

zhào guó de rén zhì
赵国的人质

The Hostage in Zhao

PAGE 1

liǎng qiān liǎng bǎi duō nián yǐ qián
两千两百多年以前

qín guó yǒu yí gè wáng zǐ
秦国有一个王子

More than two thousand two hundred years
ago, Qin had a prince.

PAGE 2

nà ge wáng zǐ jiào zǐ chǔ bèi
那个王子叫子楚被

sòng dào zhào guó dāng rén zhì
送到赵国当人质

He was called Zi Chu, and was sent to Zhao
as a hostage.

PAGE 3

rén zhì de yì si shì liǎng guó
人质的意思是两国

dǎ zhàng jiù xiān shā tā
打仗就先杀他

A hostage means: if the two states fight, he
dies first.

PAGE 4

zǐ chǔ zài zhào guó guò de hěn
子楚在赵国过得很

kǔ méi yǒu rén kàn de qǐ tā
苦没有人看得起他

Zi Chu lived poorly in Zhao, and nobody
respected him.

PAGE 5

yǒu yí gè shāng rén jiào lǚ bù
有一个商人叫吕不

wéi kàn jiàn le tā
韦看见了他

A merchant named Lü Buwei noticed him.

PAGE 6

lǚ bù wéi shuō le yí jù hěn
吕不韦说了一句很

yǒu míng de huà
有名的话

Lü Buwei said something that became
famous.

tā shuō zhè ge rén kě yǐ xiàng
他说这个人可以像
dōng xī yí yàng cún qǐ lái
东西一样存起来

He said: this man can be stored up like goods.

gōng yuán qián èr wǔ jiǔ nián zǐ
公元前二五九年子
chǔ de ér zǐ zài hán dān chū
楚的儿子在邯郸出
shēng
生

In 259 BCE, Zi Chu's son was born in Handan.

tā bǎ zì jǐ de qián quán bù
他把自己的钱全部
yòng zài zǐ chǔ shēn shàng
用在子楚身上

He spent his entire fortune on Zi Chu.

nà ge hái zǐ jiào yíng zhèng jiù
那个孩子叫嬴政就
shì hòu lái de qín shǐ huáng
是后来的秦始皇

The child was Ying Zheng — later the First Emperor of Qin.

tā pǎo dào qín guó bāng zǐ chǔ
他跑到秦国帮子楚
ná dào le wáng wèi
拿到了王位

He went to Qin and got Zi Chu the throne.

tā zài zhào guó zhù dào jiǔ suì
他在赵国住到九岁
cái huí qín guó
才回秦国

He lived in Zhao until he was nine.

nà jiǔ nián lǐ zhào guó de hái
那九 年里 赵国的 孩
zi tiān tiān mà tā
子 天天 骂 他

In those nine years the children of Zhao
cursed him daily.

yě yǒu rén shuō nà jiǔ nián ràng
也 有人 说 那 九年 让
tā biàn de hěn yìng
他 变得 很 硬

Others say those nine years made him hard.

yīn wèi tā shì dí guó de rén
因 为 他 是 敌 国 的 人
shéi yě bù gēn tā wán
谁 也 不 跟 他 玩

He was from the enemy state, and nobody
would play with him.

hěn duō nián yǐ hòu tā bǎ zhào
很 多 年 以 后 他 把 赵
guó miè le
国 灭 了

Many years later he destroyed Zhao.

yǒu rén shuō tā cóng xiǎo jiù bù
有 人 说 他 从 小 就 不
gǎn xìn bié rén
敢 信 别 人

Some say he never dared trust anyone after
that.

tā huí dào hán dān bǎ dāng nián
他 回 到 邯 郸 把 当 年
mà guò tā de rén dōu shā le
骂 过 他 的 人 都 杀 了

He went back to Handan and killed the
people who had cursed him.

赵国的人质 · Writing Practice

The Hostage in Zhao

Name: _____

Date: _____

多年

duō nián
many years

多	年				
---	---	--	--	--	--

王子

wáng zǐ
prince

王	子				
---	---	--	--	--	--

那个

nà ge
that one

那	个				
---	---	--	--	--	--

人质

rén zhì
hostage

人	质				
---	---	--	--	--	--

孩子

hái zi
child

孩	子				
---	---	--	--	--	--

有人

yǒu rén
someone

有	人				
---	---	--	--	--	--

以前

yǐ qián
before

以	前				
---	---	--	--	--	--

国有

guó yǒu
nationalized

国	有				
---	---	--	--	--	--

Trace the gray word in the first group, then practise writing it in the rest. Keep each stroke inside the dashed lines.

shí sān suì de wáng
十三岁的王

King at Thirteen

PAGE 1

gōng yuán qián èr sì qī nián zǐ
公元前二四七年子
chǔ sǐ le
楚死了

In 247 BCE, Zi Chu died.

PAGE 4

lǚ bù wéi dāng le chéng xiàng dà
吕不韦当了丞相大
jiā jiào tā zhòng fù
家叫他仲父

Lü Buwei became chancellor, and was called
Second Father.

PAGE 2

nà nián yíng zhèng cái shí sān suì
那年嬴政才十三岁
jiù dāng le qín wáng
就当秦王

Ying Zheng was thirteen when he became
king of Qin.

PAGE 5

tā hěn huì zuò shì qín guó nà
他很会做事秦国那
jǐ nián gèng qiáng le
几年更强了

He was capable, and Qin grew stronger in
those years.

PAGE 3

guó jiā de shì xiān yóu lǚ bù
国家的事先由吕不
wéi guǎn zhe
韦管着

Lü Buwei ran the state for him at first.

