



Name \_\_\_\_\_

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## Angkor Wat

One thousand years ago, the largest city in the world was Angkor Thom in Cambodia. More than one million people lived in this city. No other city in the world could support this many people. Emperor Suryavarman II was the ruler of the great Khmer Empire. He controlled Angkor Thom and most of Southeast Asia. He ordered the construction of Angkor Wat, which became the largest temple in the world. The huge temple stands outside the city. It was built as a combination of a royal palace and a Hindu temple. The king lived there and was worshipped as a god-king. This unique temple was surrounded by a deep water-filled **moat**. The moat was more than 620 feet wide. Inside the walls of the temple, there were shrines and galleries. There was a central dome-shaped pyramid more than 200

feet high. Skilled artists created carvings and statues throughout the temple.

The capital city of Angkor Thom was defended both by water and warriors. The people were very dependent upon rice as their staple food. They built two huge tanks to store water. Each held more than two billion gallons of water. The water was used for watering rice and other crops. It was used for drinking, personal cleanliness, and **sanitation**. The water also filled a moat that surrounded the city. This man-made river helped defend against enemy armies. No one knows why the ancient city and temple were abandoned to the jungle sometime after 1100 CE.

### Check Your Understanding

- Which of the following is the name of a temple?
  - Suryavarman
  - Cambodia
  - Angkor Thom
  - Angkor Wat
- From the context of the passage, what is the best meaning of **moat**?
  - a man-made, deep ditch around a castle, temple, or city
  - a lake in the middle of a city
  - a small stream in front of a castle, temple, or city
  - a pile of rocks
- Which religion was practiced by the Khmer people?
  - Islam
  - Christianity
  - Hinduism
  - Buddhism
- From the context of the passage, what is the meaning of **sanitation**?
  - swimming
  - disposal of waste
  - personal defense
  - water warfare

