





"There in the mist, enormous, majestic, silent and terrible, stood the Great Wall of China."

W. Somerset Maugham

The Great Wall

For over 2000 years the Great Wall has wound its formidable way across the hills and mountains of the Chinese countryside. Its construction helped unify a new empire and strengthened the idea of China as a single nation. As an enduring symbol of China's national pride, the wall remains one of the most impressive feats in the history of architecture.



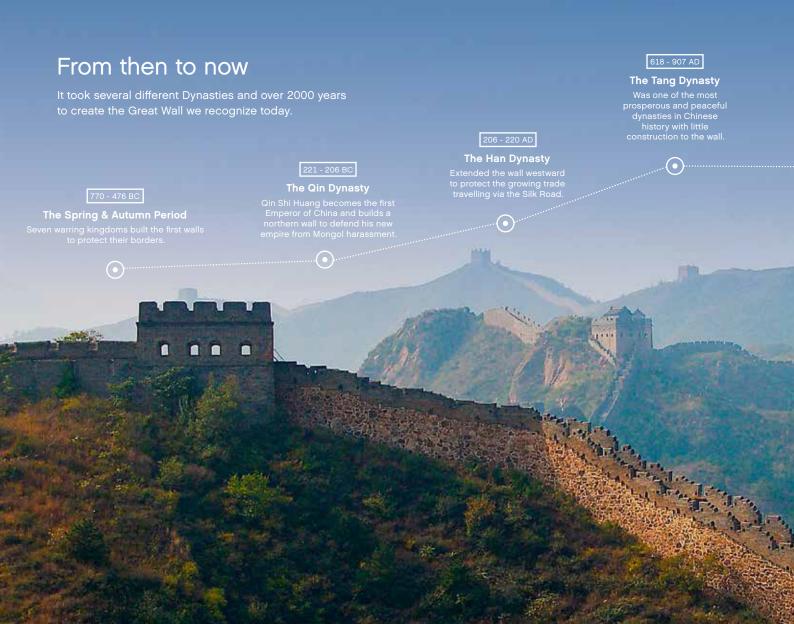
Many people imagine the Great Wall to be one long uninterrupted structure. In reality it is more a 13,000 miles (21,000 km) network of walls that reflect the rise and fall of numerous kingdoms and dynasties. As such, the story of the Great Wall is also the story of China as the nation we recognize today.

In the 3rd Century B.C., Emperor Qin Shi Huang conquered his six neighboring kingdoms, establishing the Qin Dynasty and becoming the first Emperor of China. As well as linking together the many defensive walls the smaller kingdoms had built, he ordered the building of a new northern wall to protect his new empire from marauding tribes.

The following dynasties extended the wall further, but it was during the Ming Dynasty that much of the wall that we recognize today was constructed. In a period that stretched over 100 years, over 5,500 miles (8,850 km) of wall was added. Unlike the first walls that had often been built using compacted earth or wood, these latest sections were made of carved stone or brick. Forts, flanking towers and ramparts were added to create a formidable defensive line.

The end of the Ming Dynasty in 1644 also signaled the end of any construction or maintenance of the Great Wall. This would continue until sections of the wall were restored and opened to the public by the government of the People's Republic of China in the 1950s.







"Until you reach the Great Wall, you are no hero"

Chairman Mao

While foreign travelers have always marveled at the Great Wall, the Chinese themselves only started to appreciate the massive structure midway through the 20th century. This was partly due to the historical financial and human costs of building the wall: heavy taxes had been imposed to pay for it and it's estimated that hundreds of thousands of soldiers, laborers and convicts died during its construction. But also because it had failed to stop the invasions it was built to hinder.

Today the wall plays a major part in the Chinese national identity, and the restored sections, especially around Badaling, have become a major tourist destination with over 10 million visitors each year. The wall was made a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1987, and has long been regarded as one of the seven modern wonders of the world.







"He who has never been to the Great Wall is not a true man."

Chinese poem

Many myths and legends have emerged about the Great Wall. Unfortunately, the most famous one, that it is the only man-made structure on earth that can be seen with the naked eye from outer space, is untrue. At best, the wall can be spotted during a low orbit, but even then only if sunlight and weather permits it.







"长城在迷蒙中赫然矗立着,巨 大雄壮,沉默威严。"

威廉•萨默塞特•毛姆

长城

2000多年来,雄伟的长城穿行在中国的崇山峻岭之间。它的修建有助于新王朝的统一,并强化了中国大一统的思想。作为中华民族自豪感的一个永恒象征,长城是世界建筑史上最令人难忘的壮举之一。



很多人都认为长城是一个绵延万里的连续性建筑。事实上,它更是一个长达21000公里(13000英里)的防御工程体系,见证了无数王朝的兴衰。鉴于此,长城的故事同时也是当代中国的故事。

公元前3世纪,秦始皇统一六国,建立了秦朝,成为了中国历史上第一位皇帝。他不仅将各诸侯国原有的长城连接起来,而且下令在北境修筑新的长城,以保护新帝国免受匈奴的侵扰。

尽管后续各朝都对长城进行了扩建延伸,但直到明代,经过大规模兴建之后,才形成了我们今天所看到的长城。在明朝中期的100多年间,新建了8850多公里(5500英里)的长城。不像首批长城那样使用压实的泥土或木材,明长城的最新段采用了砖石结构。还增建了戍堡、侧翼敌楼和城墙,形成了一道强大的防御体系。

1644年明朝的结束也标志着长城的建造或修缮工作自此终结。 直到1950年,中华人民共和国政府对部分长城进行了修复,并对公 众开放。







"不到长城非好汉"

毛主席

就在外国旅客惊叹于长城的雄伟之时,中国人自己才开始欣赏 20世纪中期的宏大建筑。这一方面由于修筑长城时的无数人力和财 力投入:为修建长城所征收的繁重赋税,据估计有成千上万的士兵、 劳力和罪犯埋骨长城脚下。另一方面由于长城未能阻挡外族入侵。

今天,长城成为了中国国家的一个重要标志,那些修复的部分,尤其是八达岭段,已成为了一个主要旅游景点,每年接待1000多万名游客。长城于1987年列入世界文化遗产,并一直被认为是世界七大奇迹之一。





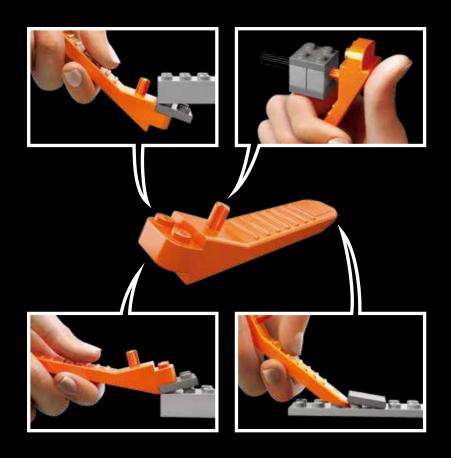


"不到长城非好汉"

中国诗句

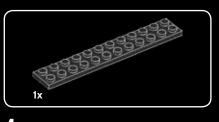
关于长城涌现了许多神话和传说。不幸的是,其中最著名的一个——长城是从外太空中唯一一个可用肉眼看到的人造建筑——是不真实的。在最好情况下——处于近地轨道,并且太阳光照和天气允许,才能发现长城。

