

# The Field Museum Education Department Presents

## Educator Guide Part 2: Fun Facts

The Field Museum Education Department develops On-line Educator Guides to provide detailed information on field trip planning, alignment with Illinois State Goals and Learning Standards, as well as hands-on classroom activities to do before or after your visit to the Museum.



## Splendors of China's Forbidden City: The Glorious Reign of Emperor Qianlong

March 12—September 12, 2004

Explore the hidden world of the Imperial Court and experience the Chinese empire at the peak of its wealth and power.



# Splendors of China's Forbidden City: The Glorious Reign of Emperor Qianlong

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## Educator Guide Part 2: Fun Facts

March 12—September 12, 2004

**Did you know? Here are some quick fun facts to introduce your students.**

### Quick Facts About the Imperial Palace (Forbidden City)

- 1 The Forbidden City, also known as the Imperial Palace, was located in the center of the Manchu section of Beijing. It is now called the Palace Museum and it originally contained 9,999 rooms.
  - 1 Tiananmen Square is located just south of the Palace Museum.
  - 1 The Forbidden City was divided into the Inner Court (the personal residences of the emperor and his family) and the Outer Court (the area from which he ruled).
  - 1 The Imperial Palace was constructed between 1406 and 1420.
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### Quick Facts About the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911)

- 1 Emperors included Shunzhi (1644-1661), Kangxi (1662-1722), Yongzheng (1723-1735), Qianlong (1736-1795), Jiaqing (1796-1820), Daoguang (1821-1850).
  - 1 The Qing Dynasty marks the beginning of minority Manchu rule over majority Han China.
  - 1 The Manchu victory in 1644 ended the Ming dynasty of the Han Chinese. The Ming had ruled China for nearly three hundred years, from 1368 to 1644.
  - 1 During the Qing Dynasty, Manchu cities and military garrisons were segregated to separate Manchu and Han people.
  - 1 Beijing was the largest Manchu city and the most important of the capital cities in the Qing empire. Like other Manchu cities, Beijing segregated the Han section and the Manchu/Eight Banners section.
  - 1 The Inner City, which housed the Manchu population, was divided into distinct sections, one for each banner. The Imperial Palace was located in the center of the Inner City, surrounded by the eight banner neighborhoods.
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### Quick Facts About the Manchus

- 1 The name “Manchu” became common in the mid 1600s, when several distinct groups of people previously known as the Jurchens unified politically under the leadership of Nurhaci and his descendants.
- 1 Traditionally, Jurchens (Manchu) lived a lifestyle combining hunting, fishing, and agriculture.
- 1 Jurchen peoples spoke the same language (Manchu).
- 1 One of the most distinctive features of Manchu culture was the Eight Banner military and social system. Each Manchu household was identified with a particular banner, and male members of these households were soldiers of that Banner. The roots of the Eight Banners system can be found in the hunting practices of the North Asian peoples in which small groups of hunters worked cooperatively on large scale hunts.
- 1 The Manchus practiced Chinese and Tibetan Buddhism, Daoism, and Shamanism. Many shamans were women.

*Splendors of China's Forbidden City: The Glorious Reign of Emperor Qianlong* was developed by The Field Museum in cooperation with the Palace Museum, Beijing.

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