



Oxford Read and Discover

Wonders Of the Past

Kathryn Harper

Read and discover all about wonders of the past, all around the world ...

- Where is Chichen Itza?
- What is the Taj Mahal?

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Level 3
600 headwords



Level 5
900 headwords



Level 4
750 headwords



Level 6
1,050 headwords

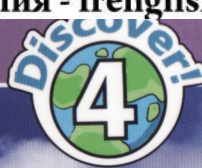
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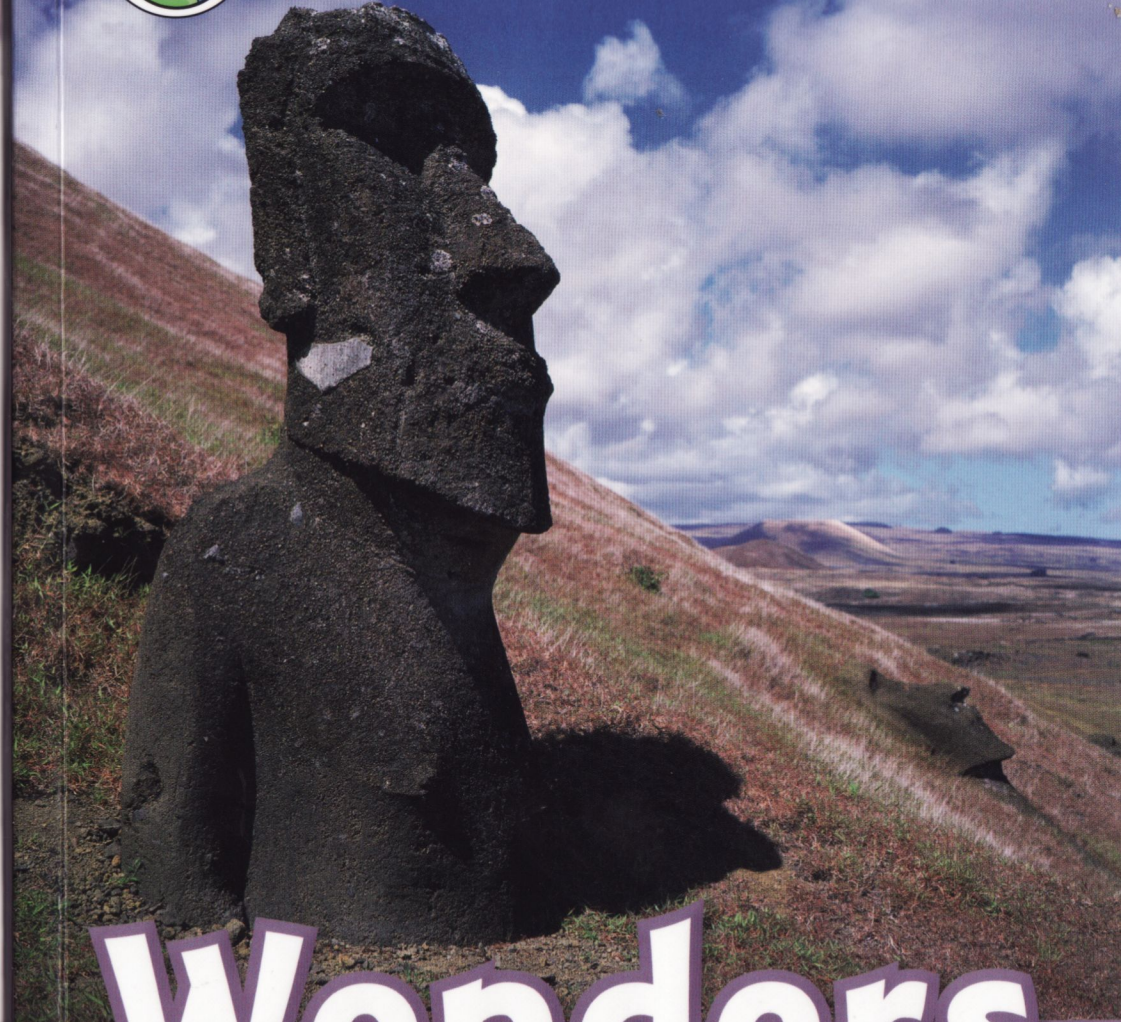
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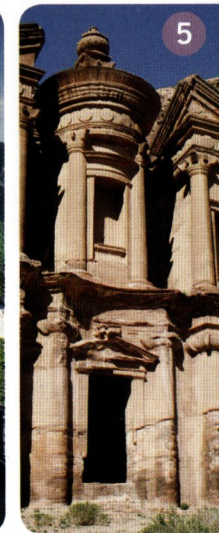
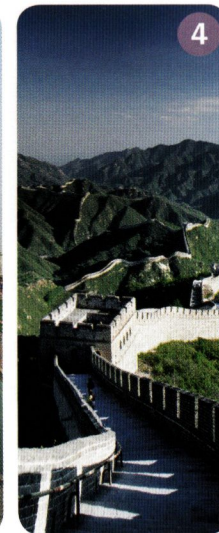
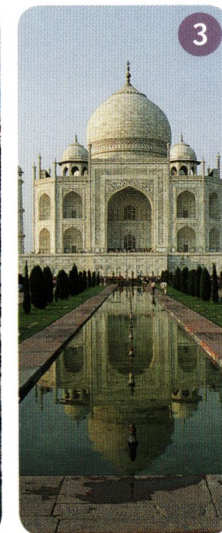
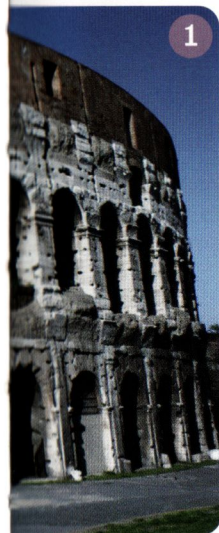


Introduction

What is a wonder? It's something amazing.
When we see it we ask, 'How is this possible?'

Nature makes many wonders. People make wonders, too!

What is a wonder of the past? It's something amazing that people made a long time ago.



What are these wonders of the past?

Where are they?

What wonders are there in your country?



Now read and discover more about some wonders of the past!



Stonehenge

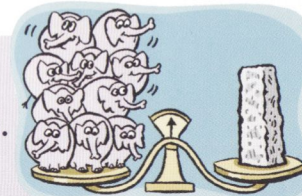


The Stonehenge stone circles are in England. People transported the first stones to this place about 5,000 years ago. We don't know a lot about Stonehenge. Who built it? How did they build it? Why did they build it? It's a mystery.

People built Stonehenge with bluestones and sarsen stones. There were about 80 bluestones. They came from mountains 250 kilometers away. They are very heavy – some weigh about 4 metric tons.



The biggest sarsen stone weighs about 45 metric tons. That's like ten elephants!



