TABLE COMPLETION SKILL BUILDING EXERCISE 6

Stepwells

A. In Patan, the state's ancient capital, the stepwell of Rani Ki Vav (Queen's Stepwell) is perhaps the finest current example. It was built by Queen Udayamati during the late 11th century, but became silted up following a flood during the 13th century. But the Archaeological Survey of India began restoring it in the 1960s, and today it's in pristine condition. At 65 metres long, 20 metres wide and 27 metres deep, Rani Ki Vav features 500 distinct sculptures carved into niches throughout the monument, depicting gods such as Vishnu and Parvati in various incarnations. Incredibly, in January 2001, this ancient structure survived a devastating
earthquake that measured 7.6 on the Richter scale. Another example is the Surya Kund in Modhera, northern Gujarat, next to the Sun Temple, built by King Bhima I in 1026 to honour the sun god Surya. It's actually a tank (kund means reservoir or pond) rather than a well, but displays the hallmarks of stepwell architecture, including four sides of steps that descend to the bottom in a stunning geometrical formation. The terraces house 108 small, intricately carved shrines between the sets of steps.

B. In the old ruined town of Abhaneri, about 95 kilometres east of Jaipur, is Chand Baori, one of India's oldest and deepest wells; aesthetically, it's perhaps one of the most dramatic. Built in around 850 AD next to the temple of Harshat Mata, the baori comprises hundreds of zigzagging steps that run along three of its sides, steeply descending 11 storeys, resulting in a striking geometric pattern when seen from afar. On the fourth side, covered verandas supported by ornate pillars overlook the steps. Still in public use is Neemrana Ki Baori, located just off the Jaipur–Dehli highway. Constructed in around 1700, it's nine storeys deep, with the last two levels underwater. At ground level, there are 86 colonnaded openings from where the visitor descends 170 steps to the deepest water source.

Questions 1-5

Complete the table below

Choose **ONE WORD AND/OR A NUMBER** from the passage for each answer.

Write your answers in boxes 1-5 on your answer sheet.

Stepwell	Date	Features	Other notes
Rani ki Vav	Late 11th century	As many as 500 sculpture decorate the monument	Restored in the 1960s, excellent condition despite the (1)____ of 2001

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Surya Kund	1026	Steps on the (2)_____ produce a geometrical pattern	Looks more like a (3)_____ than a well
Raniji ki Baori	1699	Intricately carved monument	One of 21 baoris in the area commissioned by Queen Nathavatji
Chand Baori	850 AD	Steps take you down 11 storeys to the bottom	Old deep and very dramatic, Has (4)____ which provide a view of the steps
Neemrana ki Baori	1700	Has two (5)_____ levels	Used by public today

LIVEWORKSHEETS