PAGE 6

tā hái zhǎo le hěn duō xué zhě
他还找了很多学者
xiě le yì běn shū
写了一本书

He gathered scholars and had a book
written.

nà běn shū xiě wán yǐ hòu guà
那本书写完以后挂
zài chéng mén shàng
在城门上

When it was finished, he hung it on the city gate.

nà shí hòu de qín wáng hái xiǎo
那时候的秦王还小
shén me yě bù néng shuō
什么也不能说

The young king could say nothing.

tā shuō shéi néng gǎi yí gè zì
他说谁能改一个字
jiù gěi shéi yì qiān jīn
就给谁一千金

He said whoever could change one character would get a thousand gold.

tā měi tiān shàng cháo zuò zài nà
他每天上朝坐在那
lǐ tīng bié rén shuō huà
里听别人说话

Every day he sat at court and listened.

yì nián guò qù le méi yǒu yí
一年过去了没有一
gè rén gǎn gǎi
个人敢改

A year passed, and nobody dared.

tā bù shuō huà kě shì tā yì
他不说话可是他一
zhí zài kàn
直在看

He did not speak, but he watched.

tā kàn shéi gēn shéi hǎo yě kàn
他 看 谁 跟 谁 好 也 看
shéi pà shéi
谁 怕 谁

He watched who liked whom, and who feared whom.

tā kàn chū zhè ge hái zǐ gēn
他 看 出 这 个 孩 子 跟
bié de hái zǐ bù yí yàng
别 的 孩 子 不 一 样

He saw that this boy was not like other boys.

yǒu yí gè rén fā xiàn le zhè
有 一 个 人 发 现 了 这
jiàn shì jiào lǐ sī
件 事 叫 李 斯

One man noticed this. His name was Li Si.

tā kāi shǐ màn màn wǎng qín wáng
他 开 始 慢 慢 往 秦 王
shēn biān zǒu
身 边 走

He began, slowly, to move closer to the king.

lǐ sī shì chǔ guó rén běn lái
李 斯 是 楚 国 人 本 来
zhǐ shì yí gè xiǎo guān
只 是 一 个 小 官

Li Si was from Chu and had been a minor official.

nà shí hou méi yǒu rén zhī dào
那 时 候 没 有 人 知 道
zhè liǎng gè rén huì zuò shén me
这 两 个 人 会 做 什 么

Nobody yet knew what these two would do.

十三岁的王 · Writing Practice

King at Thirteen

Name: _____

Date: _____

那时候

nà shí hou
at that time

那	时	候			
---	---	---	--	--	--

什么

shén me
what?

什	么				
---	---	--	--	--	--

说话

shuō huà
to speak

说	话				
---	---	--	--	--	--

没有

méi yǒu
haven't

没	有				
---	---	--	--	--	--

一个人

yī gè rén
by oneself (without ass...)

一	个	人			
---	---	---	--	--	--

孩子

hái zi
child

孩	子				
---	---	--	--	--	--

公元前

gōng yuán qián
BCE (before the Common ...)

公	元	前			
---	---	---	--	--	--

丞相

chéng xiàng
the most senior ministe...

丞	相				
---	---	--	--	--	--

Trace the gray word in the first group, then practise writing it in the rest. Keep each stroke inside the dashed lines.

qīn zhèng
亲政

Taking Power

PAGE 1

qín guó de guī juǎ shì wáng èr
秦 国 的 规 矩 是 王 二
shí èr suì cái suàn dà rén
十 二 岁 才 算 大 人

By Qin custom a king came of age at twenty-two.

PAGE 4

tài hòu shēn biān yǒu yí gè rén
太 后 身 边 有 一 个 人
jiào lào ǎi ná dào le hěnn duō
叫 嫪 毐 拿 到 了 很 多
dì fāng
地 方

A man named Lao Ai around the queen mother had been given much land.

PAGE 2

nà yì nián yíng zhèng yào qù jǔ
那 一 年 嬴 政 要 去 举
xíng dà lǐ
行 大 礼

That year Ying Zheng went to hold the ceremony.

PAGE 5

tā jué de jī huì lái le jiù
他 觉 得 机 会 来 了 就
dài bīng qù zhuā qín wáng
带 兵 去 抓 秦 王

He thought his moment had come, and marched to seize the king.

PAGE 3

kě shì yǒu rén bù xiǎng ràng tā
可 是 有 人 不 想 让 他
zhēn de dāng wáng
真 的 当 王

But some did not want him really to rule.

PAGE 6

qín wáng zǎo jiù zhī dào le bīng
秦 王 早 就 知 道 了 兵
yǐ jīng děng zài lù shàng
已 经 等 在 路 上

The king had known for a long time. His troops were already waiting.

PAGE 7

nà yí zhàng dǎ le hěn duǎn de
那一仗打了很短的
shí jiān jiù wán le
时间就完了

The fighting was over very quickly.

PAGE 10

yǒu dà chén quàn tā tā jiù bǎ
有大臣劝他他就把
nà ge dà chén shā le
那个大臣杀了

When a minister advised him, he had that
minister killed.

PAGE 8

lào ǎi bèi zhuā zhù gēn tā yì
嫪毐被抓住跟他一
qǐ de rén dōu sǐ le
起的人都死了

Lao Ai was taken, and everyone with him
died.

PAGE 11

yì lián shā le èr shí qī gè
一连杀了二十七个人
méi yǒu rén zài gǎn shuō huà
没有人再敢说话

Twenty-seven in a row, and then nobody
dared speak.

