

T. T. Tsui Gallery of Chinese Art
Activities Pamphlet: Six Dynasties Ceramics

Natural Expressions



Military Equipment



You are here

Editors: Judy CHAN LEE Suk-yee
CHENG Woon-teng
LO Yan-yan

Designers: Doris WONG
Jennie CHAN



Printed by the Printing Department
(Printed on paper made from woodpulp derived from renewable forests)

201002A—11/2002

Military Equipment of the Six Dynasties

Secret Agents

Your mission today, should you choose to accept it, is to go back to the Six Dynasties period (3rd-6th century A.D.) of ancient China — the Three Kingdoms, the Wei and Jin dynasties and the Northern and Southern dynasties — to find out what was the best military equipment of that time. Make sure you record your observations and send them to headquarters. **Upon the successful completion of your mission, you will be awarded the Badge of Courage, First Class.**

Now,
find out about the
armoured horses
first!



Follow me!



Armoured Horses

In the Six Dynasties, warhorses wore heavy armour on the battlefield. The armour was made of metal or leather to give the horses strong and full protection. Can you spot any differences between the two materials? Record details of the materials using the stickers provided.

(Hint: Go to the display case "Natural Expressions" to look at two pairs of armoured horses!)



1. Made of _____



2. Made of _____

Please think for a second:

The heavy armour of a warhorse was largely made of metal. But wouldn't the heavy weight slow down the horse?

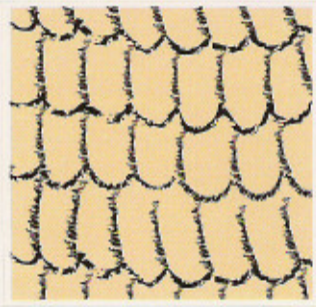


Answers
1. Metal
2. Leather (with black stripes)

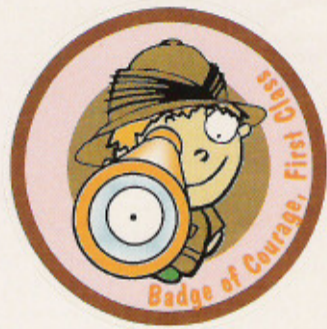
Now let's look at the armour the soldiers used to wear! →



Leather (with black stripes)

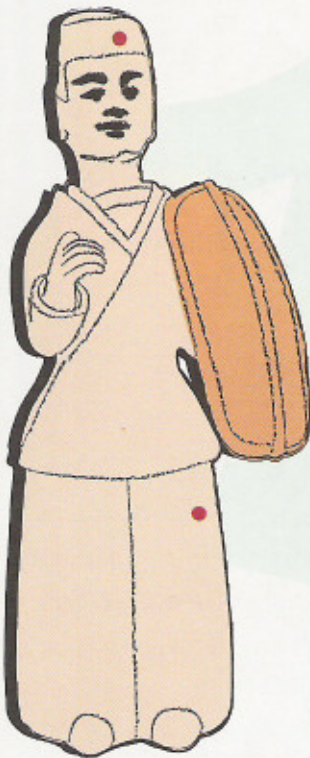


Metal



Cavalrymen

In the Wei and Jin dynasties, cavalrymen from the north of China were heavily armoured. In contrast, cavalrymen from the south were more lightly equipped. Can you identify the differences between the armour of the northern and southern cavalrymen? Record their characteristics by matching them with the correct pictures. Then try to analyse the advantages and disadvantages of each uniform.

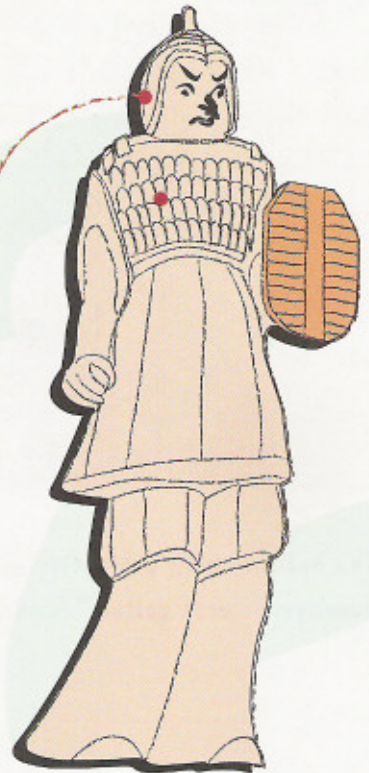


Fengmao
(round hood to guard against the wind and cold)

Helmet

Tunic with an overlapping front and baggy trousers

Liangdangkai
(sleeveless armour comprising two large rectangular shields tied together at the shoulder)



1. _____ cavalryman

Without heavy armour:

advantages: _____

disadvantages: _____

2. _____ cavalryman

Heavily armoured:

advantages: _____

disadvantages: heavy equipment slows

down movement



The helmets of the cavalrymen look interesting. Let's have a look!

Answers
1. Southern cavalryman
Fengmao
Helmet
2. Northern cavalryman
Tunic with an overlapping front
Liangdangkai
and baggy trousers

Cavalrymen's Helmets

New Discovery



The helmets with protective ear covers worn by the cavalrymen were called "doumou".



Look! A "tiger's head helmet"! This cavalryman's enemies must have been very afraid when they saw him wearing the head of this fierce animal on his head.

Design and name an awe-inspiring helmet that could protect you against enemy attack!

(Hint: Get some inspiration from the display case "Natural Expressions"!)

It is called: _____



New Image




Who is wearing the tiger's head helmet? →

What a huge army! **Try to find** the cavalrymen who are wearing the tiger's head helmet and **circle** them.



Answers

What a powerful sound that horn is making! Is it from a military band? 

Military Music

In the Northern and Southern dynasties, troops were deployed and given their orders on the battlefield using military music. Drums, panpipes and horns were all musical instruments used in the army at that time. Look! the instruments carried by these three soldiers are missing. Can you draw in the instruments these soldiers should be carrying in their hands.

(Hint: Go to the display cases "Natural Expressions" and "Military Equipment"!)



horn
long and curved, made from animal horns



taogu
rattles with long handles



bingu
small drums held at the waist



Do you think music might have had another function in the army? What?

Congratulations!

You have completed this important mission. Please accept our commendation and don't forget to report your observations back to headquarters.