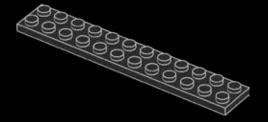


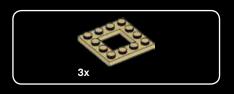


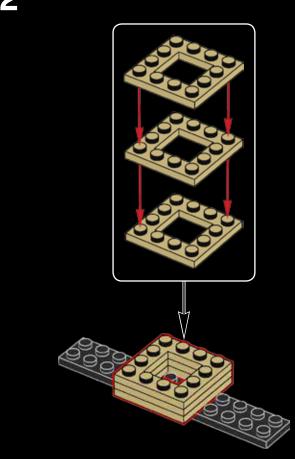


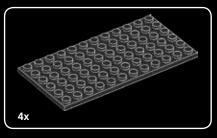
LEGO.com/brickseparator

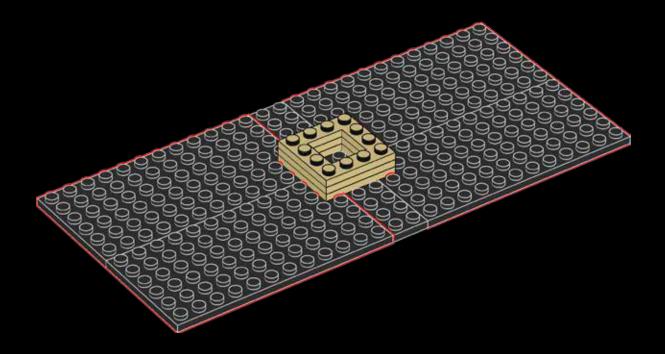


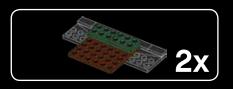


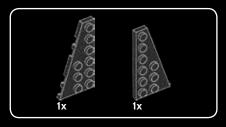


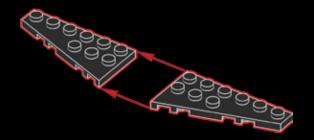


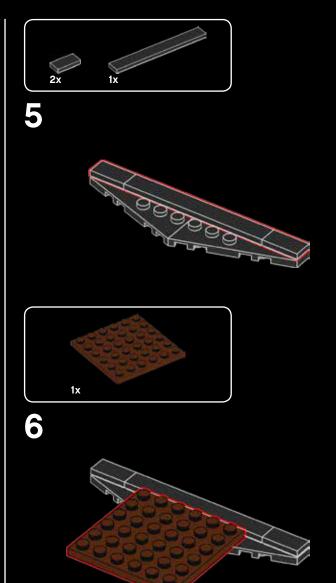


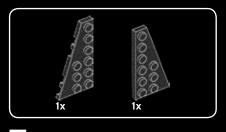




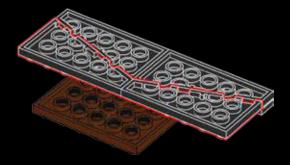




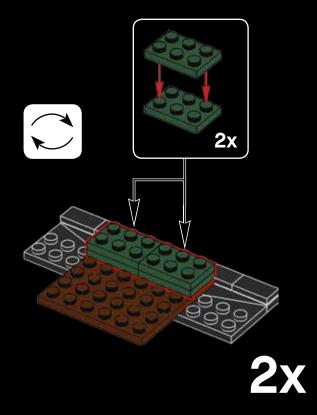




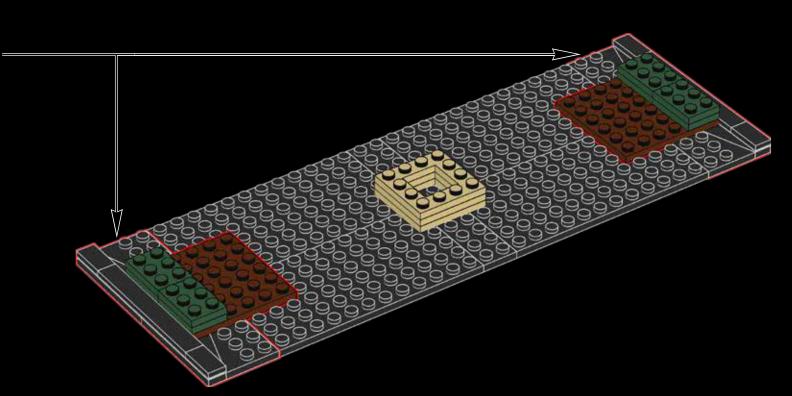