PAGE 9

qín wáng bǎ tài hòu guān dào bié
秦王把太后关到别
de dì fang qù
的地方去

The king shut his mother away in another
place.

PAGE 12

hòu lái yǒu yí gè rén shuō liù
后来有一个人说六
guó huì xiào nǐ de
国会笑你的

Then one man said: the six states will laugh
at you.

qín wáng tīng wán dì èr tiān jiù
秦王听完第二天就
bǎ tài hòu jiē huí lái le
把太后接回来了

The king heard him, and the next day
brought his mother back.

lǚ bù wéi zhī dào zì jǐ huí
吕不韦知道自己回
bú qù le hē le dú jiǔ
不去了喝了毒酒

Knowing he could never return, Lü Buwei
drank poison.

zhè jiàn shì yǐ hòu lǚ bù wéi
这件事以后吕不韦
yě wán le
也完了

After this, Lü Buwei was finished too.

nà nián qín wáng èr shí èr suì
那年秦王二十二岁
shēn biān zài méi yǒu dà rén
身边再没有大人

The king was twenty-two, and no adult stood
over him now.

qín wáng méi yǒu shā tā zhǐ ràng
秦王没有杀他只让
tā lí kāi xián yáng
他离开咸阳

The king did not kill him, only sent him from
Xianyang.

cóng nà tiān qǐ qín guó zhǐ yǒu
从那天起秦国只有
yí gè rén shuō le suàn
一个人说了算

From that day only one man's word counted
in Qin.

亲政 · Writing Practice

Taking Power

Name: _____

Date: _____

二十

èr shí
twenty

二	十				
---	---	--	--	--	--

太后

tài hòu
Empress Dowager

太	后				
---	---	--	--	--	--

一个人

yī gè rén
by oneself (without ass...)

一	个	人			
---	---	---	--	--	--

没有

méi yǒu
haven't

没	有				
---	---	--	--	--	--

大人

dà ren
adult

大	人				
---	---	--	--	--	--

身边

shēn biān
at one's side

身	边				
---	---	--	--	--	--

地方

dì fang
area

地	方				
---	---	--	--	--	--

完了

wán le
to be finished

完	了				
---	---	--	--	--	--

Trace the gray word in the first group, then practise writing it in the rest. Keep each stroke inside the dashed lines.

jīng kē cì qín wáng
荆轲刺秦王

Jing Ke

PAGE 1

qín guó yuè lái yuè qiáng liù guó
秦国越来越强 六国

yuè lái yuè pà
越来越怕

Qin grew stronger, and the six states more
afraid.

PAGE 4

jīng kē bú shì jiāng jūn tā xǐ
荆轲不是将军他喜

huān dú shū yě huì yòng jiàn
欢读书也会用剑

Jing Ke was no general. He liked books, and
could use a sword.

PAGE 2

yān guó de tài zǐ dān xiǎng le
燕国的太子丹想了

yí gè bàn fǎ
一个办法

Prince Dan of Yan thought of a plan.

PAGE 5

tài zǐ dān wèn tā nǐ gǎn bu
太子丹问他你敢不

gǎn qù xián yáng
敢去咸阳

Prince Dan asked whether he dared go to
Xianyang.

PAGE 3

tā zhǎo dào yí gè rén nà ge
他找到一个 人那个

rén jiào jīng kē
人叫荆轲

He found a man called Jing Ke.

PAGE 6

jīng kē shuō gǎn kě shì yào dài
荆轲说敢可是要带

liǎng yàng dōng xī
两样东西

Jing Ke said yes, but he would need two
things.

PAGE 7

dì yī yàng shì yān guó zuì hǎo
第一样是燕国最好
de dì tú
的地图

The first was Yan's finest map.

PAGE 10

qín wáng zhèng zài zhǎo tā zhǎo le
秦王正在找他找了
hěn duō nián
很多年

The king of Qin had hunted him for years.

PAGE 8

dì èr yàng shì yí gè rén de
第二样是一个人的
tóu
头

The second was a man's head.

PAGE 11

nà ge jiāng jūn tīng shuō yǐ hòu
那个将军听说以后
zì jǐ bǎ tóu gěi le jīng kē
自己把头给了荆轲

When the general heard, he gave Jing Ke his own head.

PAGE 9

nà ge rén běn lái shì qín guó
那个人本来是秦国
de jiāng jūn táo dào le yān guó
的将军逃到了燕国

That man had been a Qin general who fled to Yan.

PAGE 12

jīng kē dài zhe dì tú hé tóu
荆轲带着地图和头
yí gè rén qù le xián yáng
一个人去了咸阳

Jing Ke took the map and the head and went alone to Xianyang.

qín wáng hěn gāo xìng zài dà diàn
秦王很高兴在大殿
shàng jiàn tā
上见他

The king was delighted, and received him in
the great hall.

jīng kē yì shǒu zhuā zhù qín wáng
荆轲一手抓住秦王
de xiù zi yì shǒu ná dāo
的袖子一手拿刀

Jing Ke seized the king's sleeve with one
hand and the blade with the other.

jīng kē màn màn bǎ dì tú dǎ
荆轲慢慢把地图打
kāi yì diǎn yì diǎn wǎng hòu juǎn
开一点一点往后卷

Jing Ke opened the map slowly, rolling it
back inch by inch.

qín wáng wǎng hòu yì duǒ xiù zi
秦王往后一躲袖子
duàn le rén pǎo le
断了人跑了

The king jerked back, the sleeve tore, and he
was away.

dì tú dǎ dào zuì hòu lǐ miàn
地图打到最后里面
yǒu yì bǎ bǐ shǒu
有一把匕首

At the end of the map lay a dagger.

jīng kē sǐ zài dà diàn shàng yān
荆轲死在大殿上燕
guó yě méi néng bǎo zhù
国也没能保住

Jing Ke died in the hall, and Yan could not be
saved either.

