

"Beijing is the capital of China, where fifteen million people live and almost as many bicycles and rickshaws" said Meixiang.

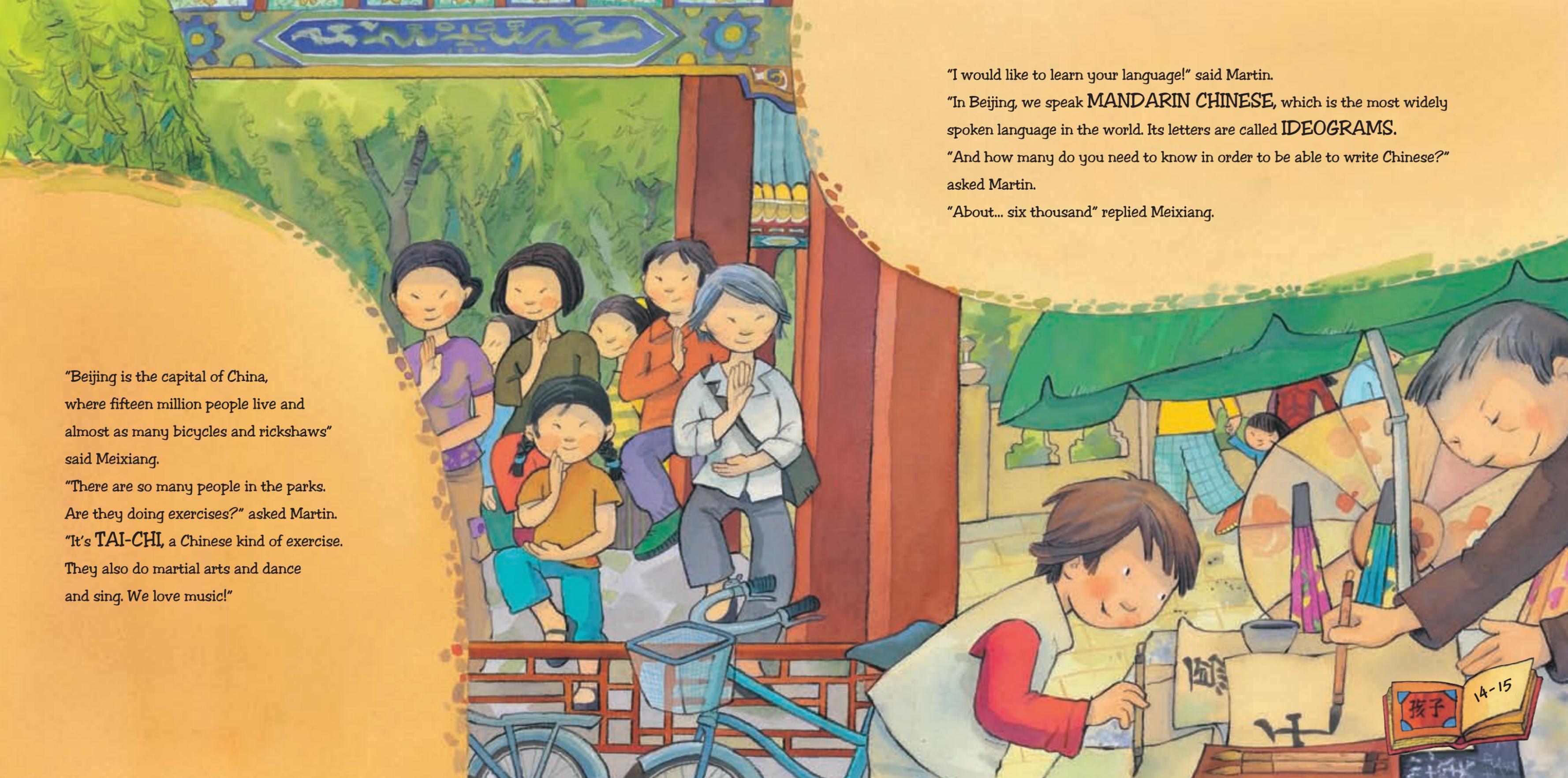
"There are so many people in the parks. Are they doing exercises?" asked Martin. "It's **TAI-CHI**, a Chinese kind of exercise. They also do martial arts and dance and sing. We love music!"

"I would like to learn your language!" said Martin.

"In Beijing, we speak **MANDARIN CHINESE**, which is the most widely spoken language in the world. Its letters are called **IDEOGRAMS**.

"And how many do you need to know in order to be able to write Chinese?" asked Martin.

"About... six thousand" replied Meixiang.



"In **XI'AN**, we find one of the most surprising and mysterious treasures of China: **THE TERRACOTTA ARMY.**"

"They protect the grave of Qin Shi Huang" said Grandfather Wei, "the emperor who united China, more than two thousand years ago."

"There are more than eight thousand warriors! And they're all different!" said Meixiang.