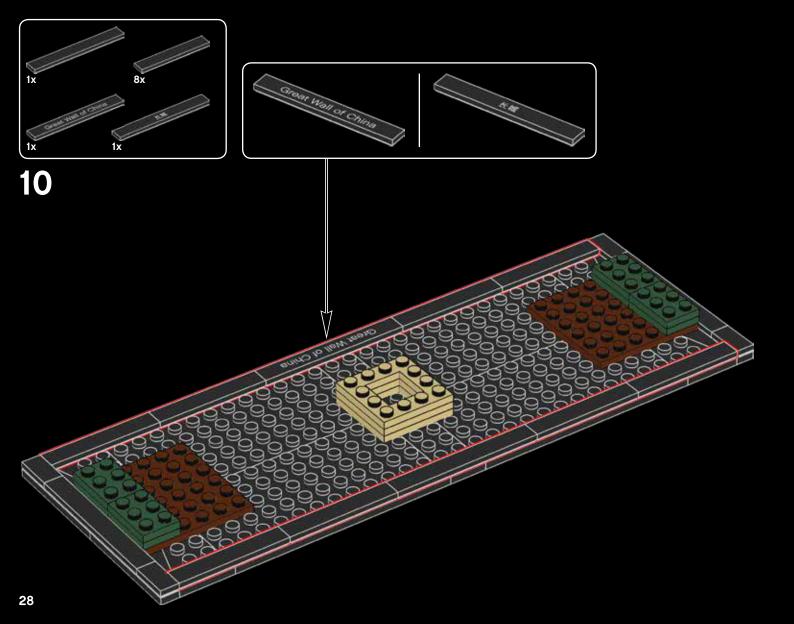


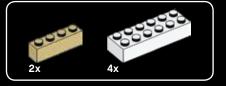


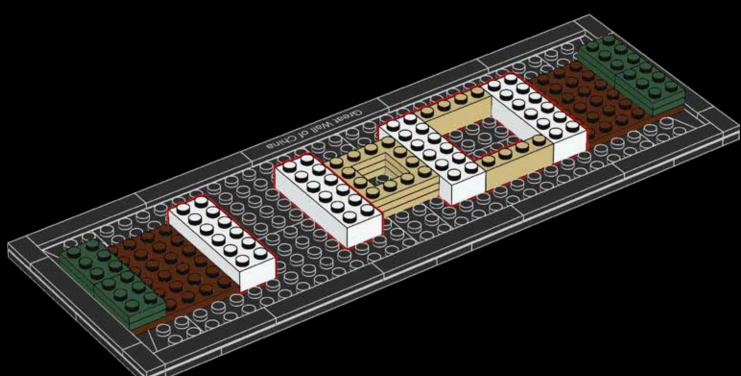


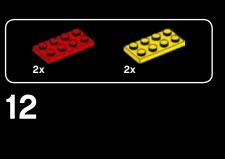


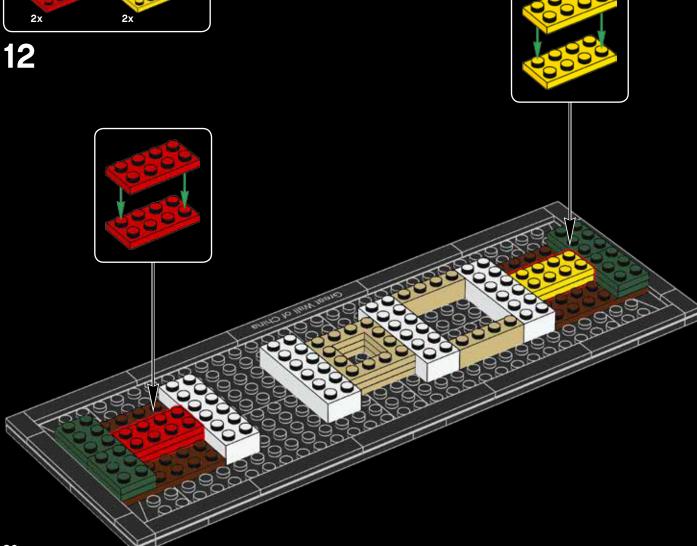


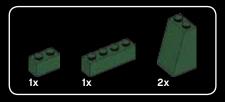


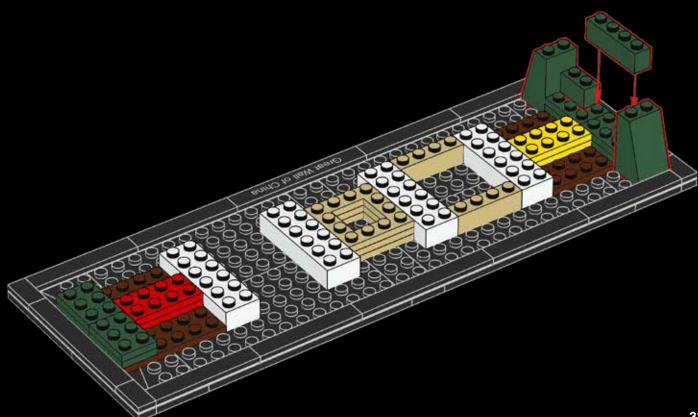




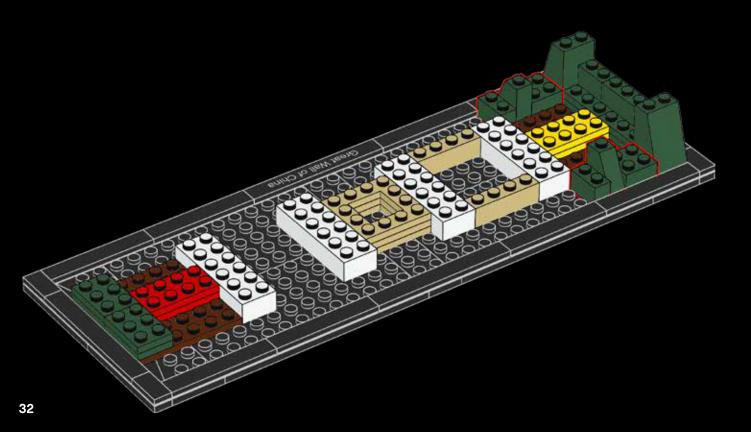








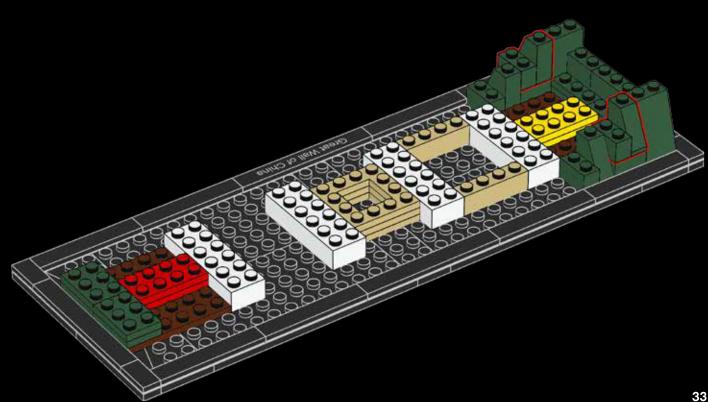




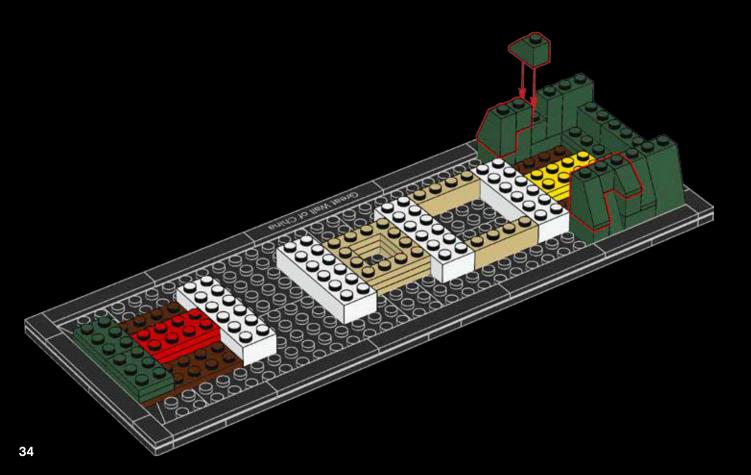


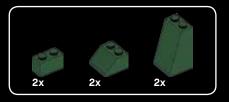
New sections of the wall continue to be discovered, especially around the border of present-day Mongolia. 新段的长城遗址被持续发现, 尤其是在今天的蒙古边界。