荆轲刺秦王 · Writing Practice

Jing Ke

Name: _____

Date: _____

将军

jiāng jūn
general

将 军

一个人

yī gè rén
by oneself (without ass...

一 个 人

地图

dì tú
map

地 图

越来越

yuè lái yuè
more and more

越 来 越

太子

tài zǐ
crown prince

太 子

那个人

nà gè rén
lit. that person

那 个 人

大殿

dà diàn
main hall of a Buddhist...

大 殿

一手

yī shǒu
a skill

一 手

Trace the gray word in the first group, then practise writing it in the rest. Keep each stroke inside the dashed lines.

miè liù guó
灭六国

The Six States Fall

PAGE 1

gōng yuán qián èr sān líng nián qín
公元前二零年秦
guó kāi shǐ miè liù guó
国开始灭六国

In 230 BCE, Qin began destroying the six states.

PAGE 4

zhào guó yǒu yí gè jiāng jūn jiào
赵国有一个将军叫
lǐ mù qín guó dǎ bú guò tā
李牧秦国打不过他

Zhao had a general called Li Mu, and Qin could not beat him.

PAGE 2

dì yī gè shì hán guó zhǐ yòng
第一个是韩国只用
le yì nián
了一年

The first was Han, and it took one year.

PAGE 5

yú shì qín guó bù dǎ le gǎi
于是秦国不打了改
yòng bié de bàn fǎ
用别的方法

So Qin stopped fighting and tried something else.

PAGE 3

dì èr gè shì zhào guó nà shì
第二个是赵国那是
zuì nán dǎ de yí gè
最难打的一个

The second was Zhao, the hardest of them all.

PAGE 6

tā men sòng hěn duō qián gěi zhào
他们送很多钱给赵
wáng shēn biān de rén
王身边的人

They sent money to the men around the king of Zhao.

PAGE 7

nà ge rén tiān tiān shuō lǐ mù
 那个人天天说李牧
 xiǎng fǎn
 想反

One of them said every day that Li Mu meant
 to rebel.

PAGE 10

dì sān gè shì wèi guó qín guó
 第三个是魏国秦国
 bǎ hé shuǐ yǐn jìn chéng lǐ
 把河水引进城里

The third was Wei, and Qin led the river into
 the city.

PAGE 8

zhào wáng xìn le bǎ lǐ mù shā
 赵王信了把李牧杀
 le
 了

The king believed it, and had Li Mu killed.

PAGE 11

dì sì gè shì chǔ guó nà shì
 第四个是楚国那是
 zuì dà de yí gè
 最大的一个

The fourth was Chu, the largest of them.

PAGE 9

sān gè yuè yǐ hòu zhào guó jiù
 三个月以后赵国就
 méi yǒu le
 没有了

Three months later there was no Zhao.

PAGE 12

qín wáng xiān wèn yí gè nián qīng
 秦王先问一个年轻
 jiāng jūn yào yòng jǐ wàn rén
 将军要用几万人

The king first asked a young general how
 many men he needed.

PAGE 13

nà ge rén shuō èr shí wàn jiù
 那个人说二十万就
 gòu
 够

He said two hundred thousand would do.

PAGE 16

jié guǒ èr shí wàn rén quán bù
 结果二十万人全部
 shū le
 输了

The two hundred thousand were beaten to a man.

PAGE 14

yòu wèn lǎo jiāng jūn wáng jiǎn wáng
 又问老将军王翦王
 jiǎn shuō yào liù shí wàn
 翦说要六十万

He then asked old Wang Jian, who said six hundred thousand.

PAGE 17

qín wáng qīn zì qù qǐng wáng jiǎn
 秦王亲自去请王翦
 gěi le tā liù shí wàn
 给了他六十万

The king went himself to ask Wang Jian, and gave him six hundred thousand.

PAGE 15

qín wáng xiào tā lǎo le xiān pài
 秦王笑他老了先派
 le nián qīng de nà ge
 了年轻的那个

The king laughed that he had grown old, and sent the young one.

PAGE 18

dào le gōng yuán qián èr èr yī
 到了公元前二二一
 nián liù gè guó yí gè yě méi
 年六个国一个也没
 yǒu le
 有了

By 221 BCE, not one of the six was left.

灭六国 · Writing Practice

The Six States Fall

Name: _____

Date: _____

公元前

gōng yuán qián
BCE (before the Common ...

公	元	前			
---	---	---	--	--	--

将军

jiāng jūn
general

将	军				
---	---	--	--	--	--

那是

nà shì
of course

那	是				
---	---	--	--	--	--

那个人

nà gè rén
lit. that person

那	个	人			
---	---	---	--	--	--

没有

méi yǒu
haven't

没	有				
---	---	--	--	--	--

年轻

nián qīng
young

年	轻				
---	---	--	--	--	--

万人

wàn rén
ten thousand people

万	人				
---	---	--	--	--	--

二十

èr shí
twenty

二	十				
---	---	--	--	--	--

Trace the gray word in the first group, then practise writing it in the rest. Keep each stroke inside the dashed lines.

huáng dì
皇帝

Emperor

PAGE 1

gōng yuán qián èr èr yī nián tiān
公 元 前 二 二 一 年 天
xià dì yī cì biàn chéng yí gè
下 第 一 次 变 成 一 个
guó
国

In 221 BCE the empire became one state for
the first time.