The sarsen stones are even bigger and heavier. About 4,000 years ago, people transported them from 30 kilometers away.

How did people use Stonehenge? Maybe they used it as a cemetery or a place for studying the sun and the stars. Maybe it was also a temple. It's still a special place for some people today. Every year, on June 21st, lots of people go to Stonehenge to celebrate the longest day of the year.

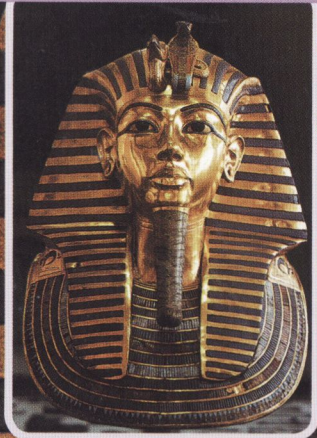
Celebrating the Longest Day



2 Tutankhamun's Treasures

Tutankhamun was a king in Egypt more than 3,300 years ago. He died when he was only 19 years old. When he died, people put a gold mask over his face. They put his body in a coffin made of gold. Then they put the coffin into two bigger coffins. They put all three coffins in a tomb with food and many treasures. The Egyptians thought that the king needed these things after he died.

Tutankhamun's Mask



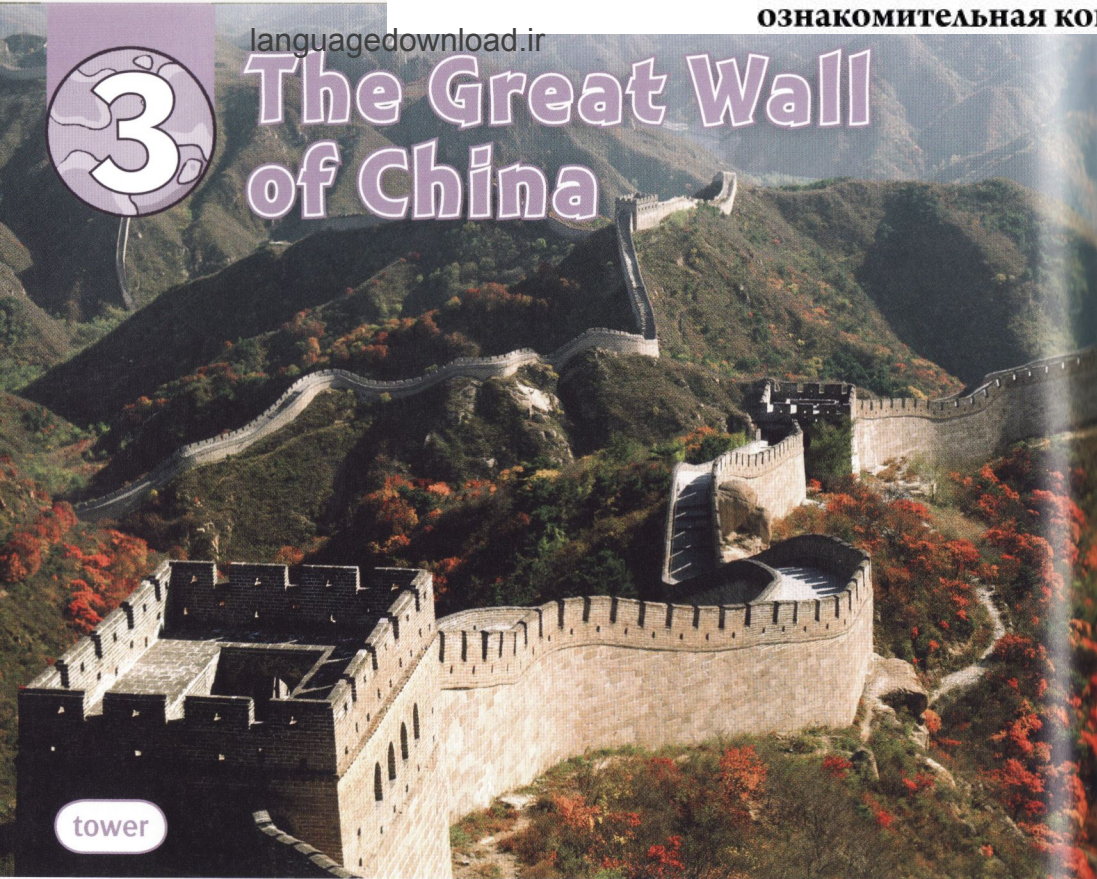
Inside Tutankhamun's Tomb

Tutankhamun's tomb was in the Valley of the Kings. No one discovered it for a long, long time. Then a British archaeologist called Howard Carter discovered it in 1922. When he broke through the door, he was amazed. There were gold statues, boats, jewels, toys, masks, and even a gold bed! There were about 3,500 treasures. For ten years, Carter took the treasures from the tomb, and wrote about them.

Tutankhamun became one of the most famous kings in the world. Today, many of his wonderful treasures are in the Egyptian Museum in Cairo in Egypt.

3

The Great Wall of China

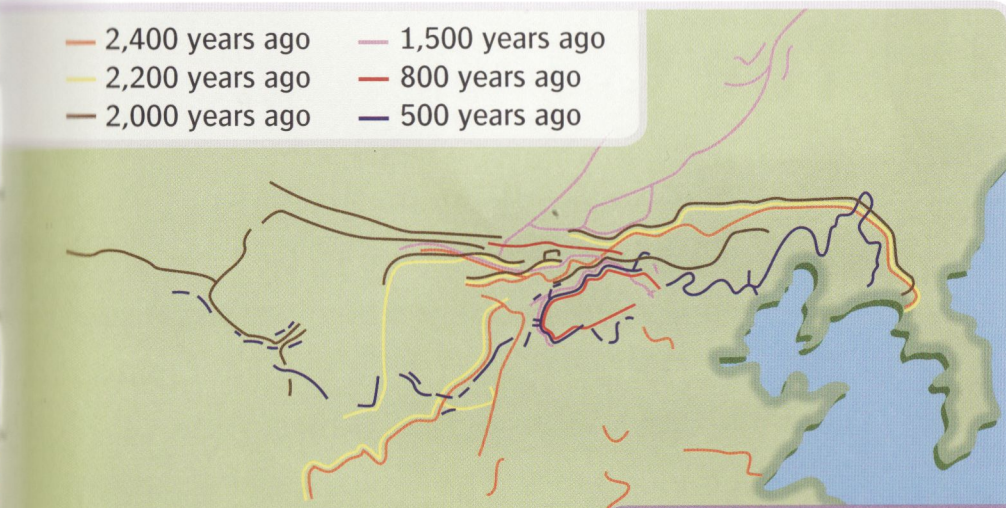


tower

About 2,400 years ago, there were many small countries in China. There were often wars. People didn't want enemies in their country, so they built big walls to keep them out. For more than 2,000 years, people built walls, destroyed walls, and built new walls.