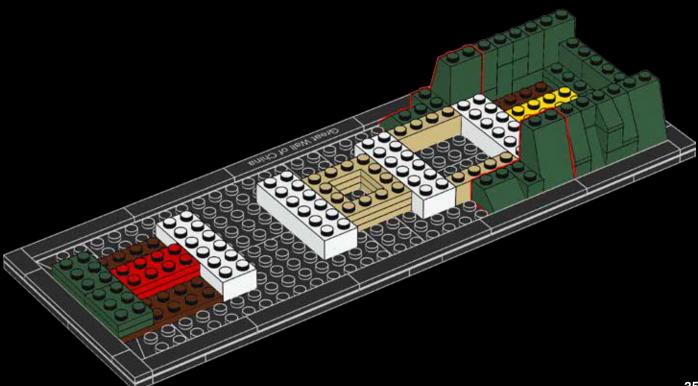




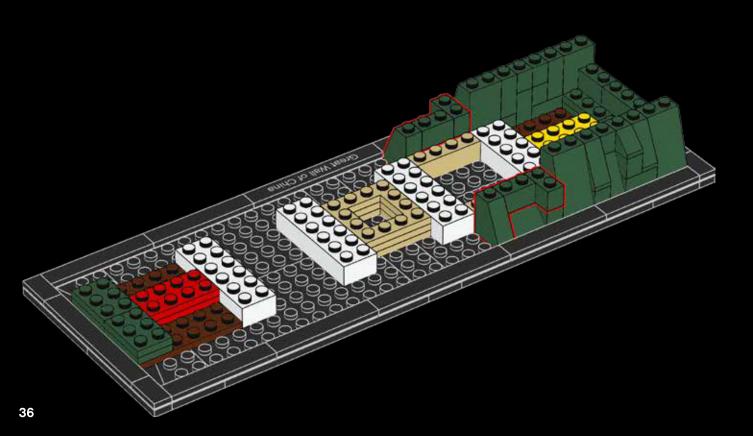


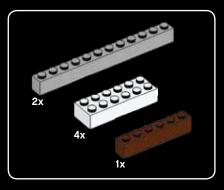


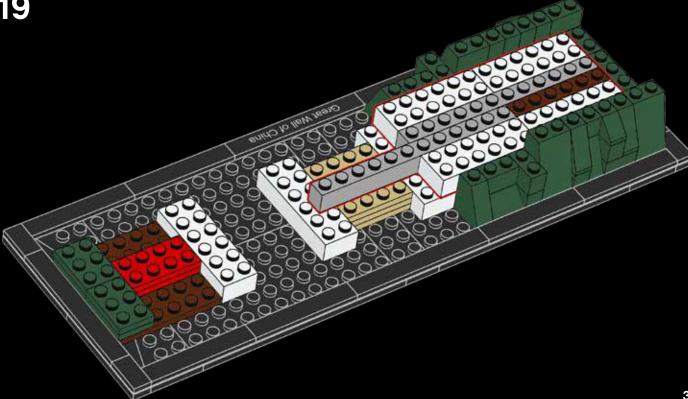




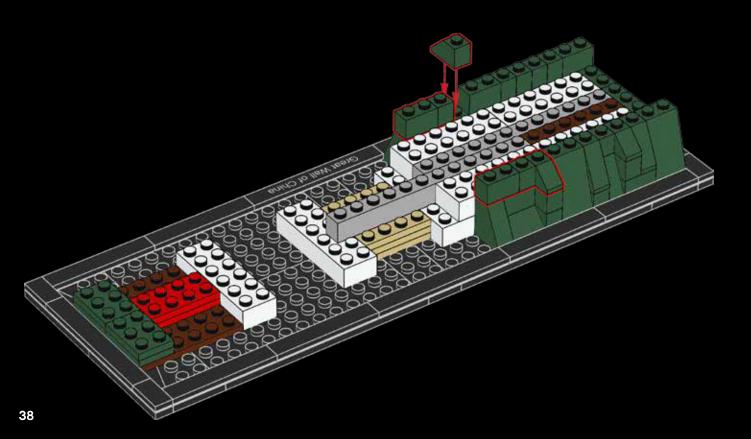


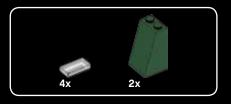






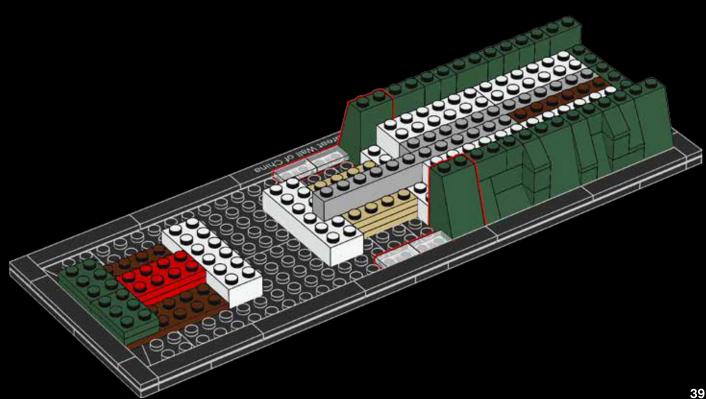


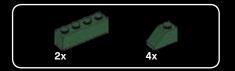


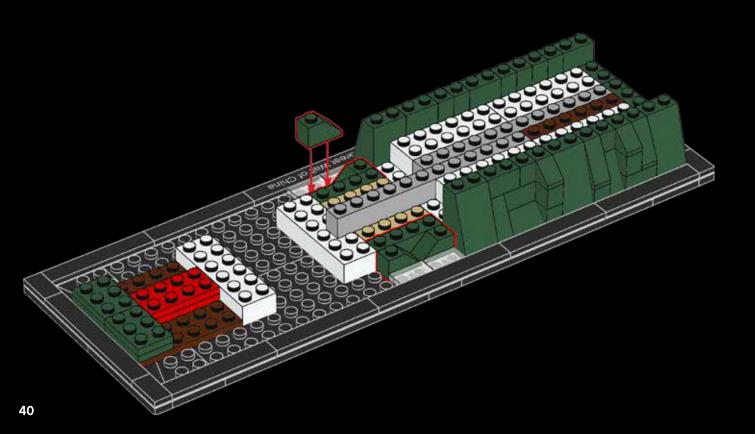


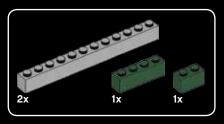
During the 1960s and 1970s, miles of the wall were stripped of bricks to build civilian housing. 在20世纪60年代和70年代, 数英里的长 城被拆毁, 拆下的砖用于建筑民居。

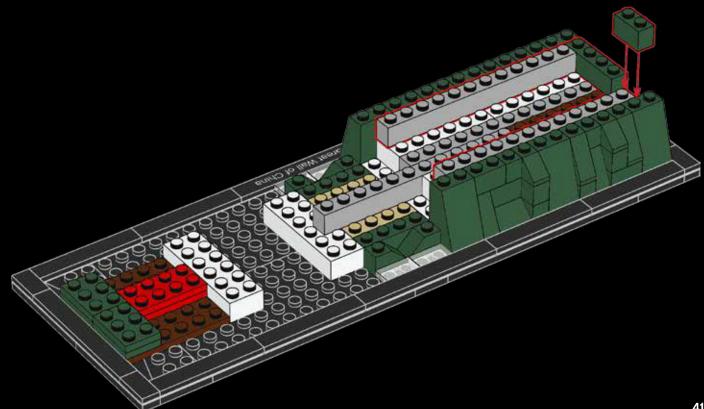




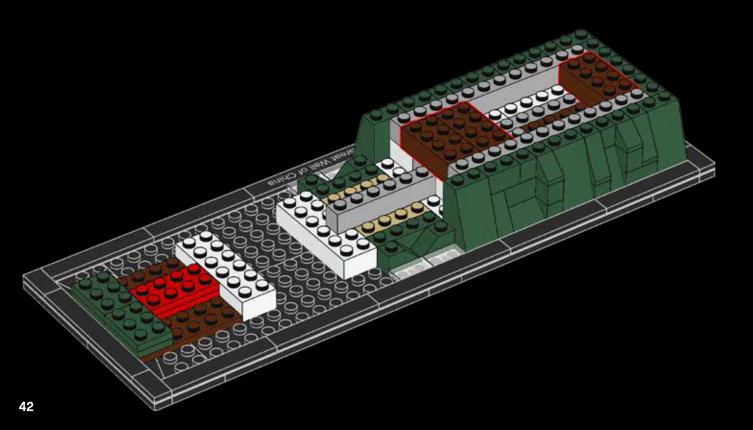








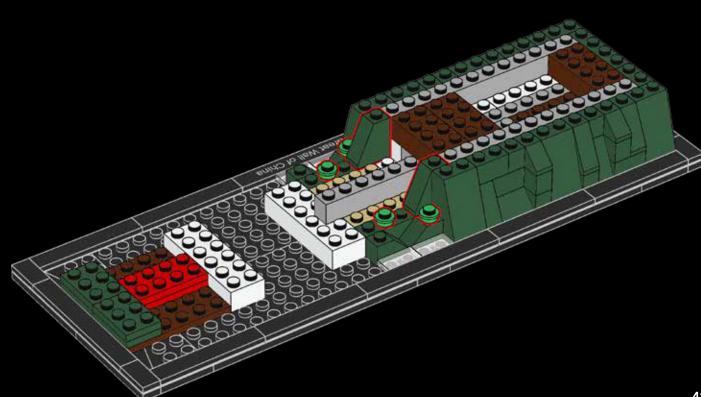






It is believed that almost one third of the wall has disappeared without trace.
人们相信,几乎三分之一的长城已完全消失,无迹可寻。







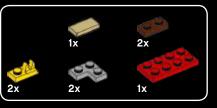




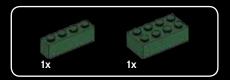
The first mention of the wall outside China came in the early 16th century when a Portuguese writer wrote about a solid wall with a strong garrison. 中国境外首次提及长城的信息可追 溯到16世纪初,一位葡萄牙作家曾 写到一个筑有雄关的长墙。