PAGE 4

tā yào yí gè cóng lái méi yǒu
他 要 一 个 从 来 没 有
rén yòng guò de zì
人 用 过 的 字

He wanted a word nobody had ever used.

PAGE 2

qín wáng zuò zài xián yáng de dà
秦 王 坐 在 咸 阳 的 大
diàn shàng xiǎng le yí jiàn shì
殿 上 想 了 一 件 事

The king sat in his hall at Xianyang and
thought about one thing.

PAGE 5

dà chén men xiǎng le hěn jiǔ shuō
大 臣 们 想 了 很 久 说
kě yǐ jiào tài huáng
可 以 叫 泰 皇

The ministers thought long, and proposed Tai
Huang.

PAGE 3

wáng zhè ge zì liù guó de rén
王 这 个 字 六 国 的 人
dōu yòng guò
都 用 过

The word king had been used by all six
defeated states.

PAGE 6

qín wáng shuō qù diào tài zì jiā
秦 王 说 去 掉 泰 字 加
shàng dì zì
上 帝 字

The king said: drop the tai, and add di.

PAGE 7

cóng nà tiān qǐ tā jiào huáng dì
从那天起他叫皇帝

From that day he was called huangdi —
emperor.

PAGE 8

tā shuō zì jǐ shì dì yī gè
他说自己是第一个
suǒ yǐ jiào shǐ huáng dì
所以叫始皇帝

He said he was the first, so he was the First
Emperor.

PAGE 9

tā hái shuō hòu miàn de rén jiào
他还说后面的人叫
èr shì sān shì dào wàn shì
二世三世到万世

He said his heirs would be the Second, the
Third, to the ten thousandth.

PAGE 10

yǒu dà chén shuō kě yǐ bǎ tǔ
有大臣说可以把土
dì fēn gěi wáng zǐ men
地分给王子们

A minister said the land could be divided
among his sons.

PAGE 11

lǐ sī zhàn chū lái fǎn duì shuō
李斯站出来反对说
zhōu cháo jiù shì zhè yàng wán de
周朝就是这样完的

Li Si objected, saying that was exactly how
Zhou had ended.

PAGE 12

tā shuō fēn le dì jǐ dài yǐ
他说分了地几代以
hòu jiù huì dǎ qǐ lái
后就会打起来

He said if the land were divided, in a few
generations they would fight.

huáng dì tóng yì le bǎ tiān xià
皇帝同意了把天下
fēn chéng sān shí liù gè jùn
分成三十六个郡

The emperor agreed, and divided the empire
into thirty-six commanderies.

tā ràng quán guó de chē chē lún
他让全国的车车轮
yí yàng kuān
一样宽

He made every cart in the country the same
width.

jùn lǐ de guān yóu huáng dì pài
郡里的官由皇帝派
zuò bù hǎo jiù huàn
做不好就换

Officials were appointed by him, and
replaced if they failed.

yīn wèi lù shàng de chē yìn yí
因为路上的车印一
yàng chē cái zǒu de kuài
样车才走得快

Because then the ruts matched, and carts
could move fast.

tā hái ràng quán guó yòng yí yàng
他还让全国用一样
de zì
的字

He also made the whole country use the
same script.

zhè xiē shì hòu lái liǎng qiān nián
这些事后来两千年
de zhōng guó dōu zài yòng
的中国都在用

China used these things for the next two
thousand years.

皇帝 · Writing Practice

Emperor

Name: _____

Date: _____

皇帝

huáng dì
emperor

皇	帝				
---	---	--	--	--	--

一样

yī yàng
same

一	样				
---	---	--	--	--	--

大臣

dà chén
chancellor (of a monarch...)

大	臣				
---	---	--	--	--	--

可以

kě yǐ
can

可	以				
---	---	--	--	--	--

全国

quán guó
whole nation

全	国				
---	---	--	--	--	--

公元前

gōng yuán qián
BCE (before the Common ...)

公	元	前			
---	---	---	--	--	--

天下第一

tiān xià dì yī
first under heaven

天	下	第	一
---	---	---	---

变成

biàn chéng
to change into

变	成				
---	---	--	--	--	--

Trace the gray word in the first group, then practise writing it in the rest. Keep each stroke inside the dashed lines.

chángchéng hé chí dào

长城和驰道

The Wall and the Roads

PAGE 1

běi biān yǒu yì xiē qí mǎ de
北 边 有 一 些 骑 马 的
bù zú qín cháo jiào tā men xiōng
部 族 秦 朝 叫 他 们 匈
nú
奴

In the north lived riders whom Qin called the
Xiongnu.

PAGE 4

méng tián bǎ xiōng nú gǎn zǒu le
蒙 恬 把 匈 奴 赶 走 了
qī bǎi duō lǐ
七 百 多 里

Meng Tian drove them back more than seven
hundred li.

PAGE 2

xiōng nú lái de kuài zǒu de yě
匈 奴 来 得 快 走 得 也
kuài hěn nán dǎ
快 很 难 打

They came fast and left fast, and were hard
to fight.

PAGE 5

kě shì rén yì zǒu xiōng nú yòu
可 是 人 一 走 匈 奴 又
huí lái le
回 来 了

But the moment the army left, they came
back.

PAGE 3

qín shǐ huáng pài méng tián dài sān
秦 始 皇 派 蒙 恬 带 三
shí wàn rén qù běi biān
十 万 人 去 北 边

The emperor sent Meng Tian north with
three hundred thousand men.

