

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

You are doing a project on heritage conservation. You have found information about UNESCO heritage sites in a travel guide. Read the travel guide.

## Text 1 Travel guide

# Amazing World Heritage Sites



- ① The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) designates important landmarks as World Heritage Sites each year. From beautiful natural landscapes to awe-inspiring manmade structures, these are bucket-list destinations for those who seek unique travel experiences. 'Living museum' Galapagos was selected as the first World Heritage Site in 1978 because of its unparalleled diversity of wildlife. The Taj Mahal is included for its exceptional architectural excellence. As a symbol of classical spirit and civilization, the Acropolis at Athens has also made the list.

### Galapagos Islands—a showcase of biodiversity

- ② It might be a bit of a schlep to get there but this archipelago of about 19 volcanic islands is a must-see for nature lovers. The islands are situated in the Pacific Ocean, and are known for their multifarious flora and fauna. These islands are a melting pot of unique wildlife and visitors can get up close and personal with some of the rare animals. In fact, the bewildering variety of wildlife on these islands inspired the British biologist Charles Darwin, who developed his groundbreaking theory of evolution.

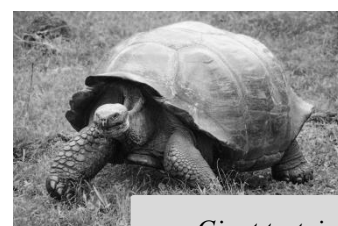
- ③ To reduce the human footprint on this unique environment, the government tries to restrict the number of visitors every year. If you are fortunate enough to be one, the giant tortoise, the largest species of tortoise on earth, is definitely something to check out. It has an average lifespan of 100 or more years and can weigh over 500 pounds!



*Blue-footed booby*



*Sally Lightfoot crab*



*Giant tortoise*

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**Taj Mahal—love wrought in stones**

- ④ Every year, whopping millions of visitors flock to the Taj Mahal, one of the universally admired masterpieces of the world's heritage.
- 30 Anyone who has been to this site in India knows just how stunning it is. The heartbreaking story behind this centuries-old building is, however, a lesser-known fact. In 1631, Mumtaz Mahal, wife of the emperor
- 35 Shah Jahan, died in childbirth. Distraught at her death, the emperor resolved to honour his beloved in a unique way. He could not think of anything better than to immortalize her with a magnificent tomb so that she would be remembered forever. When the emperor passed away in 1666, his body was placed next to his wife's inside the Taj Mahal.
- 40 ⑤ Something that makes the Taj Mahal stand out is its amazing architecture. Constructed of white marble, the building features a wonderful array of domes and arches. The artistic design was so sophisticated that it took more than 15 years to complete the construction.



**Acropolis—the sacred rock of Athens**

- ⑥ Greece is home to some of Europe's most fascinating historical sites. Perhaps none is
- 45 more enchanting than the Acropolis of Athens. This collection of buildings, which sits atop a rocky hill, shows us what life was like in ancient Greek society. Nobody knows for sure what group of people first lived on this hill. Some evidence suggests that the hill was already inhabited in 3500 BC, but the most famous structures at the Acropolis, which showcased the wealth, splendour and power of Athens at its greatest peak, were not built until around
- 50 the fifth century BC.
- ⑦ Former temple the Parthenon is arguably the best-known structure at the Acropolis. This temple was built and dedicated to the city's patron goddess Athena, one of the most powerful divine residents of Olympus.



## Simplified reading and comprehension

## Unit 1

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ ( ) Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Comprehension 1** Your classmate wants to know more about World Heritage Sites. Answer his questions using information from the travel guide. For multiple-choice questions, choose the best answer and blacken ONE circle only.

- 1 According to paragraph 1, what are some of the criteria that a landmark be listed as a World Heritage Site? Tick (✓) THREE boxes.

- ☐ extremely wealthy and prosperous
- ☐ representing a unique cultural tradition or civilization
- ☐ containing the most significant natural habitats
- ☐ having millions of visitors every year
- ☐ exhibiting great architectural achievement

- 2 Find a word in paragraph 2 that means 'a group of islands and the sea surrounding them'.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- 3 What does the phrase 'human footprint' (line 19) mean?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- 4 In paragraph 4, why does the writer describe the story of the Taj Mahal as 'heartbreaking'?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- 5 What material was used to build the Taj Mahal?

- ☐ A brick                      ☐ C stone
- ☐ B concrete                ☐ D white marble

- 6 Why did it take so long to build the Taj Mahal?

- ☐ A They had to wait for the emperor to die.
- ☐ B The design was very complicated.
- ☐ C There were not enough workers.
- ☐ D They had to wait for the proper building permits.

- 7 Order the following events. Number the events (1–4).

Shah Jahan died. \_\_\_\_\_

The Taj Mahal was built. \_\_\_\_\_

The Taj Mahal became a tourist destination. \_\_\_\_\_

Mumtaz Mahal died. \_\_\_\_\_

- 8 According to paragraphs 6 and 7, are the following statements **True (T)**, **False (F)** or **Not Given (NG)**? Write the letter(s) in the boxes.

**Statements**

- i) The buildings at the Acropolis are all white. ☐
- ii) The Parthenon was built to worship Athena. ☐
- iii) The Parthenon was built in 3500 BC. ☐

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## Simplified reading and comprehension

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### Unit 1

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9 What does 'the city' (line 52) refer to?

\_\_\_\_\_

10 What is the main purpose of the travel guide?

\_\_\_\_\_

11 Which of the following best describes the tone of the travel guide?

A entertaining

C admiring

A B C D

B matter-of-fact

D serious

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

12 Complete the following paragraph using information from Text 1. Use ONE word to complete each blank. Make sure the words are grammatically correct.

All around the world, there are many fantastic UNESCO heritage sites to visit. If you are interested in (i) \_\_\_\_\_, you might want to check out the Galapagos Islands in the Pacific Ocean. Here you will have a chance to see the world's largest (ii) \_\_\_\_\_, which can (iii) \_\_\_\_\_ more than 500 pounds. Or, if you prefer holidays to historical spots, check out the Parthenon in Athens. This (iv) \_\_\_\_\_ helps us understand just how important the goddess Athena was to the people of the city. In fact, the city of Athens got its (v) \_\_\_\_\_ from Athena. And finally, if you are in the mood to take in some beautiful architecture, you might want to visit the Taj Mahal. The emperor Shah Jahan ordered this amazing tomb to be built after his wife's (vi) \_\_\_\_\_.

13 Find words from Text 1 with these meanings.

i) impressive; making one feel respect and admiration  
(adj., paragraph 1)

\_\_\_\_\_

ii) having great variety (adj., paragraph 2)

\_\_\_\_\_

iii) very big (adj., paragraph 4)

\_\_\_\_\_

iv) collection (n., paragraph 5)

\_\_\_\_\_

v) presented (the good quality of something)  
(v., paragraph 6)

\_\_\_\_\_