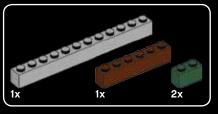


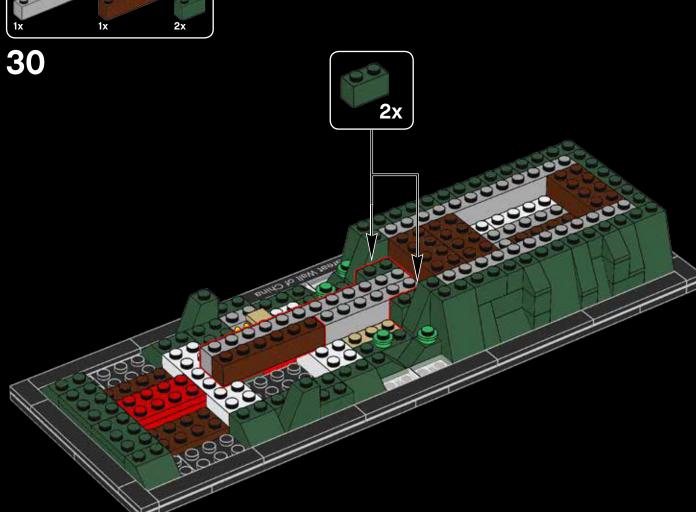


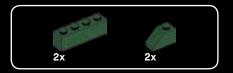


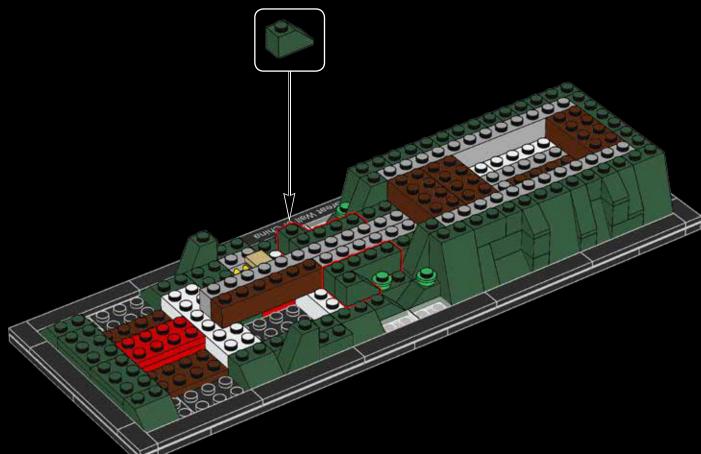


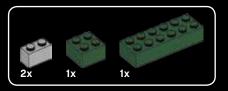






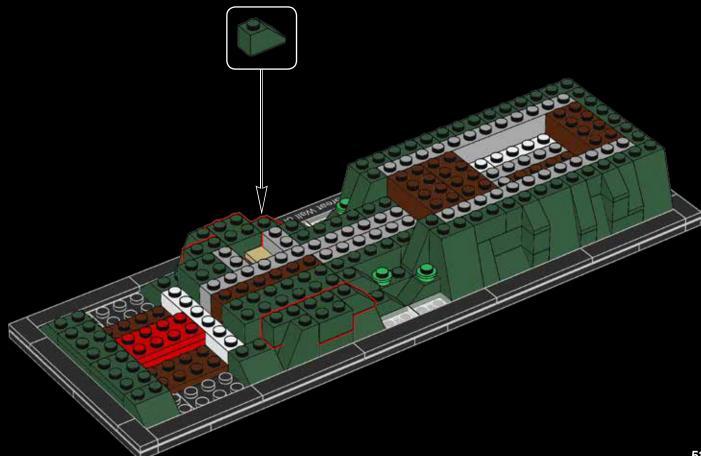




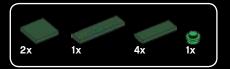






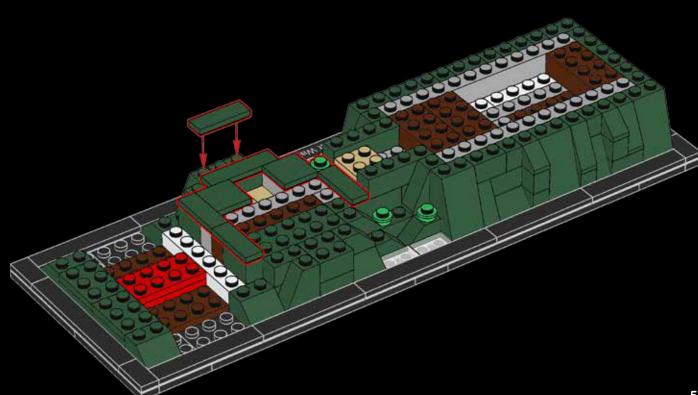


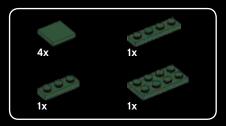


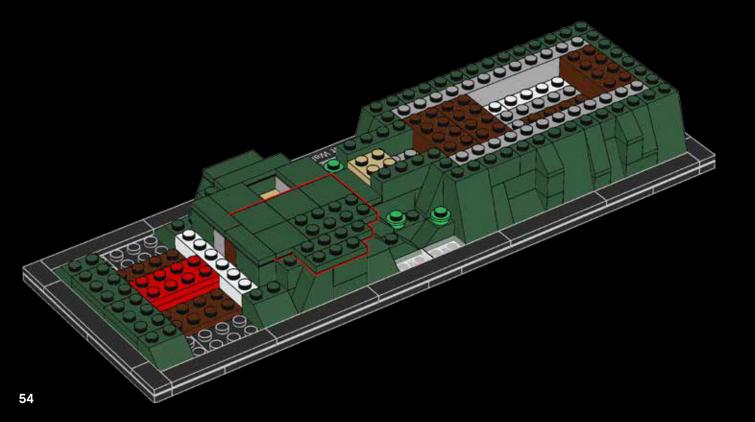


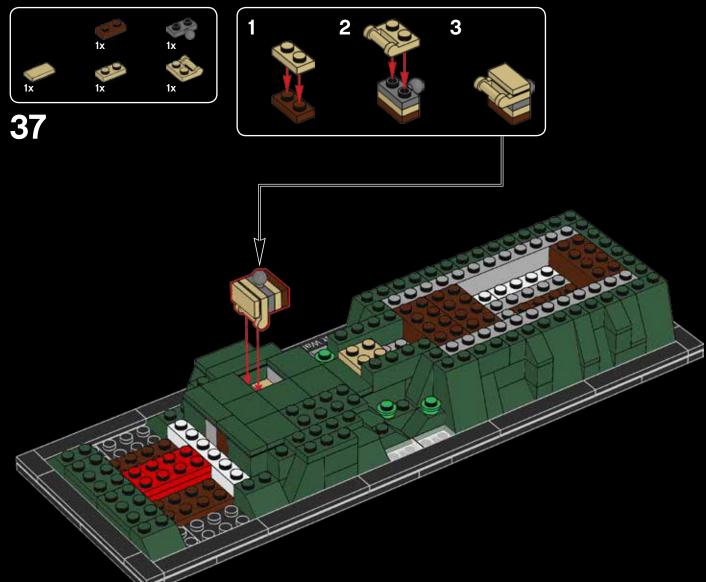
Until the 20th century the Chinese themselves never spoke of a single Great Wall. 二十世纪之前,中国人自己从未提到过 长城。





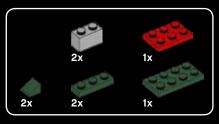




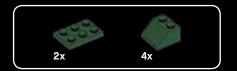












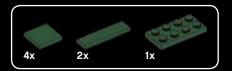


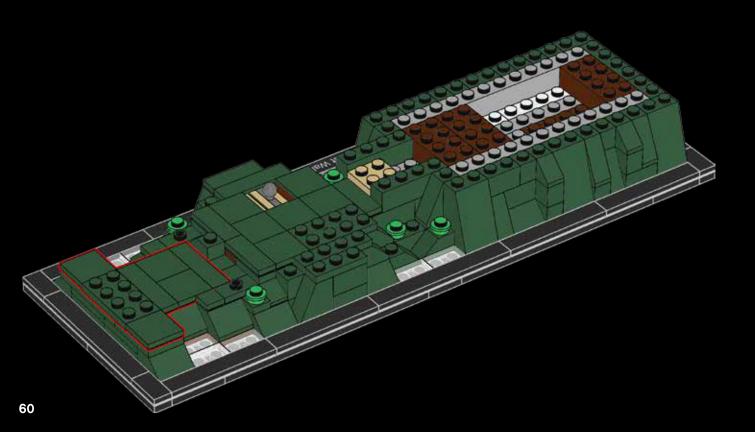


The wall's strength and endurance has been put down to the use of "sticky rice" in the mortar that holds the stones and bricks in place. 长城墙体的高强度和耐久性得益于"糯 米"砂浆,其可将石块和砖块牢牢地黏 接在一起。

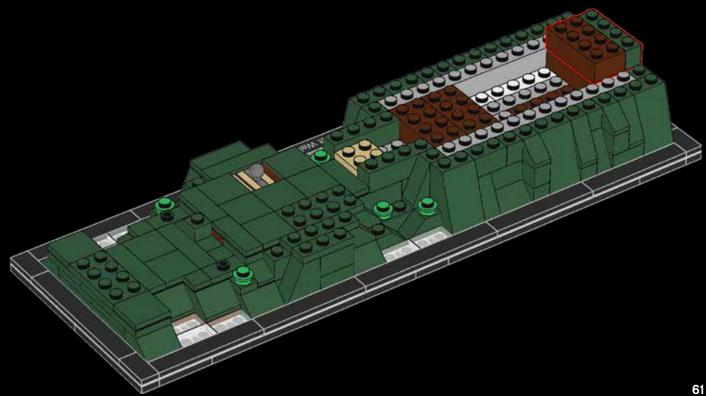


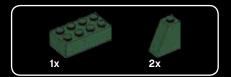










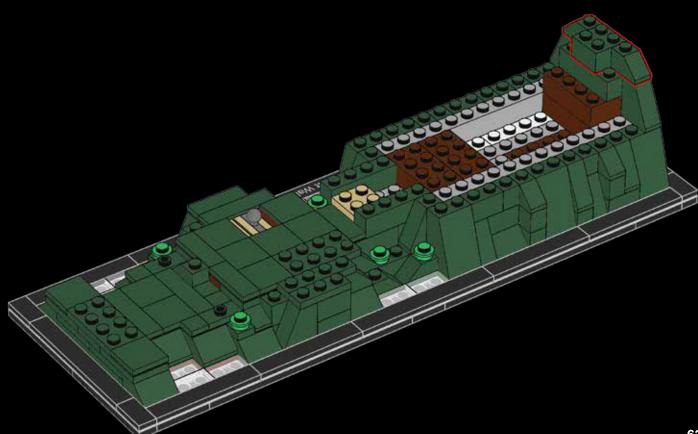


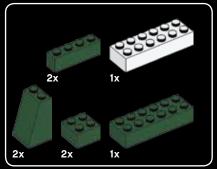




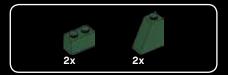
The Great Wall is also a "must-see" for VIPs and over 300 heads of states have visited the impressive structure. 长城还是VIPs的"必看景点",已有300多名各国政要游览了这个气势恢宏的建筑。