PAGE 6

yú shì qín shǐ huáng jué dìng zào
于 是 秦 始 皇 决 定 造
yí dào hěn cháng de qiáng
一 道 很 长 的 墙

So the emperor decided to build a very long
wall.

PAGE 7

běi biān běn lái jiù yǒu jǐ duàn
 北边本来就有几段
 jiù qiáng shì liù guó liú xià de
 旧墙是六国留下的

There were already old walls up there, left by
 the six states.

PAGE 10

zào cháng chéng de rén yǒu de shì
 造长城的人有的是
 bīng yǒu de shì fàn rén
 兵有的是犯人

Some who built it were soldiers, and some
 were convicts.

PAGE 8

tā ràng rén bǎ nà xiē jiù qiáng
 他让人把那些旧墙
 lián qǐ lái
 连起来

He had those old walls joined together.

PAGE 11

yě yǒu hěn duō shì cóng jiā lǐ
 也有很多是从家里
 zhuā lái de bǎi xìng
 抓来的百姓

Many more were ordinary people taken from
 their homes.

PAGE 9

nà dào qiáng hòu lái jiào cháng chéng
 那道墙后来叫长城

That wall came to be called the Great Wall.

PAGE 12

dōng tiān hěn lěng shān shàng hěn gāo
 冬天很冷山上很高
 hěn duō rén méi yǒu huí lái
 很多人没有回来

The winters were cold, the mountains high,
 and many never came home.

nà shí hou yǒu yì shǒu gē chàng
那 时 候 有 一 首 歌 唱
de shì cháng chéng xià miàn de gǔ
的 是 长 城 下 面 的 骨
tou
头

There was a song then about the bones
beneath the wall.

cóng xián yáng chū fā jǐ tiān jiù
从 咸 阳 出 发 几 天 就
néng dào hěn yuǎn de dì fang
能 到 很 远 的 地 方

From Xianyang you could reach a distant
place in days.

qín shǐ huáng hái xiū le hěn duō
秦 始 皇 还 修 了 很 多
lù jiào chí dào
路 叫 驰 道

The emperor also built many roads, called
chidao.

zhè xiē dōng xī dōu hěn yǒu yòng
这 些 东 西 都 很 有 用
yě dōu shì yòng rén mìng huàn de
也 都 是 用 人 命 换 的

All of it was useful, and all of it was bought
with lives.

chí dào yòu zhí yòu kuān kě yǐ
驰 道 又 直 又 宽 可 以
ràng chē pǎo de hěn kuài
让 车 跑 得 很 快

They were straight and broad, and carts
could run fast on them.

hòu lái de rén yì biān yòng zhè
后 来 的 人 一 边 用 这
xiē lù yì biān jì zhe nà xiē
些 路 一 边 记 着 那 些
gǔ tou
骨 头

Later people used the roads and
remembered the bones at the same time.

长城和驰道 · Writing Practice

The Wall and the Roads

Name: _____

Date: _____

北边

běi biān
north

北	边				
---	---	--	--	--	--

回来

huí lái
to return

回	来				
---	---	--	--	--	--

有的是

yǒu de shì
have plenty of

有	的	是			
---	---	---	--	--	--

那些

nà xiē
those

那	些				
---	---	--	--	--	--

后来

hòu lái
afterwards

后	来				
---	---	--	--	--	--

骨头

gǔ tou
bone

骨	头				
---	---	--	--	--	--

驰道

chí dào
highway for the emperor

驰	道				
---	---	--	--	--	--

这些

zhè xiē
these

这	些				
---	---	--	--	--	--

Trace the gray word in the first group, then practise writing it in the rest. Keep each stroke inside the dashed lines.

fén shū
焚书

Burning the Books

PAGE 1

yǒu yì tiān huáng dì zài gōng lǐ
有一天皇帝在宫里
qǐng dà chén hē jiǔ
请大臣喝酒

One day the emperor gave his ministers a banquet.

PAGE 4

lǐ sī tīng le hěn shēng qì zhàn
李斯听了很生气站
qǐ lái shuō huà
起来说话

Li Si was angry and rose to answer.

PAGE 2

yǒu yí gè xué zhě zhàn qǐ lái
有一个学者站起来
shuō gǔ shí hou de bàn fǎ gèng
说古时候的办法更
hǎo
好

A scholar stood and said the old ways had been better.

PAGE 5

tā shuō zhè xiē rén zhǐ huì shuō
他说这些人只会说
gǔ shí hou hǎo xiàn zài bù hǎo
古时候好现在不好

He said such men only ever say the past was good and the present bad.

PAGE 3

tā shuō yào xué zhōu cháo bǎ tǔ
他说要学周朝把土
dì fēn gěi wáng zǐ
地分给王子

He said they should copy Zhou and give land to the princes.

PAGE 6

tā shuō tā men dú de shū yuè
他说他们读的书越
duō yuè bù tīng huáng dì de huà
多越不听皇帝的话

He said the more books they read, the less they obeyed.

PAGE 7

yú shì tā chū le yí gè zhǔ
于是他出了一个主
yì
意

So he made a proposal.

PAGE 10

huáng dì tóng yì le
皇帝同意了

The emperor agreed.

PAGE 8

chú le yī shū zhòng dì de shū
除了医书种地的书
hé suàn mìng de shū
和算命的书

Except for books on medicine, farming and
divination —

PAGE 11

nà yì nián hěn duō shū biàn chéng
那一年很多书变成
le huī
了灰

That year a great many books became ash.

PAGE 9

bié de shū quán bù shāo diào
别的书全部烧掉

every other book was to be burned.

