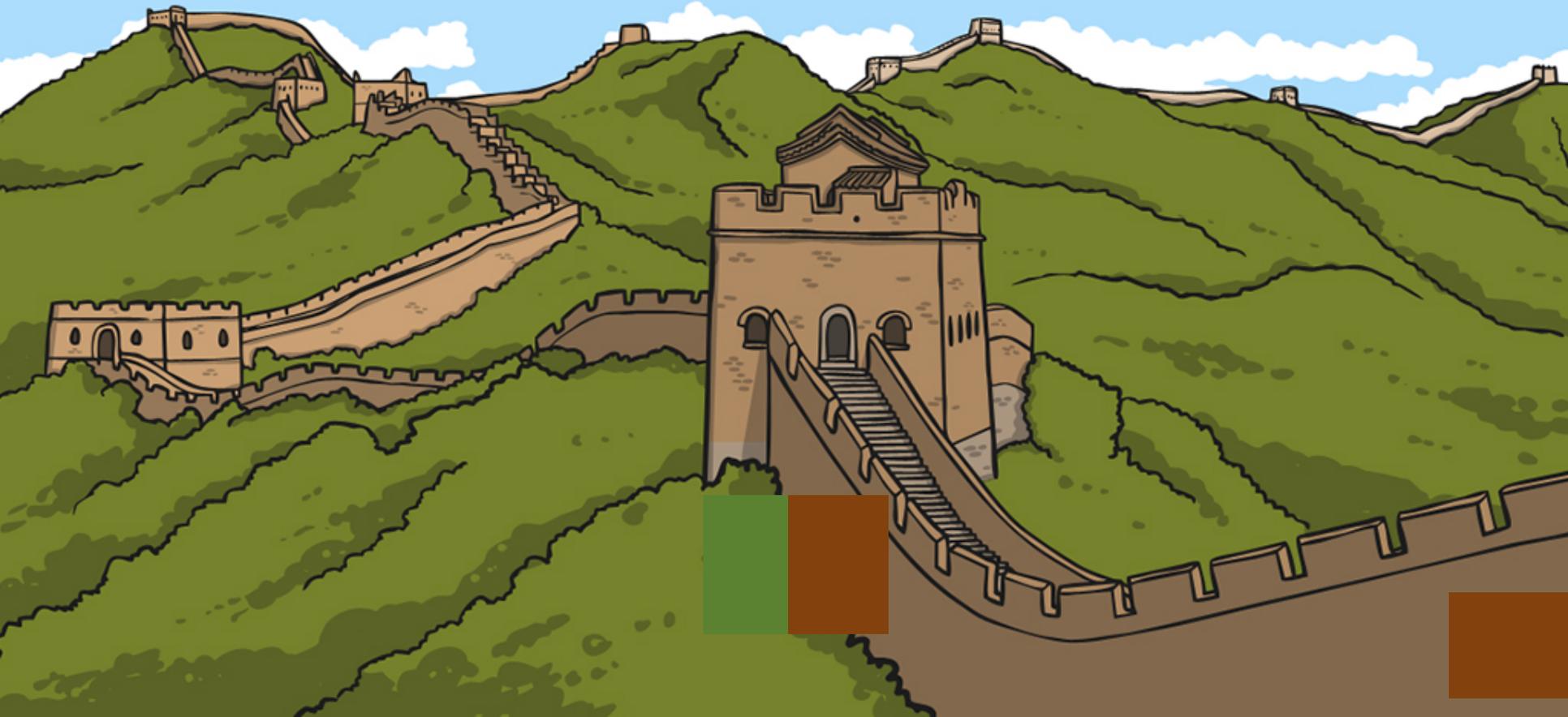


# All About The Great Wall of China



# Who Built the Wall?

The building of the wall began over 2000 years ago, around 200 BC, on the orders of the first emperor of China, Qin Shi Huang. He wanted to protect his new dynasty so he added to a wall that had been started 500 years before.



