

READING ESCAPE



6 PASSAGES

READING #1

One of the greatest to exist in Asia, dating back to the Shang Dynasty. There were 13 dynasties beginning with the Zhou Dynasty, the last of which remains in China today. Each dynasty, the emperor, the "Huangdi" or emperor, ruled for a certain number of years. When a ruler died, his power was usually passed on to his oldest son. Dynasties including the Han, the Tang, the Ming, and the Qing protected the Chinese from invasions. China is known for many inventions that are still used today. Some of the most famous inventions that include silk, paper, and printing.

DECODER

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READING #2

During the first three dynasties, the country was not united, with different rulers in each area. The first dynasty of ancient China was the Xia Dynasty, founded by Yu the Great. With 17 emperors, it reigned for almost 500 years. Some historians argue whether the Xia Dynasty really existed, but discoveries in archaeology support its existence.

After the Xia Dynasty came the Shang Dynasty, sometimes referred to as the Yin Dynasty, which ruled along the Yellow River. The Zhou Dynasty followed the Shang as the last of the ancient Chinese dynasties, lasting just 15 years. The Qin Dynasty, founded by Liu Bang, was the first to unify China, lasting for 15 years.

DECODER

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READING #3

The Silk Road began during the Han Dynasty. The Silk Road wasn't really a road, but a 4,000-mile trade route that extended from China to Eastern Europe (Rome). Instead of a single route along the Silk Road, there were many unpaved routes. Some were shorter, but more dangerous. Other routes were safer but took longer to travel. Dangers along the routes included thieves, bandits, and rough terrain.

The Silk Road served as a way to trade goods and transfer ideas. It was a major route for tea, porcelain, and silk. Camels were used to carry goods along the route. The Silk Road was a major factor in the spread of the bubonic plague from China to Europe. The Mongol Empire, founded by Genghis Khan, reigned over the Silk Road during its peak.

DECODER

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READING #4

The Han Dynasty and the Han Gaozu. The Han Gaozu was the first emperor of the Han Dynasty. He was known for his military campaigns and his efforts to expand the empire. He was also known for his reforms and his efforts to improve the lives of his subjects. He was a great leader and a great emperor.

DECODER

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READING #5

The Great Wall of China is the longest man-made structure in the world. It was built to keep out northern invaders. While smaller walls were previously built, it was Emperor Qin Shi that ordered the wall with lookouts to protect his empire. The 5,000 mile long Great Wall, as we know it today, was rebuilt by the Ming Dynasty. Other dynasties added on to the wall making it 13,171 miles long.

Emperor Qin Shi Huang, the 1st emperor of the Qin Dynasty, wanted to live forever. He is known for his massive tomb and his efforts to unify China. He was a great leader and a great emperor.

DECODER

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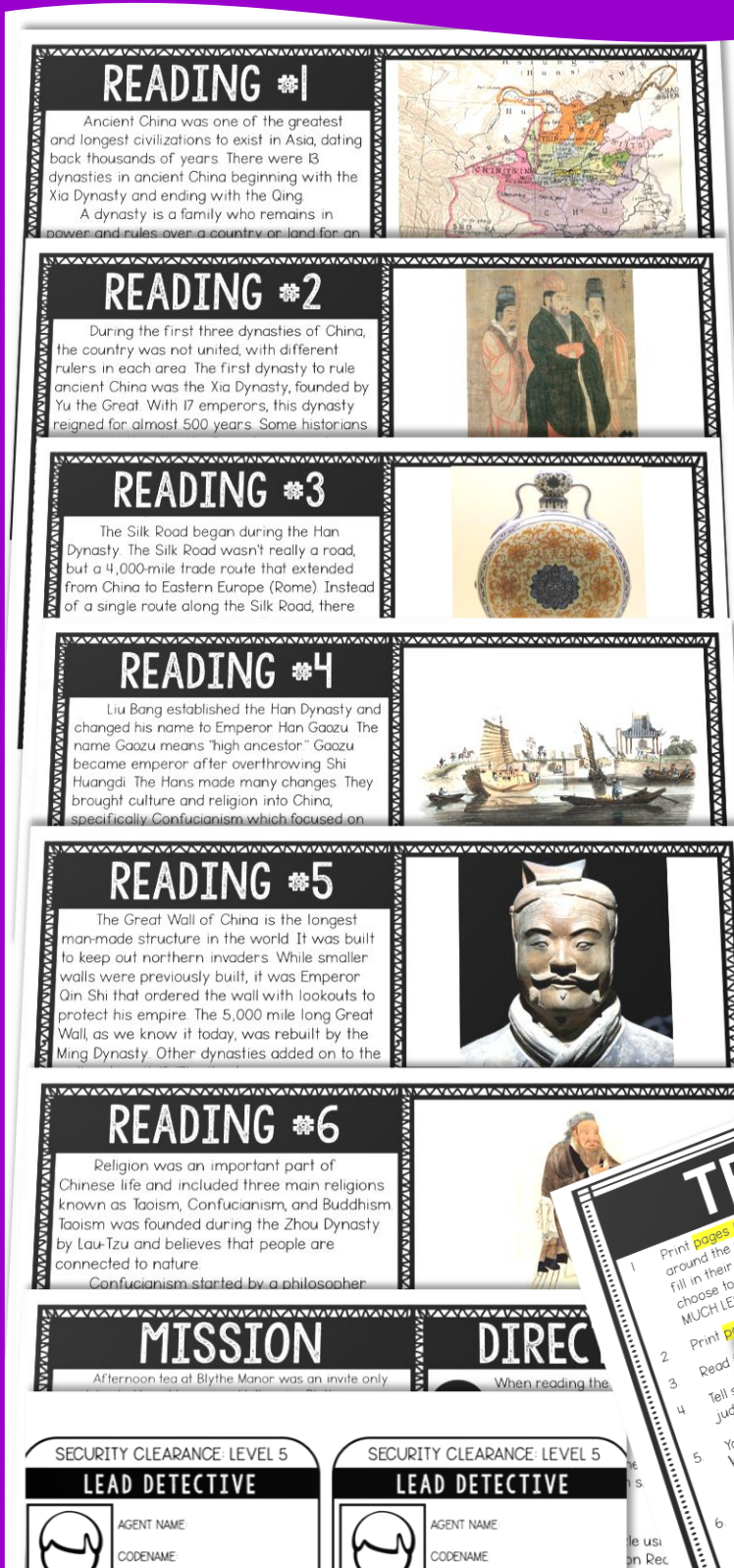
READING #6

