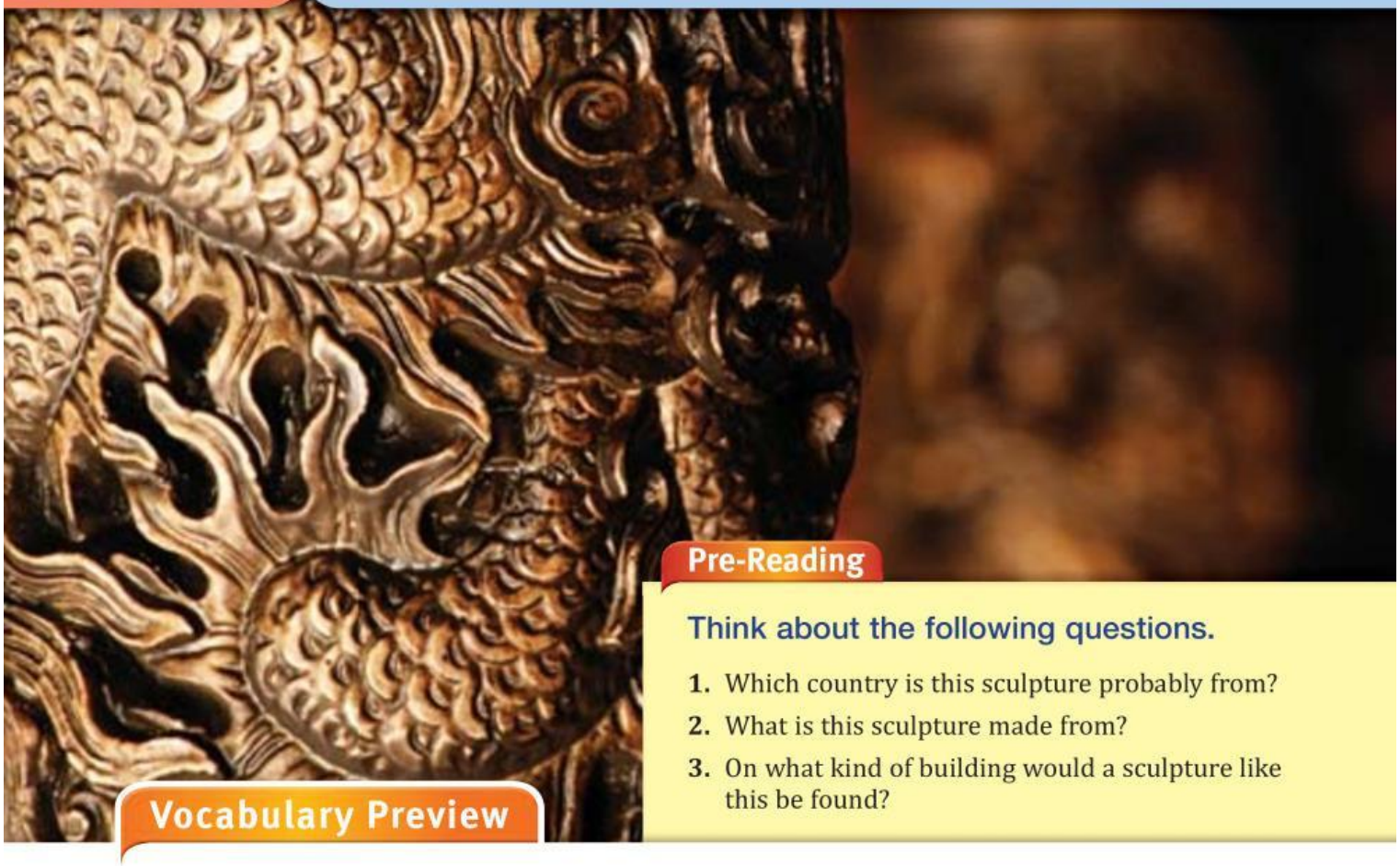
6 Rescuing Relics



Pre-Reading

Think about the following questions.

1. Which country is this sculpture probably from?
2. What is this sculpture made from?
3. On what kind of building would a sculpture like this be found?