The Great Wall of China is really many walls. Together they are about 7,000 kilometers long. The walls are about 7 meters high. There are also many taller towers.

- 2,400 years ago
- 2,200 years ago
- 2,000 years ago
- 1,500 years ago
- 800 years ago
- 500 years ago



Different Walls in China

Prisoners, soldiers, and other people built the wall. They transported the stones and bricks by hand. This work was hard and dangerous. About three million people died building the wall. Later, more than one million soldiers guarded the wall, but it was hard to stop the enemies. People also used the wall as a road. Today, tourists like to walk along the wall.



For many years, people thought that you could see the Great Wall of China from the moon, but this is not true!



4

The Colosseum

Where did Ancient Romans go for fun? They went to the Colosseum in Rome. They watched fights in this big and beautiful stadium. The fights were with gladiators and wild animals like lions, crocodiles, rhinos, and even elephants. The Colosseum wasn't fun for everyone. About 500,000 people and one million wild animals died there.

About 2,000 years ago, Rome was a very important city. The Colosseum was the most fantastic building in the city. It was big enough for more than 50,000 people. The Colosseum had many arches. There

were about 80 big arches to let people in and out. There was also a cloth roof to protect people from sun and rain.

A Model of the Colosseum in the Past

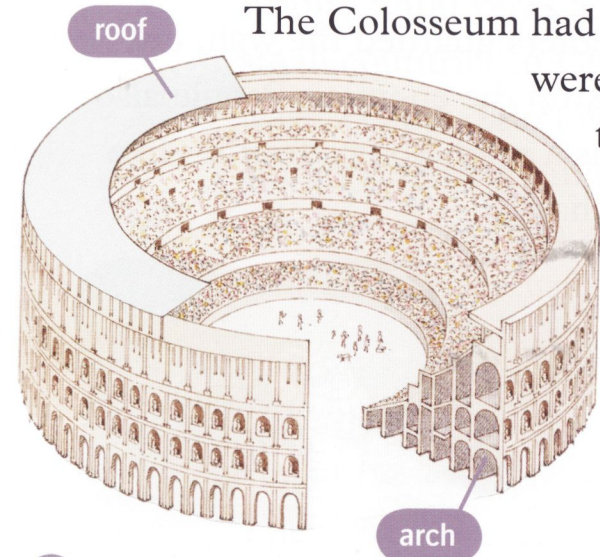


The Colosseum Today in Rome, Italy

Later, two earthquakes destroyed some of the Colosseum. Then people took stones from the Colosseum to build many other buildings in Rome.

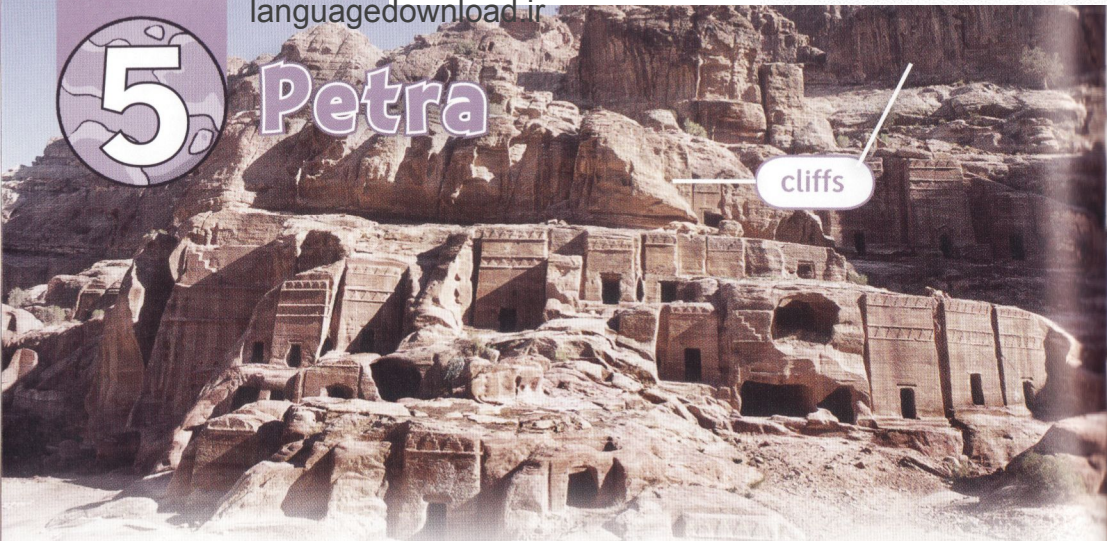
So the building that we can see today gives only an idea of how beautiful it was in the past. Thousands of tourists visit the Colosseum every year. There are music concerts here, too.

→ Go to pages 30–31 for activities.



5

Petra



About 2,000 years ago, people in the Middle East bought and sold cloth and spices in many countries. They often traveled across land in large groups called caravans. They used camels to transport people and things.