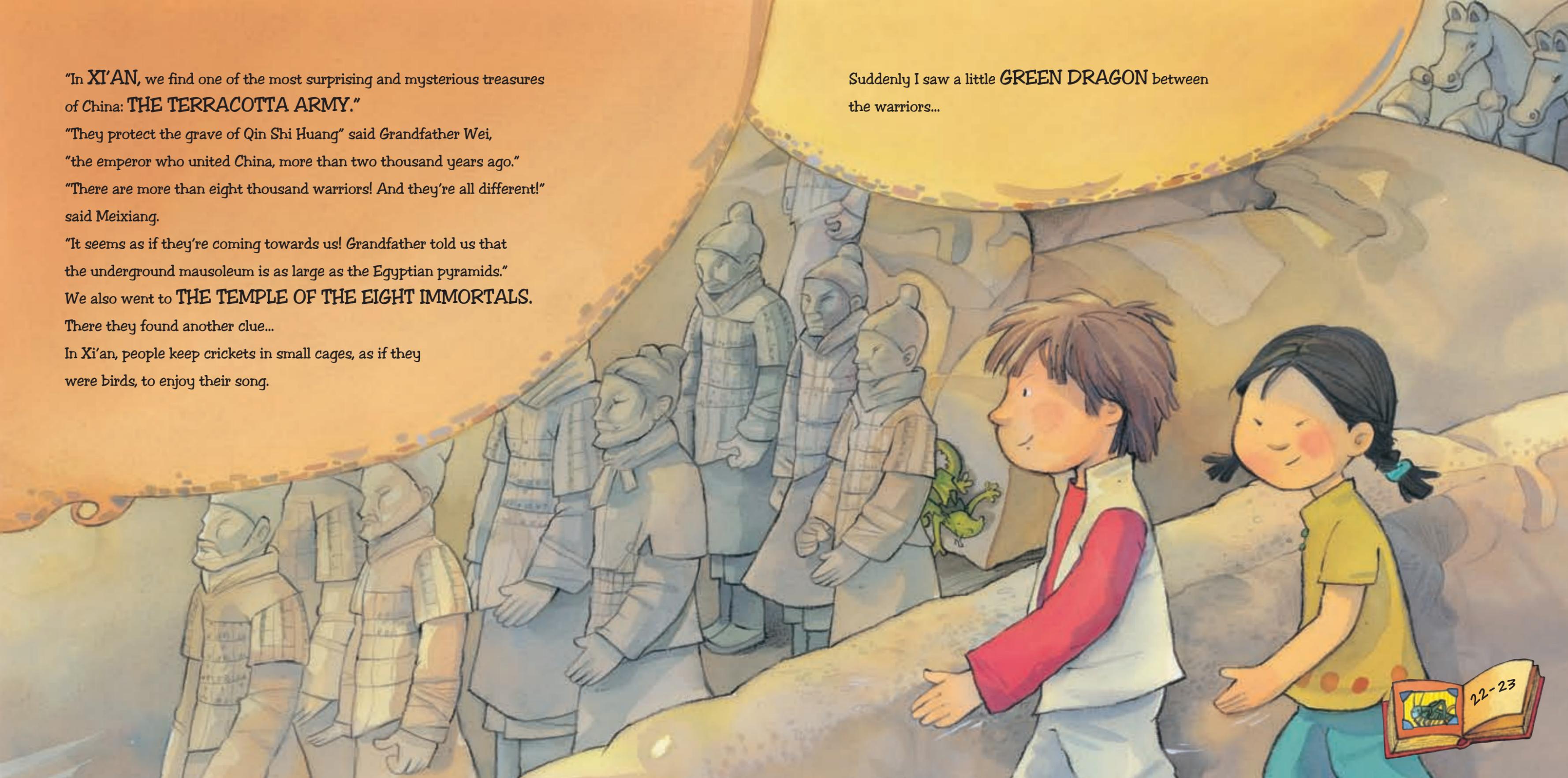
"It seems as if they're coming towards us! Grandfather told us that the underground mausoleum is as large as the Egyptian pyramids."

We also went to **THE TEMPLE OF THE EIGHT IMMORTALS.**

There they found another clue...

In Xi'an, people keep crickets in small cages, as if they were birds, to enjoy their song.

Suddenly I saw a little **GREEN DRAGON** between the warriors...





In **SUZHOU**, we went to the Silk Museum and saw how a silk worm produces silk thread like a magician and when it has completed its work, it becomes a moth! We climbed up a hill where King He Lu died and was buried. Afterwards, a tiger is said to have appeared there, as if it were protecting the grave: The place is called **TIGER HILL**. Then Grandfather Wei took us to the prettiest **BONSAI GARDEN** in China. We felt like giants...

Some children playing Weiqi, a very difficult strategy game invited us to join them. That night I saw again the little dragon, but when I rubbed my eyes a little, it disappeared!