Vocabulary Preview

Write the letter of the word or phrase with the same meaning as the underlined word.

a. big; important	d. changed; took away to put something new in
b. collected; gathered	e. related to today
c. showed; put out for viewing	f. succeed in doing

1. ___ He visited a museum that <u>displayed</u> postage stamps from around the world.
2. ___ I like ancient sculptures more than <u>modern</u> sculptures.
3. ___ The city <u>replaced</u> the old brick street with a smooth new street.
4. ___ My friend has <u>accumulated</u> more than 2,000 comic books in his collection.
5. ___ The country went through <u>major</u> changes during the 1960s and 1970s.
6. ___ We won't be able to <u>manage</u> to see the whole museum in one day.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Rescuing Relics

Track 11

Have you ever wondered where museums get the works and **relics** that they put on display? If the museum is **sponsored** by the government, then the relics were probably collected under special laws that protect historical treasures related to that country. However, not all museums are sponsored by the government. Sometimes a private collector decides to set up a museum so that the public can view the works or relics in his or her collection. Since the 1990s, more and more of these museums set up by private collectors have sprung up in China. Typically, these private museums are small, but they give visitors the chance to see works and relics not found anywhere else.

Songtang Li is one such collector who has put part of his private collection on display for the public. In 2001, Li opened his museum in an old 18th century house in Beijing. The museum displays some of the best examples of Chinese **folk art** he has collected over his lifetime. Many of the pieces in the collection are actually **architectural decorations** from old houses and buildings around China's **capital**. Whenever an old building was being torn down, Li would visit the site to see if there was anything from the building worth rescuing. In this way, Li managed to accumulate thousands of folk art pieces, some of which are over 1,000 years old.

Li began collecting folk art sculptures when he was young. The first pieces in his collection were two gate **piers** that stood in front of his house. The stone piers were **carved** with historical designs, and Li thought of them as his two friends. During his childhood, he would sometimes even sit beside them and tell them stories. When Li was seven, the city told Li's family to get rid of the piers so that the street could be rebuilt. Rather than throwing them away, Li's father allowed his son to keep them.

Thus began Li's lifetime hobby of visiting **demolition** sites and collecting pieces of sculpture or decorative architecture. Anything that he was allowed to take away would end up in his collection. In the late 1970s, China underwent major **economic reforms.** At that time, Beijing started widespread demolition and rebuilding across the city. According to Li, more than ninety percent of the old houses and **temples** in Beijing have since been torn down and replaced with modern buildings.

Luckily, all of old Beijing's architectural folk art has not been lost. Visitors to the Songtangzhai Folk Sculpture Museum can view some of the best relics Li rescued over the years.

Reading Time _____ minutes _____ seconds 432 words

2 *relic*: a valuable, ancient artifact or work of art
2 *sponsor*: to support with money
12 *folk art*: works of art usually made by non-professional artists for decorative purposes
13 *architectural*: related to man-made structures like buildings
13 *decoration*: a thing used to make something or a place look nice
14 *capital*: the city where the government is located
19 *pier*: a post or pillar that gates hang on
20 *carve*: to cut or chip into a certain shape or design
24 *demolition*: the act or state of being destroyed or torn down
26 *economic*: related to money or the economy
26 *reform*: a change that is meant to improve something
28 *temple*: a building dedicated to religious worship
30 *luckily*: by good fortune

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Reading Comprehension

Choose the best answer.

1. What is another possible title for this reading?

a. "A Man and His Museum"
b. "Beijing's Best Museum Designer"
c. "Changes in Chinese Architecture"
d. "The Largest Museum in China"

2. Where is the Songtangzhai Folk Sculpture Museum?

a. In a city near Beijing
b. In an 18th century temple
c. In China's capital city
d. In Songtang Li's house

3. What would a visitor NOT see in the Songtangzhai Folk Sculpture Museum?

a. Carved wood and stone
b. Folk art from 1,000 years ago
c. Paintings that Li made in childhood
d. Pieces of decorative architecture

4. What can be inferred about most of the pieces in Li's collection?

a. He paid a lot of money for them.
b. People took them from demolition sites and gave them to Li.
c. The government was not interested in them.
d. They came from his childhood home.

5. According to Li, what is true about modern Beijing?

a. Ninety percent of it needs to be torn down.
b. Few parts of it are very old.
c. Folk art can be seen in most of it.
d. Not much of it was rebuilt.

