



# Wall around a Forbidden City

In the centre of the city of Beijing, a massive wall surrounds the Forbidden City, where the emperors of China once lived. The palace is huge and the protective wall surrounding it is huge, too – about 10 metres high.

The Forbidden City took thousands of workers many years to build. It has four towers in each outside corner of the wall. These elaborate structures show the skill of the Chinese engineers and builders. One of the walls, called the Red City Wall, has a base that is about 8.5 metres wide, but it narrows to 6.7 metres at the top. This structure proved to be very difficult for intruders to climb. The wall is also incredibly strong. Its bricks were made of white lime and rice, and the cement was made from rice and egg whites!

In 1924, the last emperor of China, Pu Yi, was driven from the palace. Today it houses many rare treasures.

Still, people around the world remember this as the Forbidden City. Only members of the imperial household could come and go from the city – anyone else had to have the emperor's permission to enter.

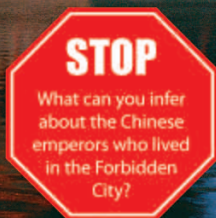
If non-royal people did enter the city, even accidentally, they were executed immediately. The wall was really a boundary between life and death.



I predict this is going to be about...



A wide moat surrounds the wall, giving extra protection.



Does anyone need to have anything clarified?



Does anyone have a question to ask?



My summary of what we have read is...

View across the moat towards one of the four towers on the Forbidden City wall