
ProTalk
Discussion Files
C1. The New Seven Wonders of the World
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Goals

- Can read and understand a factual text about the New Seven Wonders of the World and World Heritage Sites.
- Can evaluate the positive and negative impacts of tourism and share my own views on the topic.



What do you think?

If travel is **food** for the **soul**,
then I'm always **hungry**!

Travelling

What inspires you to travel? Do you prefer to visit natural landscapes, historical sites, or urban areas?

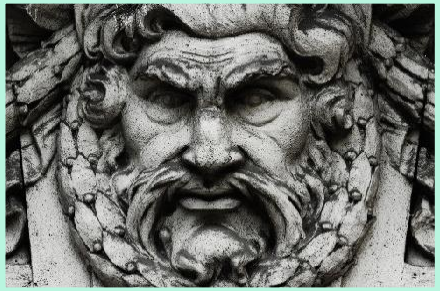


The Seven Wonders of the World

How many of the classic Seven Wonders of the World can you name? Here are some hints.









World Heritage Sites



Does your country have any World Heritage Sites? What are they?

Read the text and summarize it.

The New Seven Wonders

In 1999, filmmaker Bernard Weber was inspired by the Internet's potential to reach people all around the world, and sought to connect with them through a universal concept that everyone could recognise. He **struck upon** the idea of creating a new version of the classic Seven Wonders of the World, selected by people all over the planet. The result was the New Seven Wonders of the World, chosen by popular vote via the Internet and telephone in 2007.



Read the text and summarize it.

The New Seven Wonders

The winners were The Great Wall of China, Petra in Jordan, Rome’s Colosseum, Mexico's Chichen Itza, Machu Picchu in Peru, the Taj Mahal in India, and Christ the Redeemer in Brazil. While all 200 candidates were undoubtedly incredible, it later turned out that some of the winning sites are in countries that had very active media campaigns encouraging citizens to vote for their local “wonder”.



Read the text and summarize it.

World Heritage Sites



Out of all the **splendid** natural and man-made marvels on planet Earth, what makes a site truly special? The United Nations seeks to **determine** this with a system more scientific than a popular vote. The organisation has its own list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites, which are selected on the grounds of having cultural, historical, scientific or other importance to the common culture of humanity. Sites range from the well known, like the **majestic** redwood forests of northern California, to the relatively **obscure**, like the remains of the Dacian Fortresses in the mountains of Romania. Even the Sydney Opera House is a World Heritage Site.

Read the text and summarize it.

The New 7 Wonders and World Heritage Sites

It's a very **prestigious** honour to be named a World Heritage Site, and countries around the world strive to have their own unique sites fulfil the **criteria** to be selected. There are currently 1073 cultural, natural and mixed sites, with the number increasing every year.

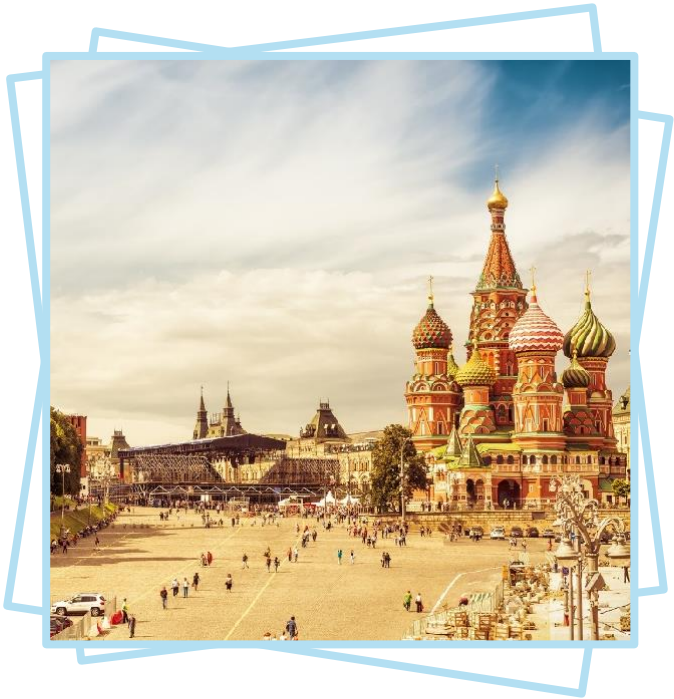
One benefit of being **designated** a World Heritage Site is that the location receives some protection from things like development, war, and modification. Most of all, of course, it is a huge **boom** in tourism.



Discuss the meanings with your teacher and use each in a sentence.

splendid	criteria	obscure
to strike upon	majestic	prestigious
to determine	boom	to designate

World Heritage Sites



How many World Heritage Sites have you visited? Describe your favourites. Were any sites underwhelming?

World Heritage Sites

The text mentions that being selected as a World Heritage Site is a huge boom in tourism. How else could an area benefit from World Heritage Site status?





I think it could be a boom to...

Popular vote or committee?

What do you think is a better way to select outstanding special sites: a popular vote like the New 7 Wonders, or with a committee, like UNESCO? Why?

World Heritage Sites



The text says World Heritage Sites are selected on the basis of cultural, historical, scientific or other importance to the common culture of humanity. What do you think the **common culture of humanity** is?

Choose your own Wonder

What would be your criteria to determine a Wonder of the World or World Heritage Site? Consider the aspects below and make a list of three to four criteria. Prioritise your list from most to least important and explain why.

- age
- condition
- physical beauty
- cultural significance
- popularity
- historical value

Choose your own world wonder

Using those criteria, choose a place in your country or local area that you would select as a Wonder or World Heritage Site. How does it fulfil your criteria?

Negative impact

**Do you think having a site designated a World Heritage Site or Seven Wonder could have a negative impact on an area?
How so, and what could be done to limit it?**

tourism





local community

environment





government

Cultural World Heritage

UNESCO also has a list for **Cultural World Heritage**. Their first criteria to be selected is for something to **represent a masterpiece of human creative genius**. What would you nominate to put on the list and why?



Bucket lists



A **bucket list** is a list of things a person hopes to do or see in their lifetime. Many people create their own travel bucket lists.

Make your own travel bucket list. Where do you hope to visit and why? Are any of these places World Heritage Sites or New 7 Wonders?

Presentation

If travel is food for the soul…

Looking back at the third slide, make your own similar analogy of what travel means for you.

Prepare a two-minute presentation. Include several reasons to support your point of view.

Give your presentation to the class. Answer questions and get feedback.

If travel is _____,

then _____!