Reading: Cancun

Look at the picture and tittle of today's reading.

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| | THINGS TO DO HOTELS RESTAURANTS EVENTS PLAN YOUR TRIP DESTINATIONS |

Cancun: a deserted island

Do you know Cancun? Have you lived there? Have you been to Cancun on vacation? What can you do in Cancun? Try to answer all these questions and think of all the vocabulary from this week that you can find in this reading.

I. Complete the other columns. Put a cross (x) in all the vocabulary you can find in a text about Cancun.

bay		jungle		lagoon		drugstore	
beach	x	river		swamp		department store	
shore	x	coat		sinkhole		library	
island	x	flip-flops		mangrove		pier	
cliff		gloves		fresh water		seafront, promenade	
woods, forest		underground		square		lighthouse	
rainforest		desert		bridge		crystal-clear water	

That is the vocabulary that you learned this and in the previous weeks. But there is probably more vocabulary in Spanish that you need to know in English.

II. Match these words and phrases to their meaning in Spanish.

1. separated from _____
2. consist of ___a___
3. is written _____
4. to one side of _____
5. was inaugurated _____
6. nowadays ___

a) consistir en
b) se escribe
c) fue inaugurado
d) separado de
e) a un lado de
f) hoy en día

III. **Then write a word or phrase from the previous list in the correct space.**

1. A bikini ___*consists of*___ two pieces: a top and a bottom.
2. _____ people care more about the environment.
3. Buda and Pest are two cities _____ by a river.
4. I am Anne Marie. My name _____ as two words.
5. The Tower of London is located _____ the Thames River.
6. Santa Monica Pier _____ in 1909.

Now you are ready for the text. A good way to show that you understand a text is to organize the information in a chart.

IV. **Read the text.**

Cancun: a deserted island

Four decades ago, Cancún was a deserted island and few people even knew of its existence.

Located in a remote region of the Caribbean, it consisted of a series of sand dunes separated from the mainland by two narrow canals that connect the sea to a freshwater lagoon.

The coast consisted of swamps, mangroves, virgin jungle and unexplored beaches. Today, we can find all these natural landscapes, but we also have beautiful parks, marinas, and seafronts.

At the beginning the name was not clear: some maps called it "Kankun", which means "pot of snakes" or "nest of snakes" in Maya. However, in the first official documents, the name is written as two words, "Kan Kun," and occasionally, "Can Cún" (in its Spanish form).

The Master Plan
The "Cancún Project" was officially approved in 1969. The three main objectives of the project were:

- To build a tourism zone with hotels, shopping centers, golf courses, and marinas;
- To build a residential zone for permanent residents. In other words, a city that included commercial areas, roads, public buildings, schools and markets; and
- To build an international airport to one side of the Cancun-Tulum highway.

The first hotels opened in 1973 (Playa Blanca, Bojorquez and Cancún Caribe). The next year the international airport was inaugurated, and Quintana Roo became a state.

From 1989 to date, Cancún has been the nation's most dynamic city. Nowadays, there are around one million inhabitants in the urban area. Cancún has become the country's largest tourism resort and it is the most prosperous city in the Yucatán Peninsula. It is also the Caribbean's premier destination, surpassing even the Bahamas and Puerto Rico.

The future is promising. Puerto Cancún, a huge, luxury marina with eco-friendly hotels, is considered the next big project.

Now you will find specific information about the text. Read the first column in the chart and do these two things.
1) Look for the synonyms of these words. Sometimes they information in the text is not stated (no está escrita o no la vas a encontrar) with the exact same words.
2) Think of the information you need to find. Is it a number? Is it a name? is it a description?

V.   Complete the chart below with the missing information.

	Synonym	Answer
Place		Cancún
Founded in		
Meaning of name		
Location		
Natural scenery		
Current population		
Future projects		