



Writing a Summary

Read the story below. Then complete the activities that follow. For help, you can refer to page 119 in your textbook.

The tomb of China's first emperor, Shih Huang Ti, was a spectacular undertaking. At thirteen, Shih ordered work to begin on his tomb. The tomb represented the world over which Shih expected to rule in the afterlife. Drawn crossbows guarded the entrance, ready to shoot the moment anyone entered. Part of the floor was shaped into a map of the world. Mercury, a liquid metal, flowed through channels that represented the Huang and Chang rivers. Artificial stars sparkled in the ceiling.

Perhaps the most astonishing part of Shih's tomb lay in four pits just east of his burial site. Here, a life-sized army made of clay sculpture would protect him in the afterlife. The largest pit contained more than 3,000 foot soldiers, each one different. Two hundred of the soldiers were equipped with real bows and arrows. Others carried real crossbows and spears. Six chariots, each pulled by six horses, led the columns of silent soldiers. The second pit held the cavalry and included life-sized horses. The third pit was intended as command headquarters. The fourth pit was unfinished when the Qin dynasty fell forty years after the tomb was begun. In all, Shih's underground army included more than 6,000 soldiers.



1. Underline the topic sentence of each of the paragraphs.
2. Write a summary of the article in three or four sentences.