The wall spans across 15 different regions in northern China. 长城跨越中国北方的15个不同地区。





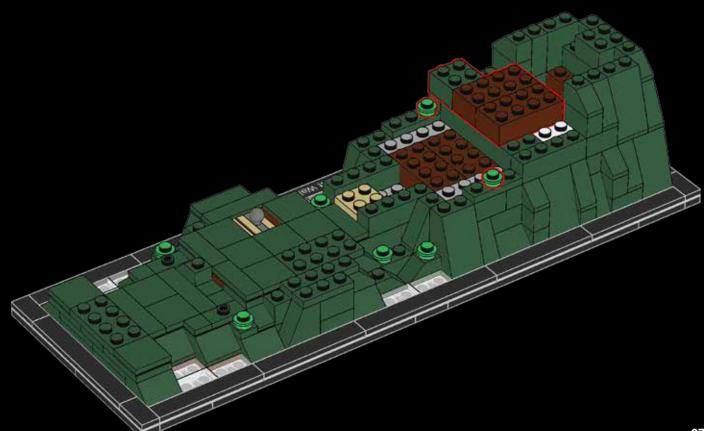


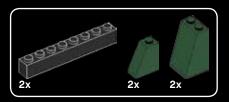




At its highest, the wall is 46 ft. (14 m) tall. 在最高段,墙体高达14米(46英尺)。



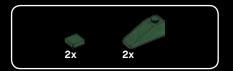




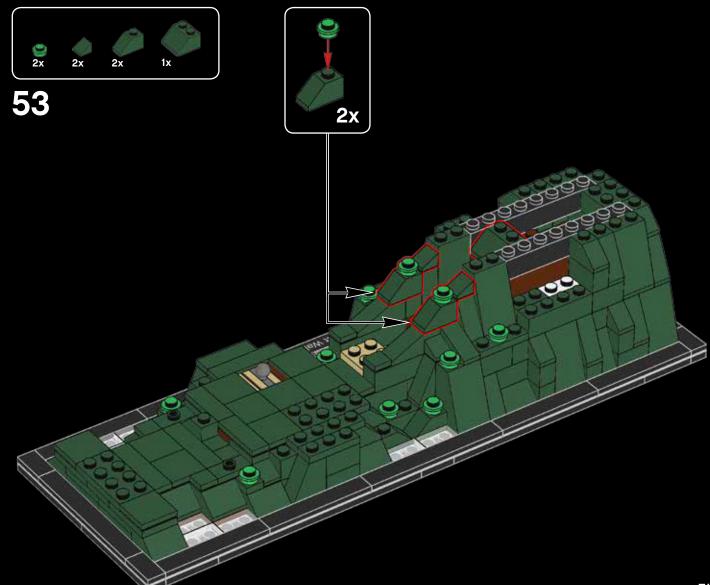




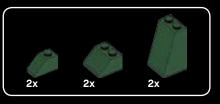










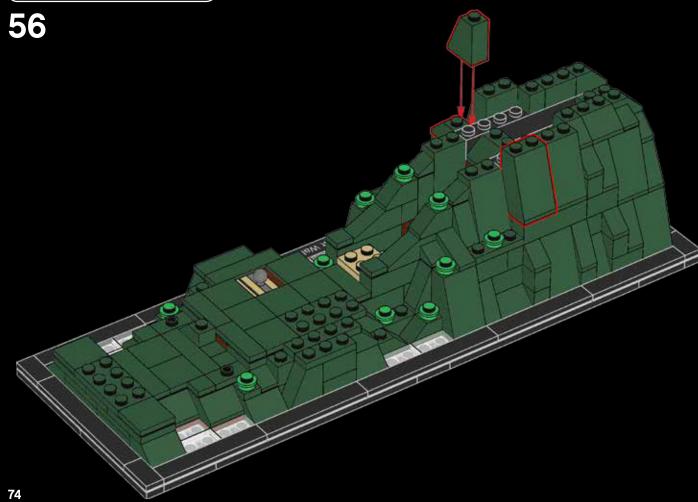


The Great Wall is the world's longest defensive fortification. 长城是世界上最长的防御性建筑。



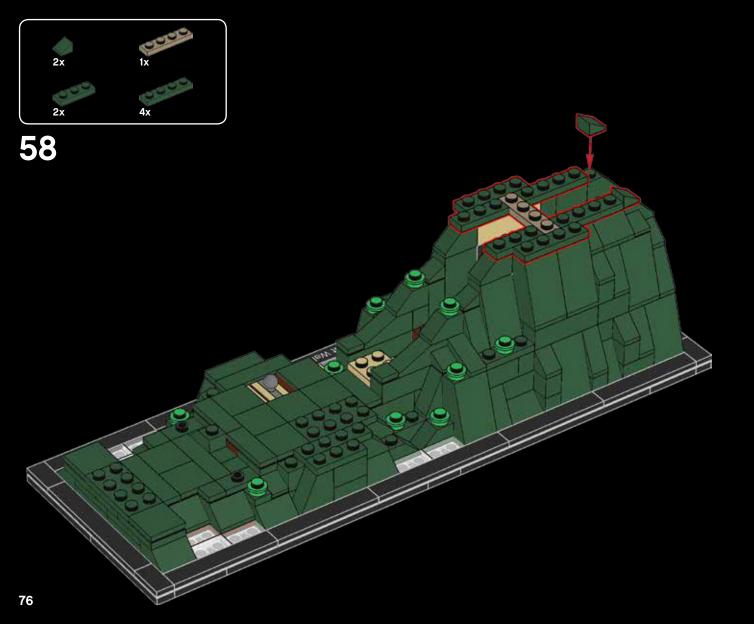














Throughout its history the wall has been called "The Purple Wall."

"The Earth Dragon" and most recently "The Long Wall."