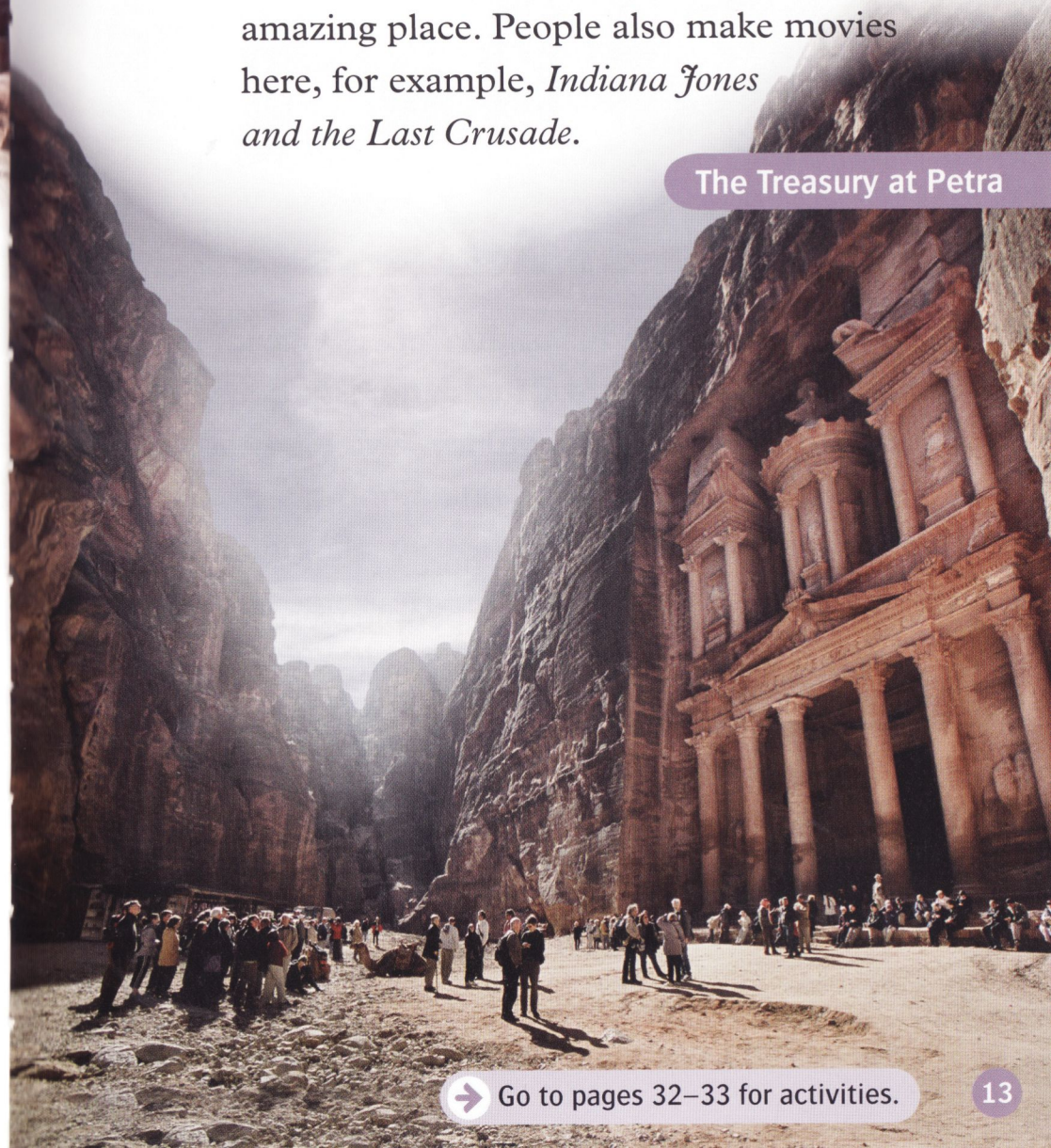
One of the places where the caravans stopped was Petra. Petra is a fantastic city in the desert in Jordan. People built the city in the pink cliffs. The caravans stopped in Petra because it had water and places to sleep, and it was safe from enemies.



Some of the caravans were 7 kilometers long and they had 2,500 camels!

At different times, people from different places lived in Petra. They made wonderful temples, a theater, a palace, and tombs in the pink cliffs. Later, earthquakes destroyed a lot of Petra. Today, many tourists visit this amazing place. People also make movies here, for example, *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*.

The Treasury at Petra



6

Easter Island Statues



Easter Island is in the Pacific Ocean, far from anywhere. The island is famous for its 887 stone statues. They have big heads and little bodies.

Why are the statues here? There is a story that 1,700 years ago, people were lost on the ocean. They arrived at this beautiful island. There were lots of plants and animals, so they stayed.

These people made the big statues for their gods. They made the statues with stone from the middle of the island. Then, up to 250 people transported the statues across the island to the coast, where they stand today.

After a few hundred years, there were too many people for this small island. They cut down many of the trees. This was bad for the ground, and bad for other plants and animals, too. Soon there wasn't much food. People started to fight and they pushed over many of the statues.

Today, people come to see the statues and learn about Easter Island.



The biggest statue is called Paro. It's now on the ground. It's about 10 meters long.



7

Chichen Itza



Temple of
Kukulcan

About 1,600 years ago, the Mayan people in Mexico started to build a new city. They built it around water from under the ground, so they called the city Chichen Itza. The name means ‘the mouth of the well’.

Water was very important in this dry place. The first people in Chichen Itza built many temples for their rain god Chaac. Later, the city grew bigger and richer. Then people built fantastic pyramids and temples for their god Kukulcan. The most famous pyramid is the Temple of Kukulcan.

The Mayan people liked many activities. They played ball games in a courtyard that is bigger than a soccer field. The courtyard has walls that are 12 meters high! Sometimes they played games for many days. They also loved art, music, and dance. Today, people still like to watch Mayan dancers, listen to Mayan music, and look at Mayan art when they visit Chichen Itza.

A Mayan Dancer



8

Angkor Wat

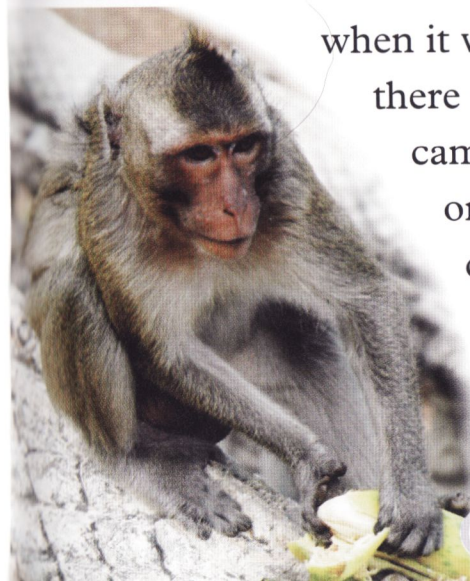


Angkor Wat is a temple in the city of Angkor. It's in the middle of the rainforest in Cambodia. About 800 years ago, this beautiful stone temple was built for King Suryavarman II. About 50,000 people built the temple, and it took more than 37 years. They built it to look like the mountain where their gods lived. There are some beautiful stone decorations on the walls.



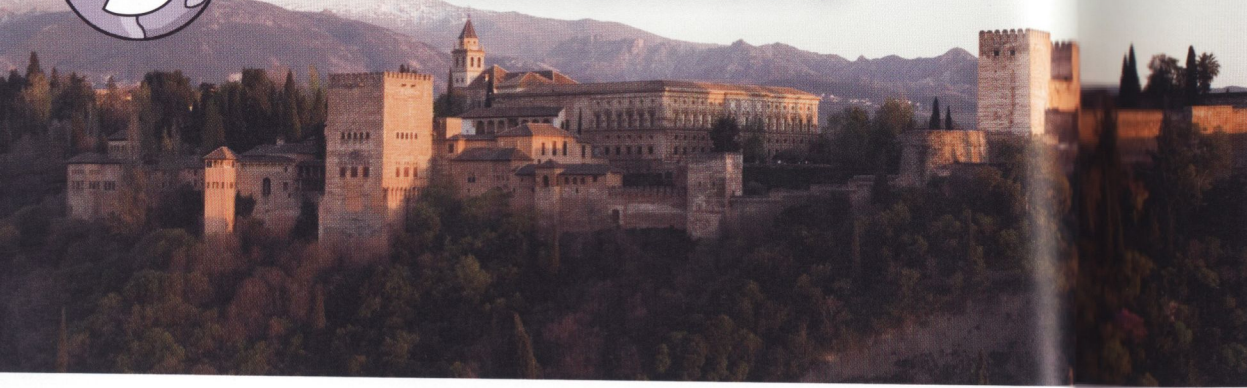
When people built Angkor Wat, they put water around the buildings. This was to protect themselves from enemies and wild animals from the rainforest. Today, big trees grow into some of the buildings and monkeys run around them.

