

UOW College Hong Kong / Community College of City University
Student English Enhancement Unit (SEE U)
Daily English Practice

Week 8

#90 The Qing Dynasty (1644AD – 1911AD)

Skills/ Objectives: To train students' reading, listening and writing skills

PART 1: Before you read...

Preparatory questions

We have been reading political histories of Chinese dynasties in the preceding four exercises. Let us have a break from the swords and arrows and turn to something peaceful. In the main article named below, we are going to read about a cultural aspect of the Qing Dynasty. Before reading the article, do you know the answers to the following?

Qt 1: What is a deng?

Qt 2: What are the two symbols of authority embroidered on the Qing Emperor Qian Long's silk jifu?

Try to find the answers from the main article named below. The answers will appear in the following set of exercises.

Vocabulary

1. ritual (noun): fixed action in a ceremony
2. glimpse (noun): a short glance at something
3. rigorous (adjective): done in a serious manner
4. sacrificial (adjective): offered to gods or spirits
5. compendium (adjective): a book giving a full description of a subject
6. paraphernalia (noun): all equipment required for a particular function
7. intricacy (noun): the characteristic of having many fine details
8. libation (noun): wine poured out or drunk in honour of god of the dead person
9. repository (noun): place for storing useful items
10. embellishment (noun): decoration of something to make it beautiful
11. artifacts (noun): objects made by man
12. perch (verb): to stay on the edge of something
13. stout (adjective): fat around the waist
14. rage (noun): strong anger

The answer to the question in the preceding set of exercises No. 89: The Ming Dynasty (1368AD - 1644AD) is as follows:

Qt 1: The reason for Chinese people's strong support for Zhu Yuanzhang to overthrow the Yuan Dynasty was that they were suffering from (i) a series of natural disasters that hit China during the early and middle 1300s and (ii) the harsh rule of the Mongol rulers.

PART 2: Article for Reading

Here is the main article today about an artistic aspect of Qing Dynasty:

Standard 26 February 2019

<http://www.thestandard.com.hk/section-news.php?id=205062>

PART 3: Listening Comprehension

Let us do some listening practice with the following interesting stories about the Qing Dynasty:

Qing Conquest of the Ming - 3 Minute History

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E-QOBGR69Sw>

Why did the Qing Empire Collapse?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tYasXo4YOPs>

History Unfurled: A Qing Dynasty Masterpiece

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PnJBRfQL8oQ>

BBC Documentary 2017 - The Last Emperor of China - History Documentary

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HETE0cIKM20>

PART 4: Writing Practice

Write a short response to the following question:

Did you notice the following nice expression in the early part of first paragraph in the article?

“The exhibition at the Art Museum gives a glimpse into the world behind the palace doors.”

The expression “something gives a glimpse into” makes a lively description of how a certain thing (here it is the exhibition) tells a lot of hidden secrets covered up by another thing (here it is the Qing Dynasty palace doors). This good expression can be applied to many other contexts. Here is an example:

“Hitler’s diary provides a glimpse into the mind of this aggressive dictator.”

To practice use of this expression, please write two sentences with your own stories and send them to see.u@cccu.edu.hk. Remember! Our SEE U teachers are always ready to give you feedback.