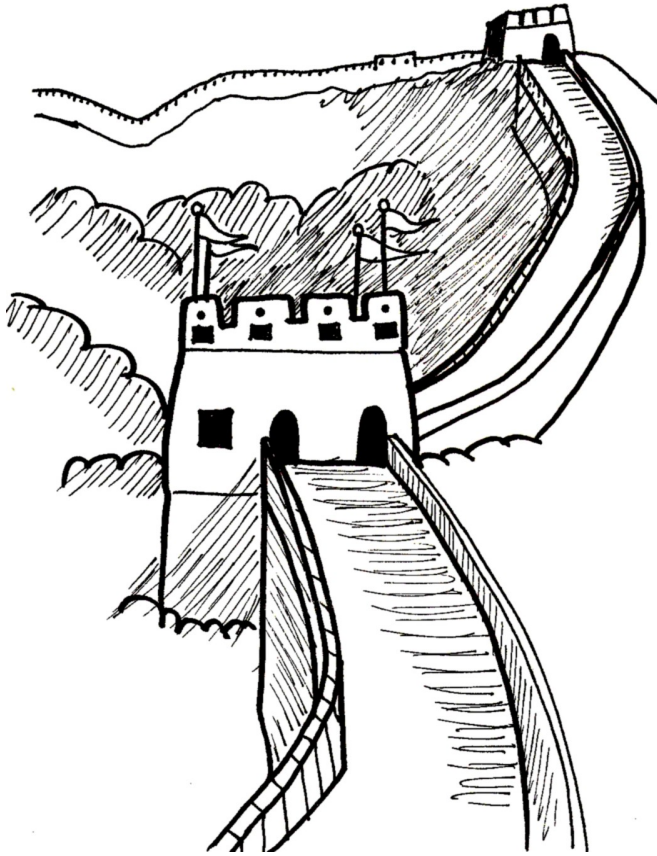


The Great Wall of China



The Great Wall of China is a very old wall made of stone. It is the longest structure that people have ever built.

The wall is 15 to 30 feet (4.5 to 9 meters) wide, and up to 25 feet (7.5 meters) high. At one point the wall may have measured more than 5,000 miles (8,000 kilometers) long, but it is so old that many parts of the wall have broken and disappeared.

The Great Wall was built more than 2,000 years ago to protect northern China from enemy attacks. Watch towers were built along the wall, often on hilltops or other places with a long, clear view. These watch towers could be used to signal danger from a long way away. During the night, guards could light fires or lanterns that would shine brightly in the dark. During the day, they could make smoke signals.

Today, the Great Wall is no longer used to keep out enemies. People come from all over the world to see it. It is one of the greatest wonders of the world!