PAGE 12

yǒu yì xiē rén bǎ shū cáng zài
有一些人把书藏在
qiáng lǐ cáng zài dì xià
墙里藏在地下

Some people hid books inside walls and
under the ground.

PAGE 13

dì èr nián yòu chū le yí jiàn
第二年又出了一件
shì
事

The next year something else happened.

PAGE 16

chá chū sì bǎi liù shí duō gè
查出四百六十多个
quán bù mái le
全部埋了

More than four hundred and sixty were
found, and all were buried.

PAGE 14

yǒu liǎng gè fāng shì shuō yào gěi
有两个方士说要给
huáng dì zhǎo xiān yào ná le qián
皇帝找仙药拿了钱
jiù pǎo
就跑

Two alchemists promised him an elixir, took
his money and fled.

PAGE 17

huáng dì de dà ér zǐ fú sū
皇帝的大儿子扶苏
shuō zhè yàng zuò bù hǎo
说这样做不好

The emperor's eldest son Fusu said this was
wrong.

PAGE 15

huáng dì dà nù ràng rén chá xián
皇帝大怒让人查咸
yáng de dú shū rén
阳的读书人

The emperor raged, and had the scholars of
Xianyang investigated.

PAGE 18

huáng dì bǎ tā pài dào běi biān
皇帝把他派到北边
gēn méng tián yì qǐ shǒu cháng chéng
跟蒙恬一起守长城

The emperor sent him north to guard the wall
with Meng Tian.

焚书 · Writing Practice

Burning the Books

Name: _____

Date: _____

皇帝

huáng dì
emperor

皇	帝				
---	---	--	--	--	--

站起来

zhàn qǐ lái
to stand up

站	起	来			
---	---	---	--	--	--

古时候

gǔ shí hou
in ancient times

古	时	候			
---	---	---	--	--	--

不好

bù hǎo
no good

不	好				
---	---	--	--	--	--

全部

quán bù
whole

全	部				
---	---	--	--	--	--

大臣

dà chén
chancellor (of a monarch...)

大	臣				
---	---	--	--	--	--

喝酒

hē jiǔ
to drink (alcohol)

喝	酒				
---	---	--	--	--	--

生气

shēng qì
to get angry

生	气				
---	---	--	--	--	--

Trace the gray word in the first group, then practise writing it in the rest. Keep each stroke inside the dashed lines.

qiú xiān
求仙

Seeking the Immortals

PAGE 1

huáng dì yuè lǎo yuè pà yí jiàn
皇帝越老越怕一件事
shì
事

The older the emperor grew, the more he
feared one thing.

PAGE 4

yǒu rén gào su tā hǎi shàng yǒu
有人告诉他海上有
xiān shān shān shàng yǒu xiān yào
仙山山上有仙药

People told him of immortal mountains at
sea, with an elixir on them.

PAGE 2

nà jiàn shì jiù shì sǐ
那件事就是死

That thing was death.

PAGE 5

yǒu yí gè fāng shì jiào xú fú
有一个方士叫徐福
shuō tā zhī dào lù
说他知道路

An alchemist called Xu Fu said he knew the
way.

PAGE 3

tā dǎ xià le tiān xià kě shì
他打下了天下可是
dǎ bú guò shí jiān
打不过时间

He had conquered the world and could not
beat time.

PAGE 6

huáng dì gěi le tā hěn duō qián
皇帝给了他很多钱
yě gěi le tā hěn duō rén
也给了他很多人

The emperor gave him money and gave him
people.

xú fú dài zhe jǐ qiān gè hái
徐福带着几千个孩
zi chū hǎi qù le
子出海去了

Xu Fu sailed east with several thousand
children.

huáng dì děng le hěn duō nián yì
皇帝等了很多年一
zhí hái zài děng
直还在等

The emperor waited for years, and went on
waiting.

zǒu le yǐ hòu zài yě méi yǒu
走了以后再也没有
huí lái
回来

Once gone, he never came back.

tā yí gòng chū qù guò wǔ cì
他一共出去过五次
zǒu biàn le zì jǐ de tiān xià
走遍了自己的天下

He made five great tours, crossing the whole
of his empire.

yǒu rén shuō tā dào le hěn yuǎn
有人说他到了很远
de dì fang zhù xià le
的地方住下了

Some say he reached a far country and
settled there.

měi yí cì dōu zài zhǎo tóng yí
每一次都在找同一
yàng dōng xī
样东西

Every one of them was a search for the same
thing.

tā hái chī yí yàng yào lǐ miàn
他还吃一样药里面
yǒu shuǐ yín
有水银

He also took a medicine that contained
mercury.

tā zhù de dì fang shéi yě bù
他住的地方谁也不
zhī dào měi tiān dōu huàn
知道每天都换

Nobody knew where he slept; he changed it
every night.

nà yàng yào bú dàn bù néng ràng
那样药不但不能
rén huó de jiǔ hái huì ràng rén
人活得久还会让人
zǎo sǐ
早死

That medicine did not lengthen life. It
shortened it.

yí gè bǎ liù guó dōu dǎ xià
一个把六国都打下
lái de rén
来的人

A man who had brought down six kingdoms.

tā wǎn shàng cháng cháng shuì bù hǎo
他晚上常常睡不好
pà yǒu rén lái shā tā
怕有人来杀他

He often slept badly, afraid someone would
come to kill him.

zuì hòu pà de zhǐ shì yí gè
最后怕的只是一个
zì
字

In the end feared only one word.

