Seven Wonders of the World

Y6 Reading Comprehension

There are different categories of the 'Wonders of the World' including Ancient, Natural and Modern, and the New Seven Wonders of the World. On the 7th July 2007 in Lisbon, Portugal, the list of the new Seven Wonders of the World was published. Twenty-five finalists were chosen and the public from all around the world chose their favourites with the seven most popular becoming the new wonders of the world.

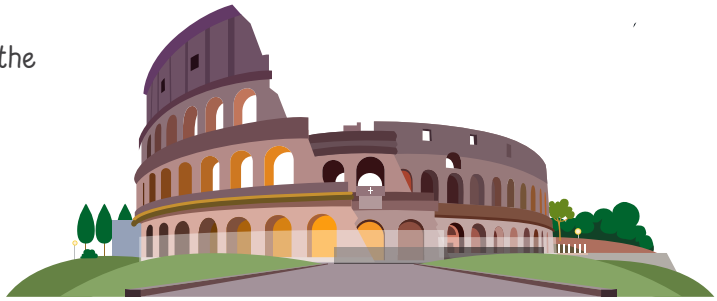
The Great Wall of China

The Great Wall of China is a series of walls and fortifications that was built over 500 years ago in northern China. It is the longest wall in the world and is truly a great sight. It's winding ancient walls cover thousands of miles surrounded by rugged beauty and steep hills. It was built to prevent China from invasion and protect trade routes. Due to natural erosion and human interference, 30% of the Great Wall has disappeared or been destroyed.

Christ the Redeemer

In 1931, work was completed on the Christ the Redeemer statue, which stands perched on Mount Corcovado in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The statue stands at 30 meters tall and its arms span a massive 28 meters wide. It is carved out of soapstone and reinforced with concrete and is one of Brazil's most recognisable symbols and perhaps more importantly, it is a symbol for Christianity that attracts millions of visitors every year.

The Colosseum



The Colosseum in Rome, Italy, sometimes known as the Flavian Ampitheatre, was built between 72AD and 96AD during the reigns of Emperor Vespaspian and Titus. The site of the Colosseum was once an artificial lake, but in 72AD work commenced on the huge structure, once complete, it stood 187m long and 155m wide. During Roman times it was the largest entertainment arena and was mainly used for gladiatorial bouts. Gladiators were often convicted criminals or prisoners of war, and most died in the arena in front of huge crowds. The ruins of the Colosseum now attract millions of visitors every year.

Machu Pichu

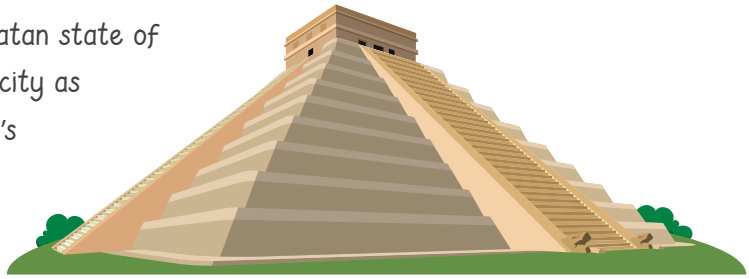
Built on a mountain ridge in the Cusco region of Peru between 1438 and 1472, Machu Pichu was built for Emperor Pachucuti. Researchers believe it was a royal estate or a ceremonial city. Evidence suggests it was only occupied for 150 years before the population was devastated by smallpox. Machu Pichu appeals to many different people and is often voted as one of the most popular tourist destinations in the world. New rules and sanctions have been brought in recently to protect the ruins from further damage caused by mass tourism.

Petra

Petra, in Jordan is also known as the 'Rose City' due to the sandstone in is built upon. A Swiss explorer discovered this lost civilization in 1812 and new tombs and caves are still being discovered as recently as 2016. Petra was well placed to benefit from the silks of China and the spices of India and was a major center for trade.