About one million people lived in Angkor when it was an important city. Later, there were wars and other people came. Then Angkor wasn't so rich or important. People said that it disappeared, but that wasn't true. Today, there are many visitors, and they think Angkor Wat is amazing.





The Alhambra



The Alhambra is in the mountains in the south of Spain. It's one of the most beautiful buildings in the world. Alhambra means 'red castle', but the Alhambra also looks gray at night, and gold when it's sunny. The Alhambra is beautiful inside and outside. It has fantastic courtyards with fountains and gardens. Like many castles, it has towers and high walls. There are also wonderful tiles and decorations.



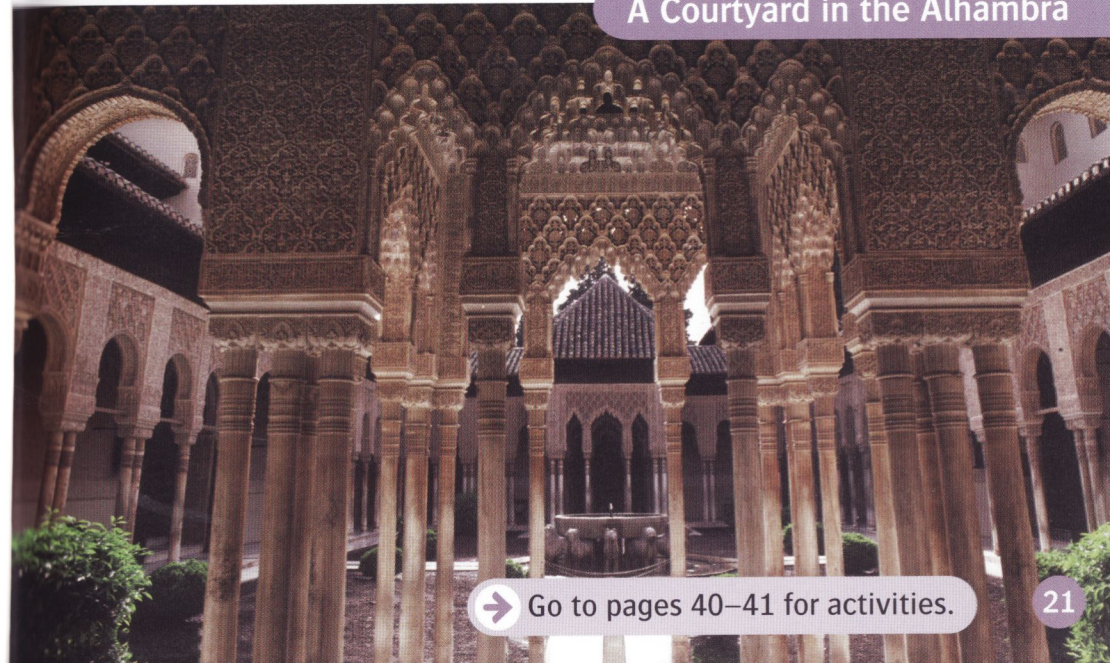
There are some amazing tile patterns at the Alhambra. People still copy them today.



The Moorish people in Spain started to build the Alhambra about 800 years ago. It took a long time to build. Many different kings from different places lived there, and they built more buildings. They used the Alhambra as a castle and a city. Wars and an earthquake destroyed some of the Alhambra. The French Emperor, Napoleon, tried to destroy it, but he couldn't. In 1828, Spanish people started to build the broken parts again.

Many people wrote stories and songs about the Alhambra. Today, it's the most popular place in Spain for tourists.

A Courtyard in the Alhambra

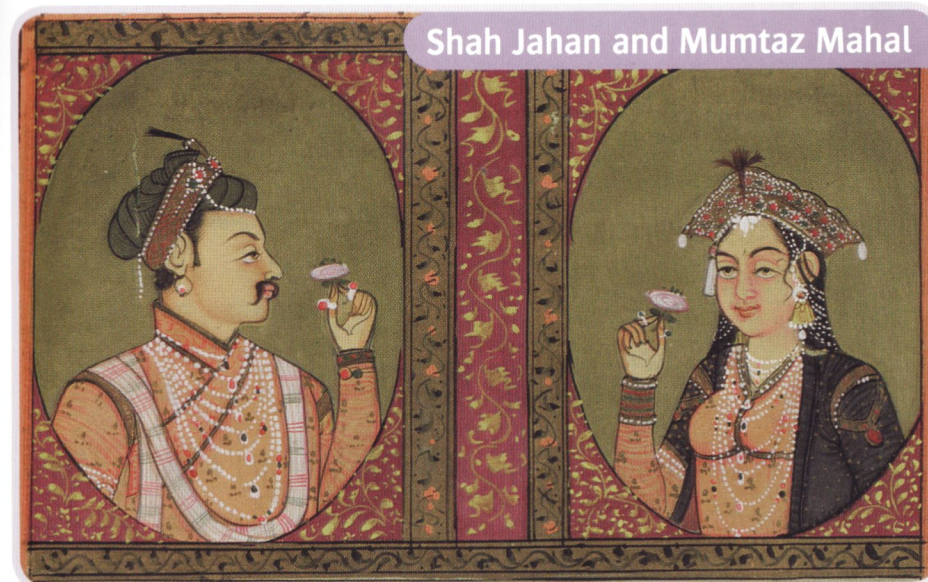


10

The Taj Mahal

The Taj Mahal is in India. It looks like a palace, but it's a tomb. It's one of the most beautiful tombs in the world. There are gardens and fountains around the building.

The tomb is made of 28 types of stone and jewel from all over India and other countries. Most of the tomb is made of a beautiful white stone called marble. About 20,000 people built the Taj Mahal, and it took 22 years. More than 1,000 elephants helped to move the stones for the building.



Shah Jahan and Mumtaz Mahal

The Taj Mahal was built about 400 years ago. The Emperor Shah Jahan built it for his wife, Mumtaz Mahal. She died when she had her 14th baby. Shah Jahan was very sad, so he built the Taj Mahal to remember his wife. Later, Shah Jahan's son wanted to be the emperor, so he put his father into prison. When Shah Jahan died, people put his body in the Taj Mahal, so that he was with his wife forever.

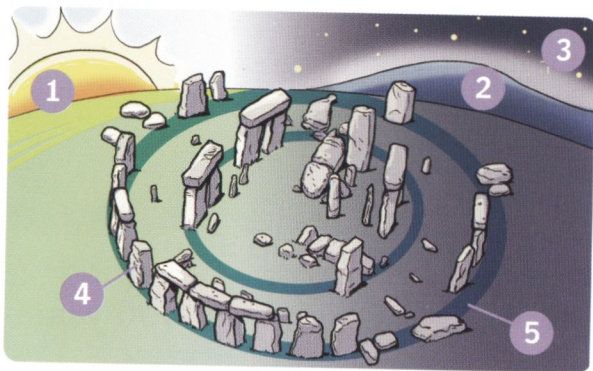
Which of all these wonders of the past do you want to visit?

