

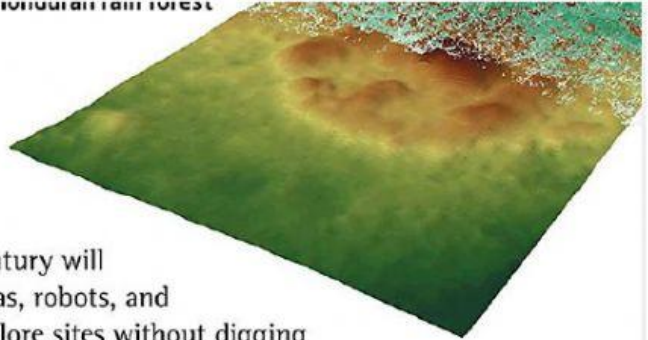


UNIT 4 - READING WORKSHEET

1 Listen and read. TR: 3.12

A NEW AGE of DISCOVERY

Honduran rain forest



Many archaeologists believe the 21st Century will be a new age of discovery. With new cameras, robots, and powerful computers, archaeologists can explore sites without digging them up and damaging them. New technology can also help to find new sites, such as the ruins of a long-lost city deep in the rain forest of Honduras.

The Mosquitia region of Honduras and Nicaragua has the largest rain forest in Central America. For many years, there have been stories that it contains a lost city made of white stone (the White City). But nobody knew if the stories were true. Explorers and archaeologists tried to find the city many times, but the rain forest is very difficult to explore. It's thick and dark, with a lot of dangerous snakes, jaguars, and poisonous insects. Explorers found some artifacts, but the city was never found.

Then one day, filmmakers Steve Elkins and Bill Benenson decided to try new technology called LiDAR to search for the White City. LiDAR uses bright lights, or laser beams, to make a 3D picture of an environment. LiDAR can see through the thick rain forest. Because of this, the men didn't have to explore the dangerous forest on foot. They used LiDAR from a plane, and they could see several kilometers of ruins!

Elkins and Benenson were very excited. They arranged an expedition to the rain forest so that a team of archaeologists could explore the ruins more closely. In 2015, the remains of walls and buildings were found, as well as stone sculptures and other artifacts. These artifacts included animal carvings of jaguars, snakes, and birds—all in perfect condition. The archaeologists took photos and left the artifacts so that other teams could excavate the ruins more carefully in the future.

Nobody knows if these ruins are the famous White City—but they are an exciting discovery! And new technology has helped to find them!

What will be discovered next—and where? Look around you. Do you have any ideas?

