



GRAFFITI

1) Read the text about Graffiti art.

The term **graffiti** comes from the Greek word '*graphein*' which means 'to write'. People have always drawn and painted on walls. Prehistoric man painted on the walls of caves, and those paintings are now considered valuable works of art. Graffiti was first found on ancient Roman architecture.

If people draw on walls these days, it isn't considered art; it is called 'graffiti' and often cleaned off as soon as possible. Graffiti art takes a number of forms. It can be an individual mark, usually just the initials of the artist, or something much larger, like a mural. Most graffiti artists prefer to be called 'writers'. A writer's signature with spray paint or marker is called a 'tag', and each piece of graffiti art is 'tagged'. Communities of writers who are friends are known as 'crews', and inexperienced writers are called 'toys'.

For some artists graffiti is a reaction to the circumstances of their lives, while for others it is a more thought-out artistic expression. The motivation behind a piece of graffiti can be happiness or sadness, frustration or relief. For this reason it is an art form that is very close to the hearts of the young.

Graffiti as a youth culture began in America but has become popular in many other countries. Its influences come from pop culture, especially music and cartoons. Graffiti is now so popular; it can be seen in many museums and art galleries.



2) Answer these questions.

1. What does the term graffiti really mean?

2. What do you call the signature of a graffiti artist?

3. How are communities of graffiti artists called?

4. What motivates graffiti art?

5. Where did graffiti as a youth culture begin?

6. What are the main influences for graffiti art?

3) Choose true (T), false (F) or not stated (NS).

1. The first graffiti was found in Egypt. _____
2. A mural can be called graffiti. _____
3. Inexperienced graffiti artists are called 'crews'. _____
4. Some graffiti artists sold their works to art galleries and became famous. _____
5. Each artist has his or her own 'tag'. _____
6. Graffiti as a youth culture began in Europe. _____
7. Graffiti is more popular in Europe than in Asia. _____

4) Match the following words (a-d) with their definitions (A-E) and then with the pictures (1-5).

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|-----------------------|---|-------|
| a) scribble | A) a large picture painted on the wall | _____ |
| b) signature | B) a short, often memorable phrase | _____ |
| c) mural | C) to write hastily or carelessly | _____ |
| d) graffiti | D) one's name as written by oneself | _____ |
| e) advertising slogan | E) drawings or inscriptions made on a wall or other surface | _____ |