1 Stonehenge

← Read pages 4–5.

1 Write the words.

mountain stone circle sun stars



- 1 sun
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____

2 Write the words.

study cemetery mystery
year kilometer metric ton

- 1 tells us 'how far'
- 2 tells us 'how heavy'
- 3 tells us 'how much time'
- 4 where we put people after they die
- 5 what we do when we want to learn something
- 6 something that we don't know

kilometer

3 Write the numbers.

45 5,000 4,000 80 250

- 1 People transported the first stones to Stonehenge about 5,000 years ago.
- 2 The biggest sarsen stone weighs _____ metric tons.
- 3 The bluestones came from _____ kilometers away.
- 4 There were about _____ bluestones.
- 5 People transported the sarsen stones about _____ years ago.

4 Answer the questions.

- 1 Where did the bluestones come from?
They came from mountains 250 kilometers away.
- 2 How did people use Stonehenge?

- 3 When is the longest day at Stonehenge?

5 What do you think of Stonehenge? Color the stars and write.

Interesting ☆☆☆	Beautiful ☆☆☆	Important ☆☆☆
☆☆	☆☆	☆☆

2 Tutankhamun's Treasures

← Read pages 6–7.

1 Find and write the words.



1 bed



2 _____



3 _____



4 _____



5 _____



6 _____

2 Answer the questions.

1 Who was Tutankhamun?

2 Where did Tutankhamun live?

3 How old was Tutankhamun when he died?

3 Complete the chart.

boats jewels Tutankhamun masks Egyptians
Valley of the Kings Cairo Howard Carter Egypt

Treasures	Places	People
boats	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

4 Complete the sentences.

Today, we put the King in his _____ in the _____. We put the _____ on the _____. Then we put him in a gold _____. Then we put some _____ and a _____ in the _____. Then we closed the _____ of the _____. It was a very sad day.

5 What do you think of Tutankhamun's treasures? Color the stars and write.

Interesting ☆☆☆ Beautiful ☆☆☆ Important ☆☆☆

3 The Great Wall of China

← Read pages 8–9.

1 Find and write the words.



1 wall



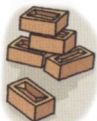
5 _____



2 _____



6 _____



3 _____



7 _____



4 _____

2 Match the opposites.

- 1 friends
- 2 build
- 3 high
- 4 long
- 5 live

- low
- enemies
- short
- destroy
- die

3 Complete the sentences.

enemies years bricks soldiers
hard stones countries

- 1 In Ancient China there were many _____.
- 2 People built the wall because they didn't want their _____ in their country.
- 3 For more than 2,000 _____, they built the wall.
- 4 More than one million _____ guarded the wall.
- 5 Working on the wall was very _____.
- 6 People made the wall with _____ and _____.

4 Circle the correct words.

- 1 In Ancient China there were often / never wars.
- 2 People built walls, but they sometimes / never destroyed the walls, too.
- 3 People sometimes / always died building the wall.
- 4 People sometimes / never wanted enemies in their country.

5 What do you think of the Great Wall of China? Color the stars and write.

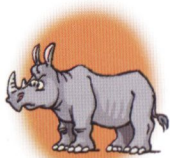
Interesting ☆☆☆ Beautiful ☆☆☆ Important ☆☆☆

4 The Colosseum

← Read pages 10–11.

1 Write the words.

crocodile elephant
gladiator lion arch rhino



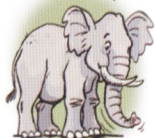
1 _____



2 _____



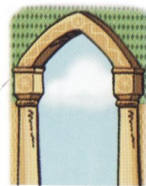
3 _____



4 _____



5 _____



6 _____

2 Complete the sentences.

roof stadium animals city Romans arches

- The _____ built fantastic buildings.
- The Colosseum was a big _____.
- Gladiators and _____ fought in the Colosseum.
- People went into the Colosseum through _____.
- The Colosseum had a cloth _____.
- Rome was a very important _____.

3 Write the numbers.

1,000,000 500,000
50,000 80

- _____ = people who died in the Colosseum
- _____ = animals that died in the Colosseum
- _____ = big arches in the Colosseum
- _____ = people in the Colosseum

4 Answer the questions.

- Why did the Ancient Romans go the Colosseum?

- Who fought in the Colosseum?

- Why were there 80 big arches?

- What destroyed some of the Colosseum?

- Why did people take the stones from the Colosseum?

5 What do you think of the Colosseum? Color the stars and write.

Interesting ☆☆☆ Beautiful ☆☆☆ Important ☆☆☆

5 Petra

← Read pages 12–13.

1 Match. Then write sentences.

The caravans stopped at Petra because

The palaces and tombs are

The caravans used camels

People carried cloth and spices

Earthquakes destroyed a lot of Petra, but

built in the cliffs.

to transport people and things.

it had water and places to sleep.

you can still see some of it today.

to sell in different places.

1 The caravans stopped at Petra because it had water and places to sleep.

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

5 _____

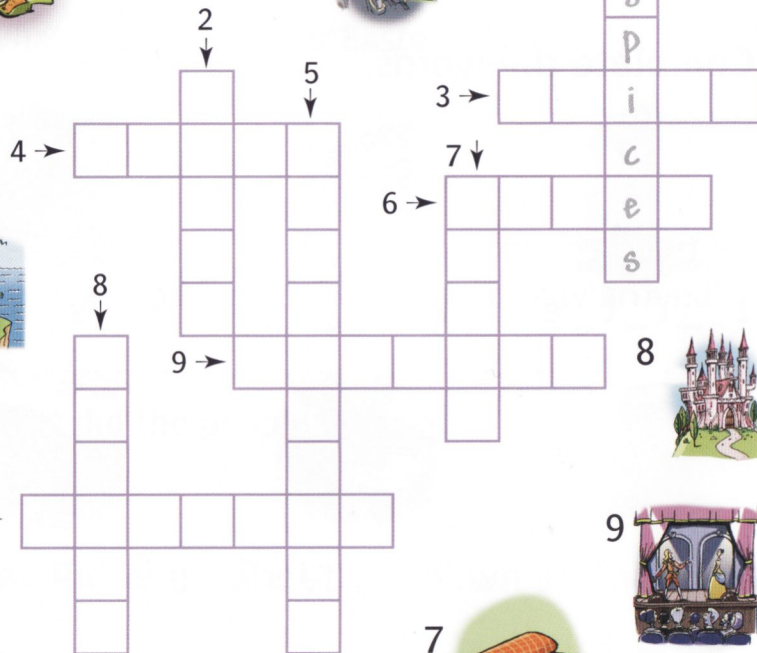
2 Complete the puzzle.