Chichen Itza

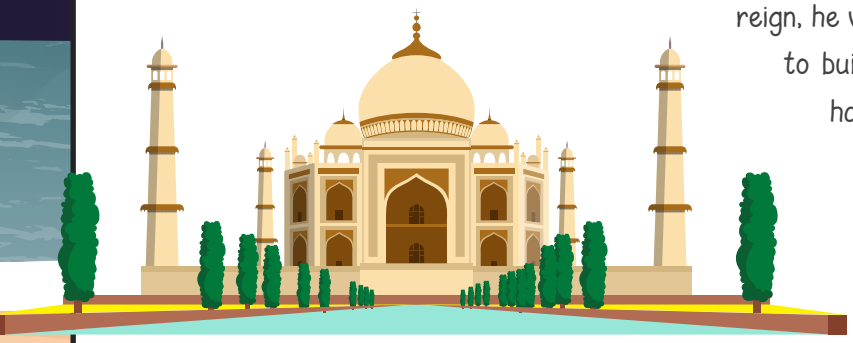
Chichen Itza is an archaeological site in the Yucatan state of Mexico. It is believed the Maya people built the city as far back as 550AD, and it is now one of Mexico's most popular tourist attractions. The main attraction is the towering El Castillo, which was built as a temple to the god Kukulkan.



An interesting fact is that there are 365 steps up the Castillo pyramid, one for each day of the year: impressive knowledge given the lack of astronomical technology.

Taj Mahal

The Taj Mahal was built in Agra, India between 1631 and 1648 on the orders of emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his favourite wife. It is built on the bank of the Yamuna River out of white marble. During Shah Jahan's reign, he was extremely wealthy and promised his dying wife to build her the most beautiful tomb known to man. It has been reported that over 20,000 stone carvers were required to complete the masterpiece. The magic of the Taj Mahal continues in the garden, where a giant reflecting pool mirrors the beauty of the building.



Questions

1. **In which city were the new seven wonders finally chosen?**

_____

2. **The following statements are about The Great Wall. Tick whether the statement is fact or opinion:**

	Fact	Opinion
It is the longest wall in the world	☐	☐
The wall is surrounded by rugged beauty	☐	☐
30% is missing or destroyed	☐	☐

3. **What does the word 'perched' tell you about the Christ the Redeemer statue?**

_____

4. **Give one piece of evidence from the text that supports the idea that the statue helps to boost tourism in Rio de Janeiro.**

_____

_____

5. **The Colosseum was built during the reigns of which two emperors?**

1. _____ 2. _____

6. **The Colosseum was mainly used for gladiatorial bouts. Give one alternative word for 'bouts'.**

_____

_____

Questions

7. **In what ways could mass tourism damage historical sites?**

8. **Look at the section titled Taj Mahal. Which word tells you that Shah Jahan had more than one wife?**

9. **Explain how the reflecting pool would mirror the beauty of the Taj Mahal.**

10. **Look at the section titled Chichen Itza. What does the word towering suggest about the structure of El Castillo?**

11. **Why are there 365 steps up El Castillo?**

12. **Which of the following would be the most suitable title for the text?**

- *How the 7 Wonders Have Changed* ☐
- *Statues and Monuments* ☐
- *What a Wonderful World* ☐
- *Lost Civilisations* ☐

Answers

1. **In which city were the new seven wonders finally chosen?**

   Lisbon

2. **The following statements are about The Great Wall. Tick whether the statement is fact or opinion:**

	Fact	Opinion
It is the longest wall in the world	☑	☐
The wall is surrounded by rugged beauty	☐	☑
30% is missing or destroyed	☑	☐

3. **What does the word 'perched' tell you about the Christ the Redeemer statue?**

   It is on top or at the summit.

4. **Give one piece of evidence from the text that supports the idea that the statue helps to boost tourism in Rio de Janeiro.**

   Attracts millions of visitors every year.

5. **The Colosseum was built during the reigns of which two emperors?**

   Vespaspian and Titus

6. **The Colosseum was mainly used for gladiatorial bouts. Give one alternative word for 'bouts'.**

   Fights/battles/duels

Answers

7. **In what ways could mass tourism damage historical sites?**

Damage footpaths/ buildings/ wildlife/nature.

8. **Look at the section titled Taj Mahal. Which word tells you that Shah Jahan had more than one wife?**

Favourite.

9. **Explain how the reflecting pool would mirror the beauty of the Taj Mahal.**

The pool could act as a mirror to reflect the image of the building.

10. **Look at the section titled Chichen Itza. What does the word towering suggest about the structure of El Castillo?**

It is tall/high up/impressive.

11. **Why are there 365 steps up El Castillo?**

One for each day of the year.

12. **Which of the following would be the most suitable title for the text?**

- How the 7 Wonders Have Changed ☐
- Statues and Monuments ☐
- What a Wonderful World ☑
- Lost Civilisations ☐