求仙 · Writing Practice

Seeking the Immortals

Name: _____

Date: _____

皇帝

huáng dì
emperor

皇	帝				
---	---	--	--	--	--

有人

yǒu rén
someone

有	人				
---	---	--	--	--	--

打下

dǎ xià
to lay (a foundation)

打	下				
---	---	--	--	--	--

天下

tiān xià
land under heaven

天	下				
---	---	--	--	--	--

地方

dì fāng
area

地	方				
---	---	--	--	--	--

告诉

gào su
to tell

告	诉				
---	---	--	--	--	--

海上

hǎi shàng
maritime

海	上				
---	---	--	--	--	--

仙山

xiān shān
mountain of Immortals

仙	山				
---	---	--	--	--	--

Trace the gray word in the first group, then practise writing it in the rest. Keep each stroke inside the dashed lines.

shā qiū
沙丘

Shaqiu

PAGE 1

gōng yuán qián èr yī líng nián huáng
公元前二零年皇

dì yòu chū qù le yí cì
帝又出去了一次

In 210 BCE the emperor set out once more.

PAGE 2

zǒu dào yí bàn tā zài lù shàng
走到一半他在路上

bìng dǎo le
病倒了

Halfway through the journey he fell ill on the road.

PAGE 3

nà nián tā sì shí jiǔ suì
那年他四十九岁

He was forty-nine.

PAGE 4

tā zhī dào zì jǐ bù xíng le
他知道自己不行了

xiě le yì fēng xìn gěi fú sū
写了一封信给扶苏

Knowing he was finished, he wrote a letter to Fusu.

PAGE 5

xìn shàng ràng fú sū huí xián yáng
信上让扶苏回咸阳

zhǔ chí hòu shì
主持后事

It told Fusu to return to Xianyang and take charge.

PAGE 6

xìn hái méi yǒu sòng chū qù huáng
信还没有送出去皇

dì jiù sǐ zài shā qiū
帝就死在沙丘

Before the letter was sent, the emperor died at Shaqiu.

PAGE 7

tā shēn biān zhǐ yǒu jǐ gè rén
他 身 边 只 有 几 个 人
zhī dào zhè jiàn shì
知 道 这 件 事

Only a handful of people around him knew.

PAGE 10

tā zhǎo dào lǐ sī gēn tā shuō
他 找 到 李 斯 跟 他 说
le hěn jiǔ de huà
了 很 久 的 话

He went to Li Si and talked with him a long time.

PAGE 8

nà jǐ gè rén shì chéng xiàng lǐ
那 几 个 人 是 丞 相 李
sī zhào gāo hé xiǎo ér zǐ hú
斯 赵 高 和 小 儿 子 胡
hài
亥

They were the chancellor Li Si, Zhao Gao,
and the youngest son Hu Hai.

PAGE 11

zuì hòu lǐ sī tóng yì le
最 后 李 斯 同 意 了

In the end Li Si agreed.

PAGE 9

zhào gāo bù xǐ huan fú sū yīn
赵 高 不 喜 欢 扶 苏 因
wèi fú sū gēn méng tián hǎo
为 扶 苏 跟 蒙 恬 好

Zhao Gao disliked Fusu, because Fusu was
close to Meng Tian.

PAGE 12

tā men bǎ nà fēng xìn gǎi le
他 们 把 那 封 信 改 了
ràng fú sū zì jǐ sǐ
让 扶 苏 自 己 死

They rewrote the letter, ordering Fusu to take
his own life.

PAGE 13

fú sū jiē dào xìn zhēn de zhào
扶 苏 接 到 信 真 的 照
zuò le
做 了

Fusu received it, and did as it said.

PAGE 16

huáng dì jiù zhè yàng huí dào le
皇 帝 就 这 样 回 到 了
xián yáng
咸 阳

And so the emperor came home to Xianyang.

PAGE 14

nà shí hou shì xià tiān shī tǐ
那 时 候 是 夏 天 尸 体
hěn kuài jiù yǒu wèi dào
很 快 就 有 味 道

It was summer, and the body soon began to
smell.

PAGE 17

hú hài dāng le èr shì huáng dì
胡 亥 当 了 二 世 皇 帝
kě shì zhào gāo shuō le suàn
可 是 赵 高 说 了 算

Hu Hai became the Second Emperor, but
Zhao Gao decided everything.

PAGE 15

tā men zài chē shàng fàng le hěn
他 们 在 车 上 放 了 很
duō xián yú ràng rén wén bù chū
多 咸 鱼 让 人 闻 不 出
lái
来

They packed the cart with salted fish so
nobody could tell.

PAGE 18

qín cháo chuán dào èr shì jiù wán
秦 朝 传 到 二 世 就 完
le yí gòng shí wǔ nián
了 一 共 十 五 年

Qin ended with the Second Emperor —
fifteen years in all.

沙丘 · Writing Practice

Shaqiu

Name: _____

Date: _____

皇帝

huáng dì
emperor

皇	帝				
---	---	--	--	--	--

出去

chū qù
to go out

出	去				
---	---	--	--	--	--

知道

zhī dào
to know

知	道				
---	---	--	--	--	--

自己

zì jǐ
oneself

自	己				
---	---	--	--	--	--

几个

jǐ ge
a few

几	个				
---	---	--	--	--	--

他们

tā men
they

他	们				
---	---	--	--	--	--

二世

èr shì
the Second (of numbered...)

二	世				
---	---	--	--	--	--

公元前

gōng yuán qián
BCE (before the Common ...)

公	元	前			
---	---	---	--	--	--

Trace the gray word in the first group, then practise writing it in the rest. Keep each stroke inside the dashed lines.