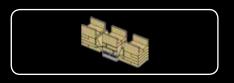
长城在历史上曾被称为"紫塞"、"土龙"
,以及时间最近的"长墙"。











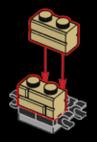








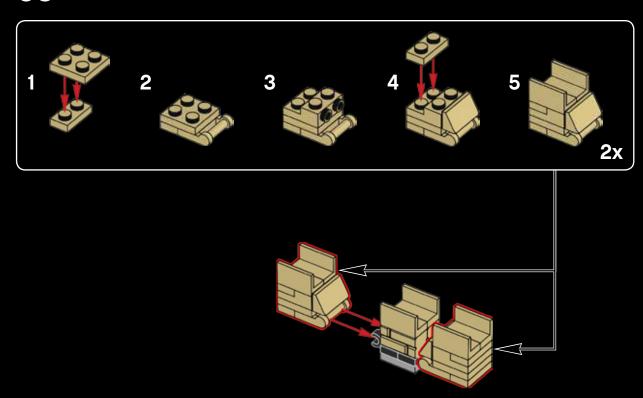


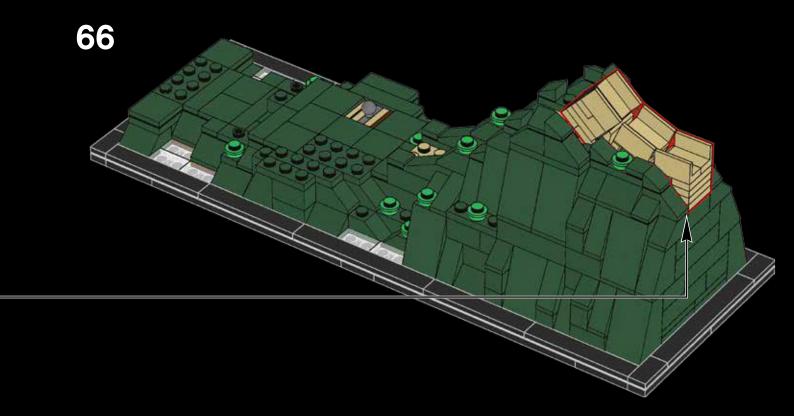




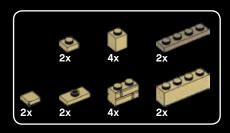








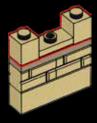


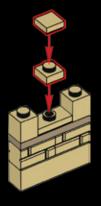


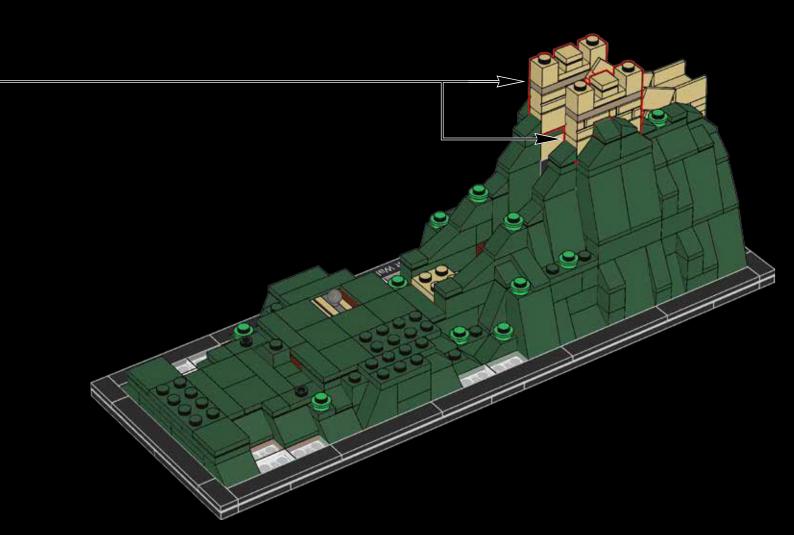


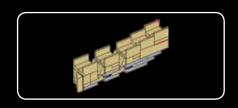












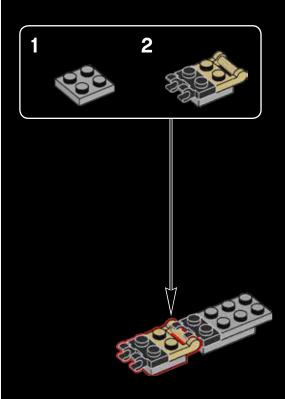




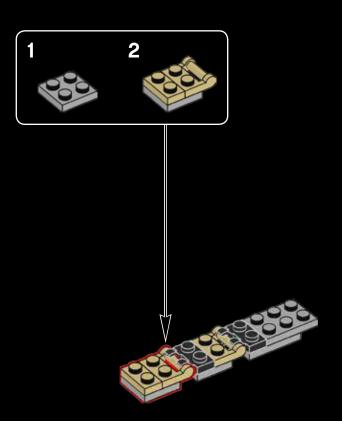




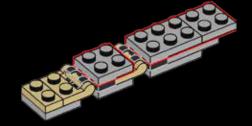




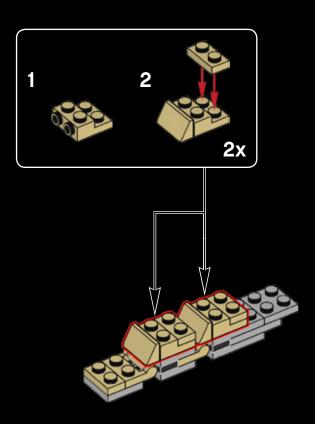




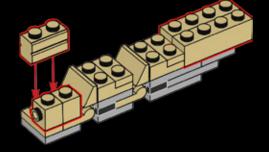


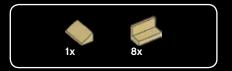


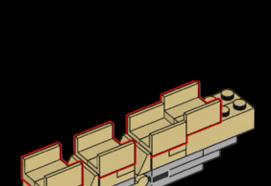




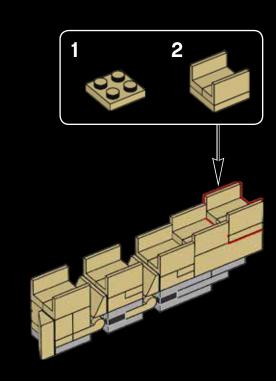




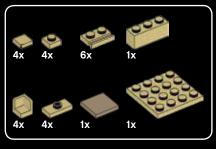




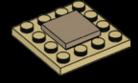


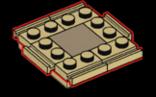


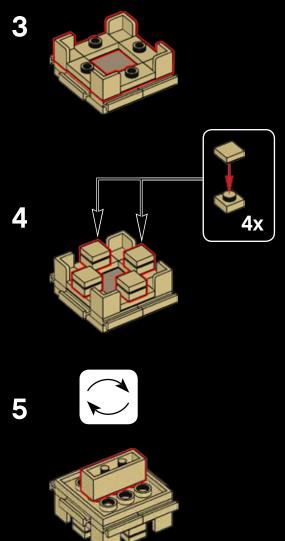


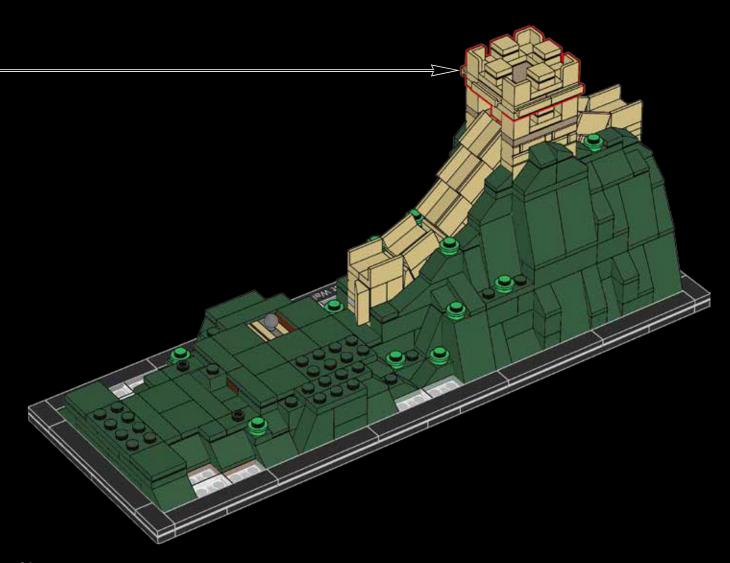


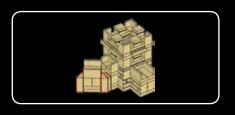
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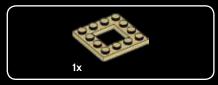










