

Reading Test #1



Full name _____

AD05

A Read the text. Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- a) The World Heritage List is a list of properties and sites which are under threat. _____
- b) Human activity is the biggest threat to many of the sites which are in danger. _____
- c) Much of the city of Zabid has been destroyed because of construction. _____
- d) Charles Darwin introduced new species to the Galapagos Islands. _____
- e) The saltpeter works in Chile are special because they are in the desert. _____

UNESCO's World Heritage List is a collection of 890 properties and sites worldwide which are considered to have outstanding universal value. The list includes archaeological remains, buildings, and natural areas in every corner of the globe. It includes El Vizcaino whale sanctuary in Mexico, the buildings and works of artist Antoni Gaudi in Spain, Stonehenge and the entire city of Bath in the UK, and Victoria Falls in Zimbabwe. But many of the unique sites on the list are in danger, partly from natural disasters like earthquakes, but mostly from human-made threats, such as war and conflict, pollution, unchecked tourist development, and uncontrolled urbanization. Here are some examples.

The historic town of Zabid in Yemen is an outstanding archaeological site. It was the capital of Yemen from the 13th to 15th century and played an important part in the Arab and Muslim world for many centuries due to its Islamic university. However, the condition of the city has seriously deteriorated in recent years. It is estimated that up to 40% of its original houses have been replaced by concrete buildings. UNESCO was requested by the Yemeni government to include Zabid on the List of World Heritage Sites in Danger in order to draw attention to the problem and facilitate preservation of the site.

The Galapagos Islands, belonging to Ecuador and situated in the Pacific Ocean, showcase a wide variety of wildlife and provide a unique look at the process of evolution. Because of their unique isolated position, the islands are home to some unusual animal life, including the land iguana, the giant tortoise, and many forms of marine life. Charles Darwin's theory of evolution was inspired by his observation of finches here. Now, however, this precious and beautiful place is under threat from increasing population, tourism, pollution, poaching, and the introduction of new species of animals to the islands, including rats, goats, and pigs, which are threatening the fragile ecosystem.

New laws have been introduced to make poaching and harvesting of endangered species illegal. The number of visitors allowed to the islands each year is being restricted, and the islands are being carefully monitored by scientists, environmental activist groups, and government organizations.

Situated in a remote region of Chile, in one of the driest deserts on Earth, The Humberstone and Santa Laura Saltpeter Works are where saltpeter, an ingredient for fertilizer, was extracted and processed for over sixty years. It is where workers from Chile, Peru, and Bolivia lived in company towns and forged a distinctive culture of their own. The fertilizer produced from the saltpeter transformed agricultural lands throughout North and South America. The site was recently damaged by an earthquake and placed on the list to help mobilize resources for its conservation.

The original idea of the World Heritage List was that sites of special cultural and natural interest should be identified, protected, and preserved for future generations. World Heritage sites belong to everyone in the world, irrespective of the country in which they are located. It is our collective responsibility to ensure the survival of these places in the world which are considered to be of outstanding value to humanity.