Religion was an important part of Chinese life and included three main religions known as Taoism, Confucianism, and Buddhism. Taoism was founded during the Zhou Dynasty by Lao-Tzu and believes that the universe is governed by the Tao. Confucianism was founded by Confucius and focuses on the importance of family and social harmony. Buddhism was introduced to China from India and focuses on the path to enlightenment.

DECODER

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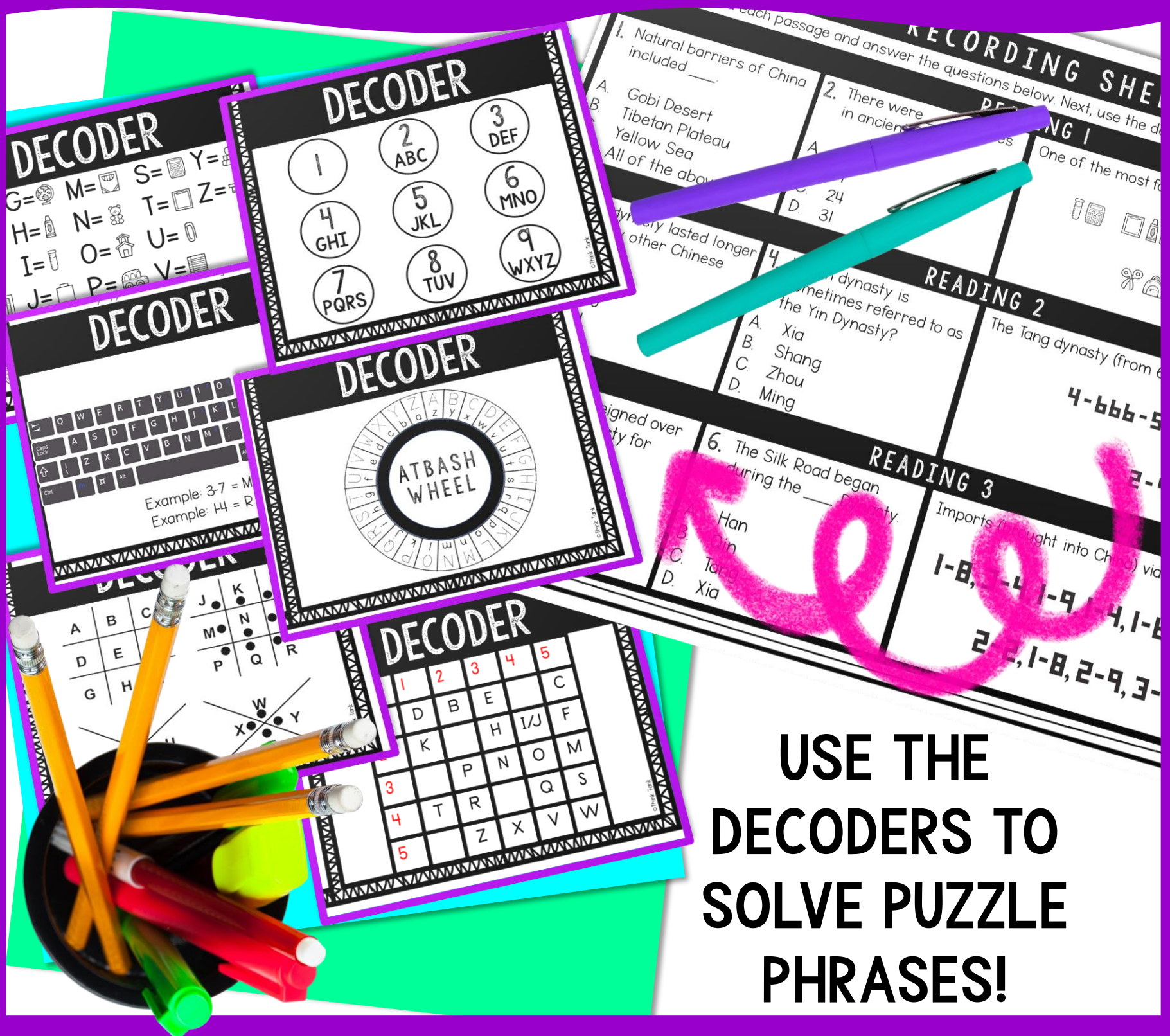
WHAT'S INCLUDED?



- ✓ 6 Half page passages
- ✓ 6 Puzzle decoders
- ✓ 12 Multiple choice Q's
- ✓ Teacher guide
- ✓ Answer key
- ✓ Student directions
- ✓ Hint cards



PUZZLE TYPES



USE THE
DECODERS TO
SOLVE PUZZLE
PHRASES!

NO PREP!

you're as smart
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