1

2

1



3



8



10

9



4



7



5



6



10



3 What do you think of Petra? Color the stars and write.

Interesting ☆☆☆

Beautiful ☆☆☆

Important ☆☆☆

6 Easter Island Statues

← Read pages 14–15.

1 Complete the words.



1 _ t _ t _ e



2 _ c _ a _



3 _ s _ a _ d



4 _ e _ d



5 _ r _ u _ d



6 _ o _ s _

2 Complete the chart.

people push over plants fight
animals cut down transport trees

They grow:	Things that we do:
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

3 Answer the questions.

1 Where is Easter Island?

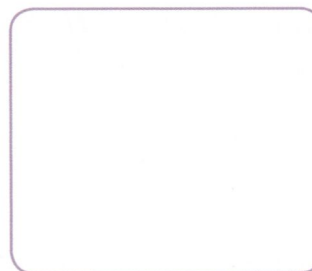
2 What is special about Easter Island?

3 When did people arrive?

4 What was on Easter Island when they arrived?

5 What did the people make?

4 Draw and write about your own statue.



This is my statue. It has _____

5 What do you think of the Easter Island statues? Color the stars and write.

Interesting ☆☆☆ Beautiful ☆☆☆ Important ☆☆☆

7 Chichen Itza

← Read pages 16–17.

1 Write the words.

ground games dance well dry pyramid

- 1 we get water from this _____
- 2 we walk on this _____
- 3 when there is no water _____
- 4 like a triangle _____
- 5 football and basketball, for example _____
- 6 when we move to music _____

2 Complete the sentences.

well pyramids god dance water games

- 1 Chichen Itza means 'the mouth of the _____'.
- 2 It was very dry. There was very little _____.
- 3 For the Mayan people, Kukulcan was an important _____.
- 4 The Mayan people built fantastic _____.
- 5 The Mayan people played ball _____ in a courtyard.
- 6 The Mayan people liked art, music, and _____.

3 Write *today* or *in the past*.

- 1 The Mayan people built a fantastic city. in the past
- 2 People look at Mayan art. _____
- 3 People played ball games in a courtyard. _____
- 4 The Mayan people had a rain god. _____
- 5 Many people like to watch Mayan dancers. _____

4 Answer the questions.

- 1 When did people start to build Chichen Itza?

- 2 Who was Chaac?

- 3 What is the most famous pyramid?

- 4 What did they do in the courtyard?

5 What do you think of Chichen Itza? Color the stars and write.

Interesting ☆☆☆	Beautiful ☆☆☆	Important ☆☆☆
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8 Angkor Wat

← Read pages 18–19.

1 Write the words.

enemies rainforest rain monkeys
rich mountain city trees

- 1 a place where lots of people live _____
- 2 where there are lots of trees _____
- 3 water from the sky _____
- 4 people who don't like you _____
- 5 tall plants _____
- 6 animals from the rainforest _____
- 7 when we have lots of money _____
- 8 a high place _____

2 Write true or false.

- 1 Angkor Wat is on a mountain. _____
- 2 They used stone to build Angkor Wat. _____
- 3 Angkor was an important city in the past. _____
- 4 There was an earthquake at Angkor. _____
- 5 There were wars at Angkor. _____
- 6 Angkor disappeared. _____

3 Number the sentences in order.

- It became rich and powerful. About one million people lived there.
- 1 The king wanted a new temple.
- People visit it.
- People built the temple.
- There were wars.

4 Imagine you are in Angkor Wat. Write about what you can see.

buildings rainforest water trees
monkeys beautiful decorations

- 1 You are in the temple looking out.
I can see the water and _____
- 2 You are in the rainforest in front of Angkor Wat.

- 3 You are in front of a temple wall.

5 What do you think of Angkor Wat? Color the stars and write.

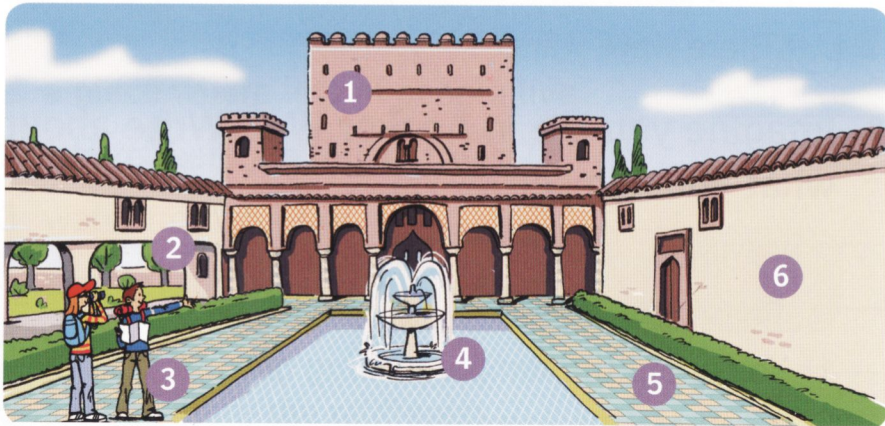
Interesting	☆☆☆	Beautiful	☆☆☆	Important	☆☆☆
	☆☆		☆☆		☆☆

9 The Alhambra

← Read pages 20–21.

1 Write the words.

fountain tourist garden tiles wall tower



1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____
 4 _____ 5 _____ 6 _____

2 Circle the odd one out.

- 1 palace tree castle
- 2 ground fountain water
- 3 plant beautiful amazing
- 4 red old gold
- 5 king prisoner emperor
- 6 build make story

3 Match.

- 1 water
- 2 tower
- 3 plants
- 4 tiles
- 5 decorations

- castle
 fountain
 walls
 Alhambra
 garden

4 Answer the questions.

1 Where is the Alhambra?

2 What is the Alhambra?

3 When did people start to build the Alhambra?

4 Where are the fountains in the Alhambra?

5 What destroyed the Alhambra?

5 What do you think of the Alhambra? Color the stars and write.

Interesting ☆☆☆ Beautiful ☆☆☆ Important ☆☆☆

10 The Taj Mahal

← Read pages 22–23.

1 Complete the chart.

wife tomb Shah Jahan son fountain
 jewels emperor stones Mumtaz Mahal
 garden father palace baby prison

People	Things
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

2 Write the numbers in order.

- Shah Jahan died.
- Shah Jahan wanted to remember his wife.
- People put Shah Jahan's body in the Taj Mahal.
- Shah Jahan's son wanted to be the emperor.
- Mumtaz Mahal died.
- Shah Jahan went to prison.
- Shah Jahan built the Taj Mahal.

3 Answer the questions.

- 1 Who was Shah Jahan?

