

ANCIENT CITIES OF MERV RESOURCE AND ACTIVITY SHEETS

Included in this folder are sheets for pupils which fall into two categories: **resource** sheets and **activity** sheets. Although the copyright for the text and photographs remains with the copyright holders, teachers may photocopy any pages they wish for use with their classes.

Resource sheets contain information some of which is taken from the teacher's handbook. The sheets may be used for pre-visit or follow-up work connected with a visit to Ancient Merv.

Activity sheets are designed to be used on the visit itself or to support project work in the classroom.

RESOURCE SHEETS

- 1 The ***Timeline*** for Central Asia, Merv and Khurasan taken from pages 4-5 of the book.
- 2 The ***Silk Routes Map*** taken from pages 8-9 of the book.
- 3 ***Travellers along the Silk Routes*** has information about three famous travellers – Marco Polo, Ibn Battuta and Benedict Goes.
- 4 ***The Peoples of Turkmenistan*** has information about all those

who lived in Merv, including a new section on the Mongols.

- 5 ***Documentary Evidence*** includes all the quotations used in the book with an extra one concerning the Mongols. Teachers might ask pupils to write their own stories about a period in Ancient Merv using these sources.
- 6 ***Historic Photographs*** includes those used in the book but many more have been added. Pupils may find these a useful resource for creative writing and teachers can use the evidence here to show how the buildings have deteriorated over time.
- 7 ***Defending Gyaur Kala*** has information about the walls built around Gyaur Kala from about 280 BC until the Parthian period with photographs showing the phases and the way they may have been defended. This resource may be useful to take out on the visit to Ancient Merv. See linked Activity Sheet 3 (A, B and C).
- 8 ***Buddhist Monastery and Stupa*** has information and

illustrations about this site in Gyaaur Kala.

- 9 ***Aerial Photographs*** has examples of aerial and satellite photographs of Ancient Merv.
- 10 ***Conservation at Work*** is an abbreviated version of the chapter in the book and outlines the main **problems** and **solutions** for conserving the mud brick buildings of Ancient Merv. This resource may be linked with Resource Sheet 11 and Activity Sheet 5.
- 11 ***The Story of Mud Brick*** has photographs taken from a variety of sources which may be used to support Activity Sheet 6.
- 12 ***Ancient Cities of Merv*** plan taken from the inside back cover of the book.

ACTIVITY SHEETS

- 1 ***My Impressions of Merv*** (see the handbook page 33) encourages pupils to look closely at the monuments when they visit Ancient Merv. Teachers may wish to follow this activity up with a discussion in the classroom.
- 2 ***Looking for Evidence.*** There are two Activity Sheets here: one for the Great Kyz Kala (2A) and the other for the Little Kyz Kala (2B). These sheets encourage pupils to make careful observations and find evidence. Teachers may want pupils to work in small groups or pairs and report back to the whole class.
- 3 ***Defending Gyaaur Kala*** is linked to Resources Sheet 7 and looks in detail at the way the Sasanians defended the walls of Gaur Kala using their archers to fire down on the enemy outside from the galleries and arrow slits. There are three Activity Sheets – 3A, 3B and 3C.
- 4 ***What were the buildings used for?*** Helps pupils on a visit to Ancient Merv find evidence for the original uses of some of the buildings. So, for example, evidence for defence at Erk Kala might be ‘it’s difficult to attack because it’s built very high above the ground.’ Some pupils may prefer to make drawings rather than writing and teachers may want to follow this activity up back in the classroom.
- 5 ***Conservation at work*** encourages pupils to think carefully about the serious **problems** of conservation and some of the possible **solutions** by asking them to look carefully at the monuments they visit and make notes about what they see. Pupils will need to have information about conservation from Resources Sheet 10. There is

more information for teachers in the handbook on pages 28-31.

- 6 *The Story of Mud Brick*** may be suitable for younger pupils and shows how mud bricks are made, used for ancient buildings, become abandoned and eroded, are discovered and conserved. These drawings may be used together with Resource Sheet 11.

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