HIKING THE INCA TRAIL

Words

Look for the following words as you read the passage. Match each word with its correct definition.

Words	Definitions
1. accessible	A. n., a wonderful thing
2. adventurous	B. n., something expensive and desirable but unnecessary
3. archeologist[1]	C. v., to attract, pull
4. ceremonial	D. adj., reachable, easy to get
5. construct	E. adj. related to traditional or formal practices
6. draw	F. n., advantage, good part
7. imagination	G. n., official limit on something
8. institute	H. v., to build
9. luxury	I. v., to start, put in place
10. marvel	J. n., place
11. mystery	K. adj. original to a place
12. native	L. adj., daring, willing to try new or dangerous activities
13. network	M. adv., exactly
14. pertain	N. v., to protect, save
15. precisely	O. n., the ability to think creatively, form pictures in the mind
16. preserve	P. v., to be related to something
17. restriction	Q. n., a system of various parts that work together
18. site	R. adj., wonderful to see
19. spectacular	S. n., a person who studies ancient cultures
20. upside	T. n., something strange, unknown, or difficult to understand

[1]BrE: archaeologist

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Reading

Hiking the Inca Trail

Sitting high in the Andes Mountains in Peru, the ancient ruins of Machu Picchu have captured the imaginations of travelers[1] ever since they were rediscovered by archeologist Hiram Bingham in 1911. The name Machu Picchu means "old peak" in the native Incan language, and the site had probably been considered a sacred place since long before the ancient Incas arrived there. The Incas built a ceremonial city on the site that included palaces, temples, storage rooms, baths, and houses, all constructed from heavy blocks of granite fitted precisely together. Although little is known about the activities that took place in the ancient city, it appears that one of its functions was as an astronomical observatory. The so-called Intihuatana stone, located at the site, was used to mark the autumn and spring equinoxes as well as other astronomical events.

The spectacular natural setting, the wonders of architectural and engineering skills embodied in the well-preserved buildings, and the mysteries of the ancient culture draw thousands of tourists from around the world every year. The nearest city is Cuzco, about thirty miles away. From there, tourists can take trains and buses to the ruins. A popular route for the more adventurous is to hike along the Inca Trail. The ancient Inca created a network of trails throughout the mountains, some of which are still in existence. The Inca Trail to Machu Picchu, used by hikers today, was likely considered a sacred route in its time, used by travelers making pilgrimages to that ceremonial site.

Although the Inca Trail leads to the wonders of Machu Picchu, it offers many marvels of its own. Hikers are treated to magnificent views of glacier-covered peaks above and tropical valleys below in their journey over high mountain passes. Many species of orchids can be seen, as well as all kinds of birds, from tiny hummingbirds to the splendid Andean condor. The Inca Trail also passes by ruins of other ceremonial sites on the way to the grand destination of Machu Picchu.

Tourists have been hiking the Inca Trail since the early part of the twentieth century, and for much of that time there were no regulations. Hikers could travel when they pleased and camp wherever they chose. However, the trip has become so popular that in 2005, the Peruvian government instituted a set of restrictions on the use of the trail. To protect the natural environment and preserve the ruins, no more than 500 people a day are allowed to enter the trail. Because each group that sets out includes guides and porters, the number of tourists entering the trail

[1]BrE: travellers

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each day is probably closer to 200. In addition, both tour companies and individual guides must be licensed. There are also legal requirements that pertain to the minimum wage that porters must be paid as well as the maximum weight load they can be required to carry. Fees for trail use help pay for upkeep of the trail and the ruins. All these regulations and fees combine for a more expensive trip, and this has made it a luxury accessible to fewer people. The upside is that the environment and the workers are protected.

Answer the questions about **Hiking the Inca Trail.**

Questions 1–9

Complete the summary below.
Choose ***NO MORE THAN ONE WORD*** *from the text for each answer.*

Machu Picchu is an ancient **1**..... city in the Andes Mountains of Peru. It was rediscovered by an **2**..... in 1911. It is not precisely clear how the ancient Inca used the site, but experts believe that at least some of its **3**..... pertained to astronomy. The wonders of Machu Picchu **4**..... visitors from all around the world. Many visitors like to reach the site by hiking the Inca Trail, part of a **5**..... of trails originally made by the ancient Inca. This is a trip for **6**..... people. Along the way, hikers can enjoy many **7**..... such as spectacular views and interesting flowers and birds. Because such large numbers of people use the Inca Trail, the Peruvian government has had to take steps to **8**..... the ruins and the environment. It has instituted a number of restrictions as well as fees. Because of this, hiking the trail has become an expensive **9**..... that many people cannot afford.

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My Words

Write the words that are new to you. Look them up in the dictionary and write their definitions.

Words	Definitions

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