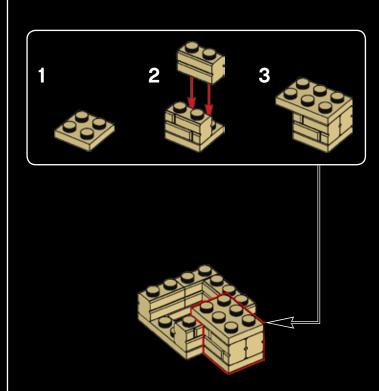




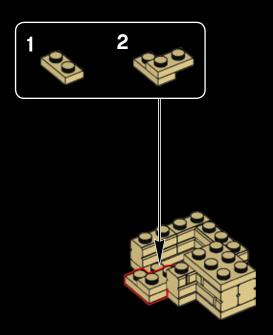




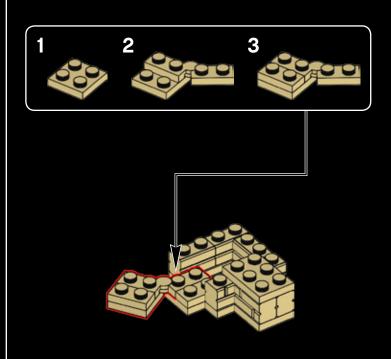




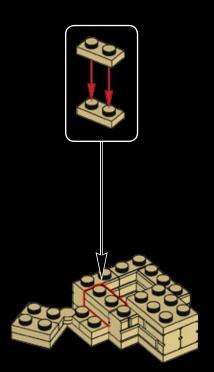




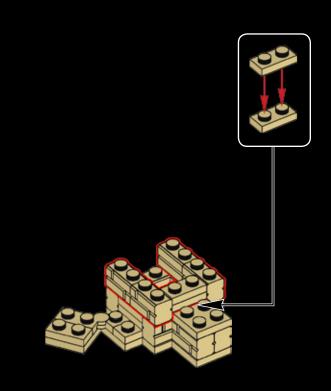




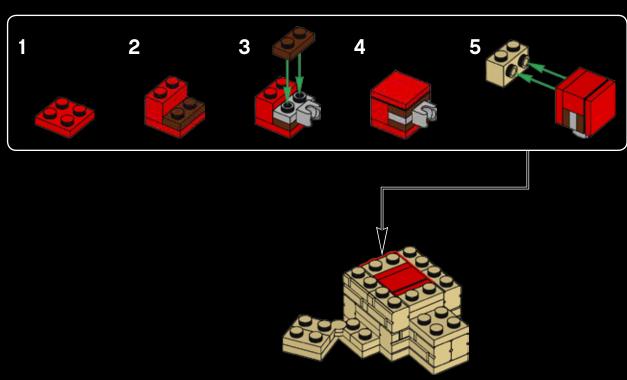




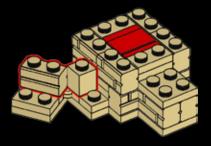




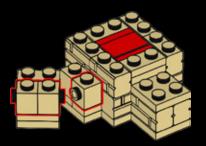




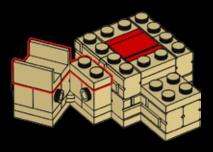




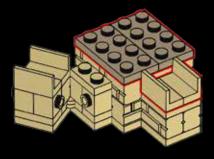






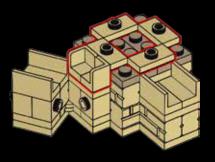


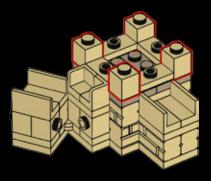




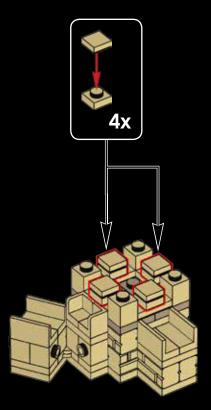




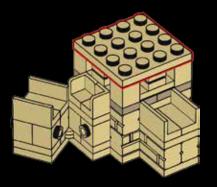


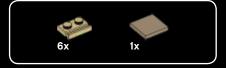


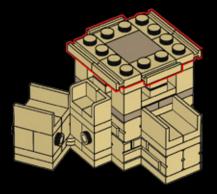




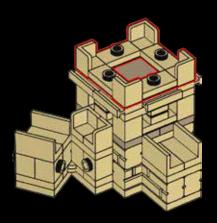




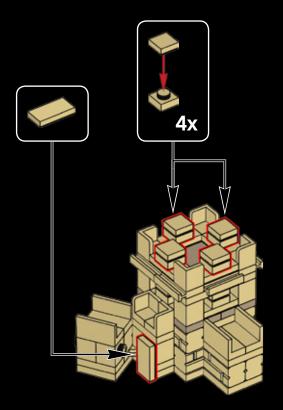




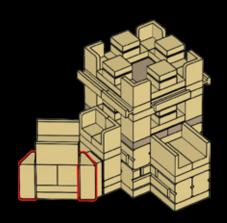


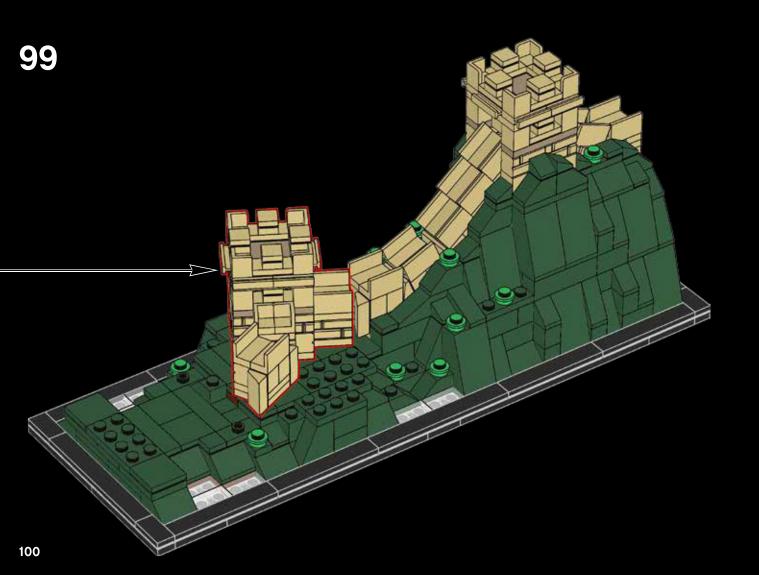


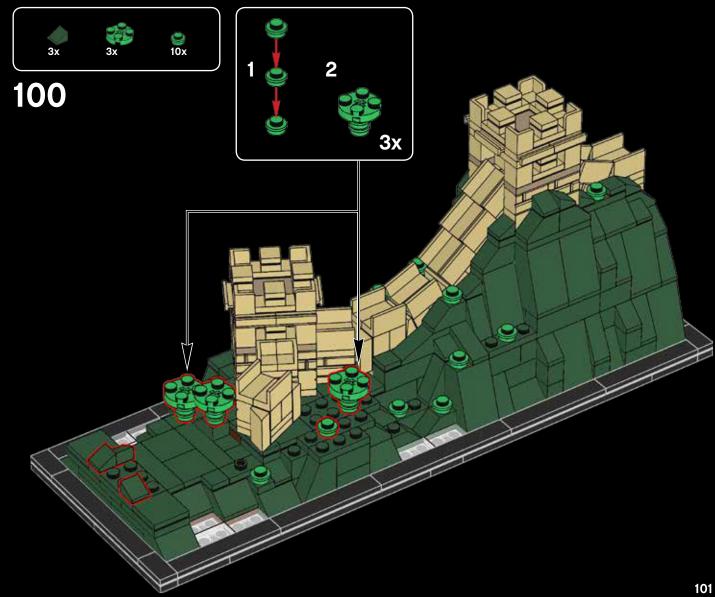












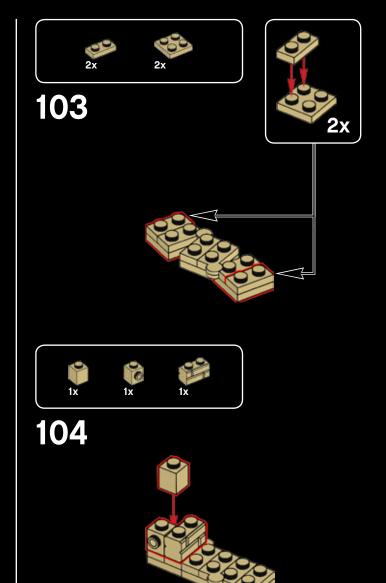




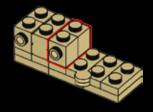




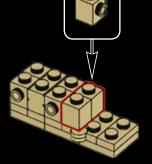




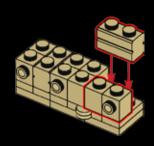




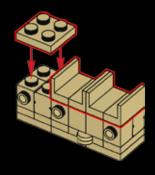




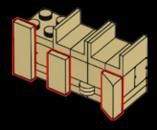


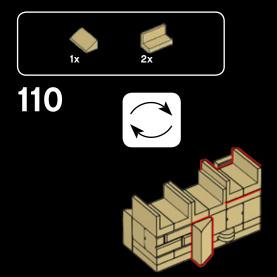


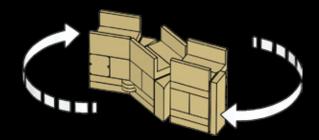


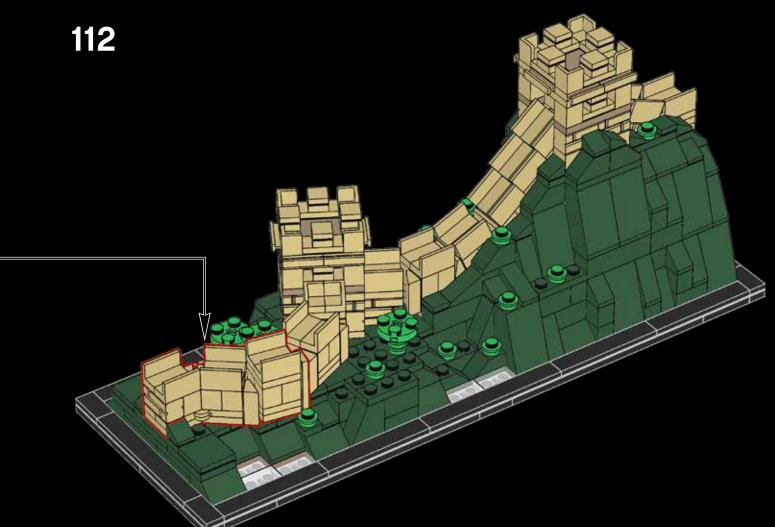












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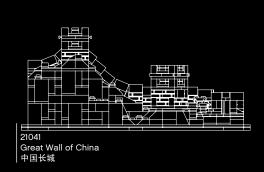
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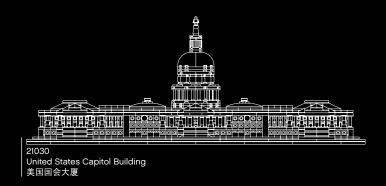
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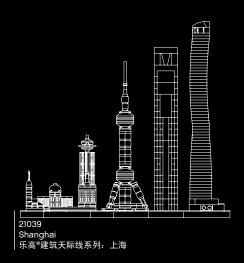




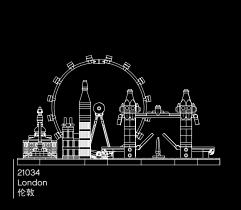




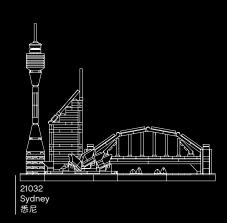












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