



# THE FORBIDDEN CITY

What do you think it would have been like to grow up as an imperial kid in the Forbidden City? Wouldn't it be cool to live in a palace?

Maybe! You be the judge. Read what it was like to grow up royal!



## Fun + Games

Royal children got to play all sorts of **games and sports** – like flying kites and doing puzzles.



Certain **games were played on New Year's Day** for good luck. Royal children would play with animal lanterns or fireworks, beat gongs and drums, and ride wooden horses. In winter they would make snow lions. Royal boys might even do a dragon dance!

Sometimes the royal family **travelled outside the Forbidden City** to watch skating competitions in the winter, and dragon boat races in the summer.



jug that not only held the crickets, but could instantly be turned into a cricket-fighting arena!



**Raising crickets** and having cricket fights was a very popular game for royal children. They even had a special

Royals in the Forbidden City **loved their dogs!** They even had their own breed of dog to play with and dress up in fancy outfits.



## House Rules ✓✗



- ✓ **Attend all special events in the palace**  
Not everything was fun and games in the Forbidden City. As part of the royal family, you were expected to attend many formal ceremonies and rituals. That meant looking good and standing still!
- ✗ **No wearing bright yellow**  
For official events royal kids could wear shades of light yellow, but only the emperor and empress could wear bright yellow.
- ✗ **No living with your mom**  
Royal children didn't live with their mothers. They lived in their own palaces and were raised by nurses, nannies, servants, and teachers. Some royal children were naughty and played pranks on the servants!
- ✓ **Study hard** Royal kids had a strict school schedule. For most of the day, young princes studied language, horsemanship, archery, poetry, and were trained in religion and martial arts. This was to prepare them to become emperor.
- ✓ **Move out when you grow up** All good things must come to an end. Except for the emperor, royal kids couldn't live in the Forbidden City forever. Once married, they were supposed to move out into a palace of their own.

