

# CIXI "THE DRAGON EMPRESS"

## READING QUESTIONS



1. Cixi was born about the same time as:
  - a) Cleopatra
  - b) Christopher Columbus
  - c) Abraham Lincoln
  - d) Harry Potter
2. Cixi's Early Days:
  - a) Cixi loved her childhood and talked about it often.
  - b) Cixi was the youngest daughter of Emperor Xianfeng's most trusted advisor.
  - c) At 18, Cixi was chosen to join 1,000 other women as a concubine to the Emperor.
  - d) Cixi was one of the lucky few Chinese girls who had access to an education.
  - e) all of the above.
3. How old was Cixi's son when his father, Emperor Xianfeng, died?
  - a) 5 months old
  - b) 5 years old
  - c) 15 years old
  - d) 45 years old
4. When Emperor Xianfeng died, what did Cixi do to keep power?
  - a) She barged into the Emperor's room before he died and demanded to know if their son, Zaichun, would be the new heir.
  - b) She arrested the Grand Chancellors before they had a chance to argue against her son, Zaichun, becoming the new Emperor.
  - c) She gave herself the lofty title of Dowager Empress.
  - d) She secretly advised the new ruler while hidden behind a screen.
  - e) All of the above.
5. In Cixi's day, how was the next Emperor traditionally selected?
  - a) The eldest son was automatically made the new heir.
  - b) The emperor would write their name down on a piece of paper and hide it in a box.
  - c) By vote from the ruling chancellors.
  - d) A duel between interested parties (if they weren't poisoned first).
6. What is the Chinese color of royalty?
  - a) Yellow
  - b) Red
  - c) Purple
  - d) Blue

7. What fashion was Cixi known for?
  - a) long, silk gowns
  - b) heavy white powder on her face
  - c) long nails on her fourth and pinky finger
  - d) shoes with a 5 inch wedge in the middle
  - e) all of the above
  
8. What was Cixi rumored eat often?
  - a) Salmon and wild rice with almond milk.
  - b) Fried pork or tofu with douzhi.
  - c) Fish, fresh vegetables and coffee.
  - d) Cixi ate very little as a symbol of her self-control.
  
9. How did Cixi keep power when her son died?
  - a) She brought her oldest grandson to live with her.
  - b) As her son, the Emperor, lay dying, he declared his mother, Cixi, to be the new Empress.
  - c) She adopted a nephew and declared him to be the new Emperor.
  - d) She married the Grand Chancellor who was voted the new Emperor.
  
10. How did Cixi feel about the western world?
  - a) Cixi visited France several times in hopes of making an alliance.
  - b) Cixi worked to create a railroad so the Chinese could sell spices and goods to the wealthy westerners.
  - c) Cixi entertained officials from France and Japan and was known for her lavish dinners.
  - d) Cixi was suspicious of the western world and felt it corrupted the Chinese way of life.