Idiomatic Expressions

Find these idioms in the reading.

- **set up (something)** [to establish or create something]
  After she moved in, the girl set up her bedroom how she liked it.

- **take (something) away** [to remove something to some distance away]
  My mother would take my toys away if I left them in the living room.

- **tear down** [to destroy; to break (a building) into pieces]
  My father tore down the old dog house in our backyard and built a new one for our dog.

Fill in the blank with one of the above idioms. Change its form if necessary.

1. When he finally arrived, he discovered that there was nothing left to _____.

2. The teacher needed to _____ her classroom for the new school year.

3. The government will not allow anyone to _____ the building because it is a historical treasure.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Summary

Read the sentences from the reading passage. Paraphrase the sentences to create a summary of the passage.

a. Sometimes a private collector decides to set up a museum so that the public can view the works or relics in his or her collection.

b. Since the 1990s, more and more of these museums set up by private collectors have sprung up in China.

1. a + b: _____

_____, a trend that began in the 1990s in China.

c. In 2001, Li opened his museum in an old 18th century house in Beijing.

d. The museum displays some of the best examples of Chinese folk art he has collected over his lifetime.

2. c + d: _____

_____ in an 18th century house in 2001.

e. In the late 1970s, China underwent major economic reforms.

f. According to Li, more than ninety percent of the old houses and temples in Beijing have since been torn down and replaced with modern buildings.

3. e + f: _____ from the time that Beijing began undergoing major economic reforms in the late 1970s.

Listening

Li's Museum

Track 12

Listen to the dialog. Check True or False for each sentence.

	True	False
1. The speakers talk about an advantage to visiting Li's museum.	☐	☐
2. Li works alone at his museum, explaining things to visitors.	☐	☐
3. Li has another job besides taking care of his museum.	☐	☐

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Discussion

Discuss the following questions.

1. What kind of museum do you enjoy visiting the most? The least?
2. What was the smallest museum you have ever visited?
3. Which museum have you visited that you remember well?

Grammar

Present Perfect Passive

Use *has been* or *have been* followed by the past participle when the action described by the verb is more important than the actor who is doing it.

More than ninety percent of the old houses and temples in Beijing (have since been / were since been) torn down and replaced with modern buildings.
Luckily, all of old Beijing's architectural folk art (has not been / was not been) lost.

Writing

Write your own short paragraph by answering the questions below.

My Visit to the Museum

(1) Which museum have you visited that you remember well? **(2)** What do you remember about this museum? **(3)** How long did you spend in the museum? **(4)** Would you like to go back to this museum? **(5)** Why or why not?

Example

A museum that I have visited and remember well is the Museum of Modern Art. I remember that there were many famous works of art that I had read about in books. I spent only two hours in the museum because I was with a tour group and our schedule was very busy. I would like to go back to this museum. Then I could look at some of the things that I missed the first time.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Vocabulary and Idiom Review

A. Choose the best word or phrase to fill in the blank.

1. The town's best Italian restaurant will _____ the high school's fund raising event.
   a. associate b. display c. replace d. sponsor

2. City officials plan to _____ the old library in order to build a new one.
   a. open up b. stick to c. tear down d. undergo

3. Is the weather usually calm before a big storm, or is that just a(n) _____?
   a. heart rate b. old wives' tale c. routine d. turn of the century

4. Many people believe the government should _____ the public school system.
   a. recommend b. reform c. respond d. reproduce

5. Only a few of the _____ that we visited still had monks living in them.
   a. decorations b. folk art c. relics d. temples

6. Someone _____ two names on the largest tree in the park.
   a. accumulated b. achieved c. carved d. managed

7. The 110-story skyscraper was a fantastic _____ achievement at the time.
   a. architectural b. economic c. major d. modern

B. Choose the correct form of the word to fill in the blank.

8. I'm worried that something will happen to the portrait. It is quite valuable and _____.
   a. replacement b. replaced c. irreplaceable

9. The palace garden blended culture and history with a touch of _____.
   a. modernity b. modern c. modernly

10. Snow has been _____ on the roads all night. It is now about six centimeters deep.
    a. accumulation b. accumulating c. cumulative

LIVEWORKSHEETS