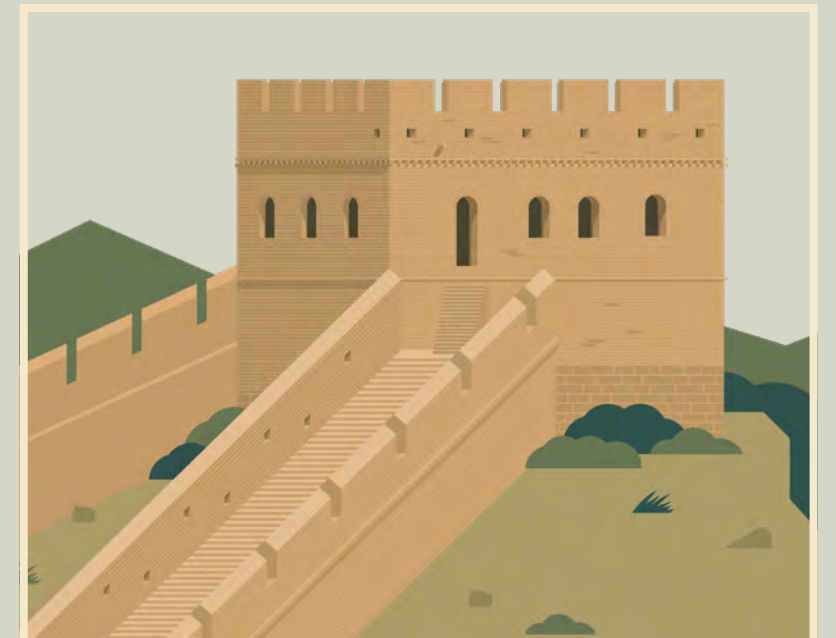
CHINESE
SOLDIER

Badaling

This is by far the most representative and probably the most famous section. It is laid closest to Beijing, and it is very easy to get here from the metropolis, and the ascent is not too difficult. However, it is necessary to prepare for the crowds of tourists and a lot of stall sellers.

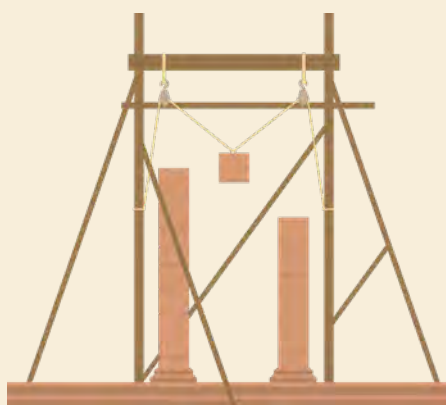
Simatai


Although such extensive renovations have not taken place here, there is also an intact part in addition to the ruins. Many fans from home and abroad consider it the best stretch of the entire Great Wall. While the eastern part requires visitors to be more physically fit, the western part is a lot easier to climb. You will rarely come across tourists here.



Mutianyu

Right after Badaling, the second most maintained section of the wall, surrounded by forest and offering beautiful views of the surrounding countryside in the summer and autumn.



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Illustrated by Jan Šrámek
Written by Jiří Bartůněk and Tom Velčovský

The list of the classical wonders of the world has existed for many centuries, and the wonders of ancient architecture at that time were chosen by privileged scholars. The new seven wonders of the world were selected by over 600 million people who voted for the structures from 2000 to 2007. The Great Wall of China, Petra of Jordan, the Roman Colosseum, the Indian Taj Mahal and Central American Chichen Itza, Machu Picchu and the Statue of Christ the Redeemer. These buildings are a unique cross-section of world architecture and offer a unique opportunity to compare the approaches, but also cultures of the entire world and different historical periods. Come and travel with us across the world and time and peek behind the curtain of the creation of the architectural monuments that have helped shape the current world.

