

***The Journey* Related Activities:**

Create a Tomb Model

We've just learned about the elaborate preparations for the afterlife in Han Dynasty China. Have the class work together to create a model of a tomb, with different chambers for the various goods needed for the journey to the afterlife. Divide the class into groups to work on: food, clothing, protection, entertainment, spiritual needs, companionship, and anything else that might be needed. This could be done on paper with pictures collaged into the tomb, or three-dimensionally with clay or other materials, like a diorama.

Relate it to the Here and Now

Discuss how we honor ancestors today in our culture. Visit a cemetery and study the gravestones. What can we learn from the gravestones and gravesites? What's the oldest stone in the cemetery? Make rubbings of gravestones from different time periods. Research the families in the cemetery-were they important to the history of your city / town? What contributions did they make? Are there any streets/buildings named after anyone in the cemetery? How do our customs compare with Chinese traditions?

Extension Activity

Talk about the traditions of other cultures such as Egypt or Greece or Rome. Were their customs similar to those of the ancient Chinese? In what ways?