

ACTIVITY SIX

WEAPONS AND TECHNOLOGY

Learning Objectives:

Design and Technology: to use research and design criteria to inform design; to select materials; to use sketch books to record observations; to design, make and evaluate products; to investigate and analyse the designs of historical figures; to build structures; to explore and use mechanisms

English: to experience a range of different writing such as narrative, diary writing, writing for different purposes; to order ideas; to infer feelings, thoughts and motives

Refer to section seven of the teachers' support notes to provide background and context for this topic.

Qin's army employed giant crossbows similar to Roman ballistae and catapults and this afforded the advantage of being able to attack and overwhelm rival armies without the risks involved in hand to hand combat.



Large Chinese crossbows
www.jiazhougongfang.com

World Museum

National Museums Liverpool
National Museums Liverpool
National Museums Liverpool

National
Museums
Liverpool

- 1 Lead a discussion with the whole class about the best materials that were available at the time of Qin to create war machines.
- 2 Referring to the image above as a starting point, ask students to design a catapult or ballista, which can fire accurately over great distances.
They can do this on paper first of all but later can arrange their classmates in a 3D still image/tableau of the giant weapon to help plan and refine its shape and construction.
- 3 Ask the pupils to imagine that they are in an army facing Qin's warriors.
As they await the order to charge and engage, they hear the rumbling of wheels behind Qin's massed warriors. Suddenly the front ranks part and a giant crossbow appears and is loaded in the distance. Using thought bubbles, ask them to write down how they feel using the first person voice.
- 4 Within speech bubbles pupils should write down what they then say to fellow soldiers next to them.
- 5 At the end of the day make an entry in a journal, describing these feelings and the effect of the giant crossbows on the battle. Starting with the phrase

...I felt quite confident as we waited for our orders before the battle until we heard this funny rumbling sound behind Qin's warriors...

**World
Museum**

National Museums Liverpool
National Museums Liverpool
National Museums Liverpool

National
Museums
Liverpool

- 6 Play some warlike music such as 'Mars' from Holst's Planets Suite to help focus on recalling the emotion of the moment as excerpts from the diary are being written or read out aloud to the class.
You can also use the sound file for Activity 6 - specially composed war music.



© National Museums Liverpool



Image courtesy of Qin Baby, © Qin Baby

**World
Museum**

terracottawarriors

www.liverpoolmuseums.org.uk/wml/



© National Museums Liverpool

National Museums Liverpool
Museums Liverpool National
Liverpool National M

National
Museums
Liverpool