- 2 How many people built the Taj Mahal?

- 3 What type of animal helped to build the Taj Mahal?

4 What can you do at the Taj Mahal?

Write ✓ or X.

- 1 Take photos.
- 2 Look at the fountains.
- 3 Walk around the gardens.
- 4 See the monkeys in the rainforest.
- 5 See the statues with the big heads.
- 6 See the amazing building.
- 7 Count the sarsen stones.
- 8 Visit the tomb.

5 What do you think of the Taj Mahal? Color the stars and write.

Interesting ☆☆☆ Beautiful ☆☆☆ Important ☆☆☆



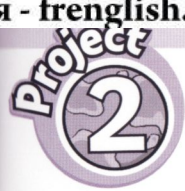
A Wonders Quiz

1 Do the quiz. Circle the correct answers.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1 This place has stone circles.
Stonehenge
The Alhambra
Chichen Itza | 6 Many of these were made of gold.
The Alhambra
Tutankhamun's Treasures
Stonehenge |
| 2 In this place, there are statues with big heads.
Petra
Angkor Wat
Easter Island | 7 This has many jewels in it.
The Taj Mahal
The Great Wall of China
Stonehenge |
| 3 Long camel caravans stopped at this place.
The Great Wall of China
Petra
Angkor Wat | 8 This has beautiful courtyards and gardens.
Easter Island
The Alhambra
Stonehenge |
| 4 People also used this place as a road.
Chichen Itza
The Taj Mahal
The Great Wall of China | 9 This has temples for a god.
The Great Wall of China
The Alhambra
Chichen Itza |
| 5 People watched fights here.
Stonehenge
The Colosseum
Angkor Wat | 10 It's in a rainforest.
Angkor Wat
Stonehenge
The Great Wall of China |

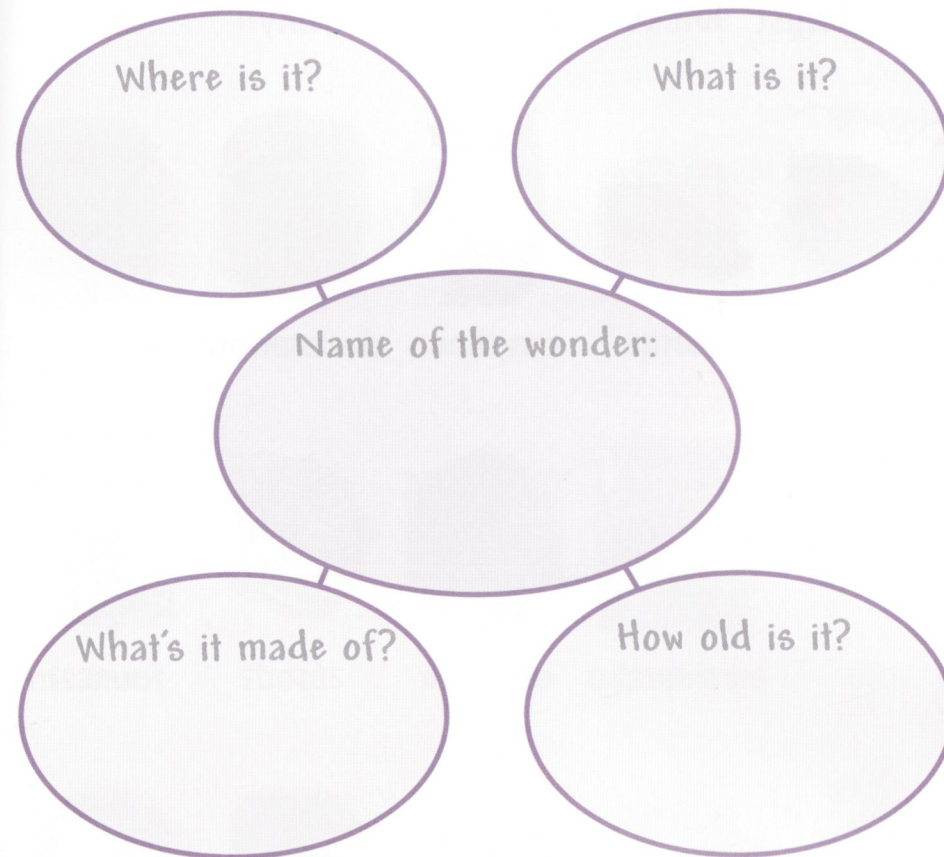
2 Now write your own wonders quiz.

3 Ask a friend to do your quiz.



A Wonder in My Country

- 1 Think of a wonder of the past in your country.
- 2 Write notes and complete the diagram.

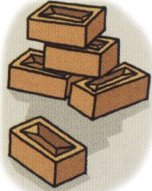


- 3 Make a poster. Use pictures and write about the wonder.
- 4 Display your poster.

Picture Dictionary



archaeologist



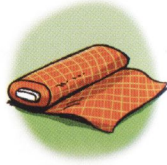
bricks



cemetery



city



cloth



king



million



ocean



palace



prisoner



coast



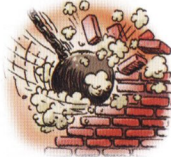
coffin



cut down



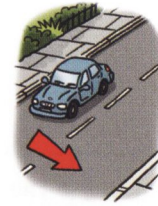
decorations



destroy



rainforest



road



soldier



spices



stadium



die



earthquake



emperor



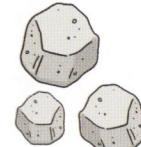
food



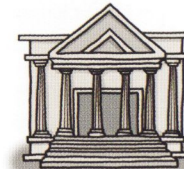
fountain



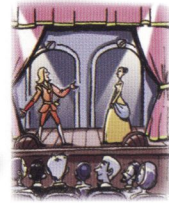
statue



stones



temple



theater



tiles



gladiator



gold



ground



island



jewel



tomb



treasure



war



well



wife



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3 600 headwords	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How We Make Products • Sound and Music • Super Structures • Your Five Senses 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amazing Minibeasts • Animals in the Air • Life in Rainforests • Wonderful Water 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Festivals Around the World • Free Time Around the World
4 750 headwords	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All About Plants • How to Stay Healthy • Machines Then and Now • Why We Recycle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All About Desert Life • All About Ocean Life • Animals at Night • Incredible Earth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animals in Art • Wonders of the Past
5 900 headwords	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Materials to Products • Medicine Then and Now • Transportation Then and Now • Wild Weather 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All About Islands • Animal Life Cycles • Exploring Our World • Great Migrations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homes Around the World • Our World in Art
6 1,050 headwords	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cells and Microbes • Clothes Then and Now • Incredible Energy • Your Amazing Body 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All About Space • Caring for Our Planet • Earth Then and Now • Wonderful Ecosystems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helping Around the World • Food Around the World

For younger students, **Dolphin Readers** Levels Starter, 1, and 2 are available.