Did You Know...?

Hundreds of thousands of slaves and prisoners took over 1000 years to build it.

# Where Is the Wall?

The Great Wall of China runs across China from east to west. China is on the continent of Asia. The wall runs near the borders with Mongolia and the Gobi Desert.



# Why Was the Wall Built?

When the wall was started, China was split into lots of different groups and there were many wars. The wall was built as a defence against any groups that tried to invade.



Did You Know...?

Along the wall are 7000 fortresses. These were places that soldiers lived in to guard the wall.

# How Big Is the Wall?

The Great Wall of China stretches for an amazing 21,196km or 13,170 miles. That is nearly half the distance from one side of the world to the other!

The wall has an average height of 6 metres but its highest point is about 14 metres. That is as tall as two London buses balancing on top of each other, end to end! In some areas, the wall is made up of mountains and rivers, so there is no wall at all.



The top of the wall is wide enough to allow people, animals and carts to travel along it.

# Can You Visit the Wall?

The Great Wall of China has been popular with visitors for hundreds of years. Today, over 10 million people visit it each year, making it one of the most popular places in the world.

Some parts of the wall have cable cars and toboggans to help with the journey up and down. Because of the shape of the wall, some of the cable car rides are like a rollercoaster!

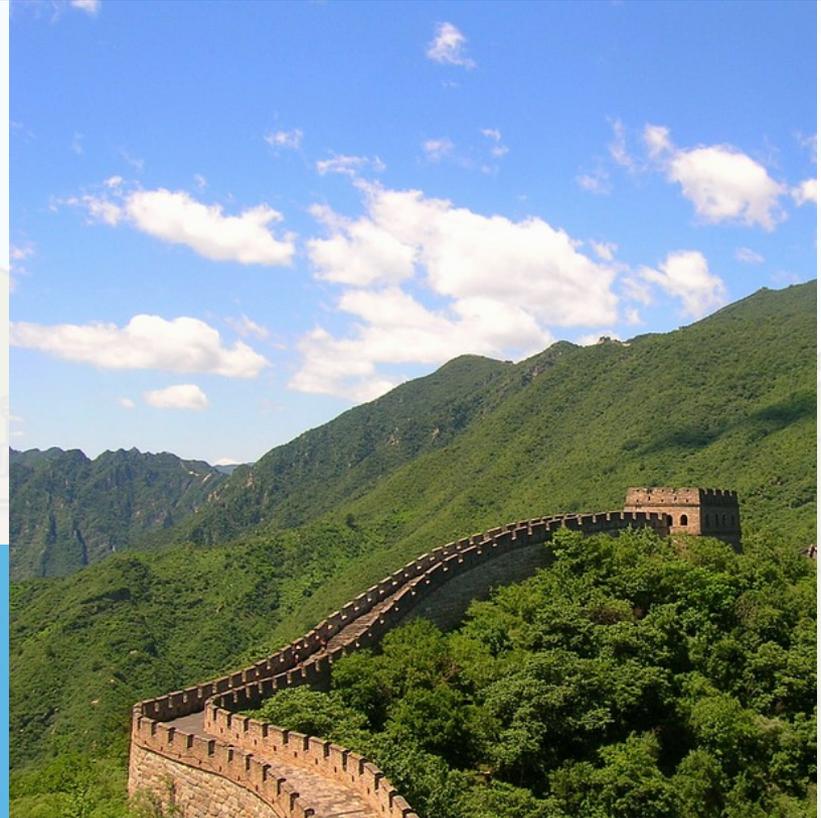


Did You Know...?

# The Dragon and the Wall

Where the Great Wall of China meets the sea is known as 'Old Dragon's Head'. It is believed that the shape of the wall was marked out by a dragon, which explains why it is not straight.

Because the Chinese believe that dragons are a symbol of power, good luck and friendship, it was thought the wall was lucky and was protected by the dragon.



Did You Know...?