

Unit 8. OUR WORLD HERITAGE SITES

PART 3: READING

I. Fill in the bank with a suitable word.

Hoan Kiem Lake is an attractive body of water right in the (1) of Ha Noi. Legend has it that in the mid-15th (2), Heaven gave Emperor Le Thai To (Le Loi) a magical sword which he used to fight (3) the Chinese, the Ming aggressors, out of Viet Nam. After that one day when he was out (4) in the lake, a giant (5) tortoise suddenly grabbed the sword and (6) into the depths of the lake. Since then, the lake has been known as Hoan Kiem Lake (Lake of the Restored Sword) (7) it is believed the sword was taken to its original divine owners.

The tiny Tortoise Pagoda, topped with a red star, is (8) a small island in the middle of the lake; it is often used (9) an emblem of Ha Noi. Every morning around 6 a.m., local residents can be seen around Hoan Kiem Lake (10) their morning exercise, jogging or playing badminton.

II. Fill in the blanks with a suitable word in the box.

guardians

sacred

intricate

dilapidated

mainland

chiseled

bridge

archaeologists

MY SON SANCTUARY

Hidden away in the tropical forest near the port city of Da Nang and the very popular World Heritage town of Hoi An is the Champa civilization's (1) valley of My Son, or "Beautiful Mountain". I joined the full day package tour from Hoi An, which was quite very convenient as it included all transportation, ticket fee, lunch and guide. I arrived in My Son around 10 o'clock. After walking for a while, I found the complex of tourist facilities, and one of them is the performance hall. Our guide insisted us keeping going into the forest. Within few minutes, I started to see the complex of ancient Hindu temples made from brick

At first, the (2) state of the complex was quite shocking, and almost nothing was left to see. I decided to discover the site by myself and I started to be impressed by the amazing quality of brick carving details. The image of Hinduism (3) and angels are truly beautiful and reminded me about Angkor in Cambodia. For me, My Son is the great evidence of how Southern Indian art expanded to Southeast Asia since ancient Cham people came from Java where Indian art flourished, and later expand to modern day Vietnam and later Cambodia and Thailand. The construction method of My Son is also very unique: Cham people built a whole block of bricks then burned them to make the whole brick block very solid and strong then (4) into the temple. I walked around the complex many times to enjoy its (5) motifs until the guide informed that there are more complex to see.

I went to see another complex, this one is located on the hill and recently partial rebuilt by a group of Italian (6), and they are planning to rebuild more, which is a very good news for My Son preservation. The rebuilt complex is very lovely and illustrates the original layout very well even though the new brick really contrasts with the old ones. After that, the guide took me back to the bus and back to Hoi An, it was exactly 3 hours inside My Son. Despite the bad state of preservation, I really enjoyed my visit to My Son, the place has exceeded my expectation and even small complex can clearly show its value as a (7) of cultural exchange between India - Java and (8) Southeast Asia.

III. Choose the word or phrase among A, B, C and D that best fits the blank space in the following passage.

Recognized as a World Heritage Site in Vietnam, Ha Long Bay attracts thousands of visitors every year, who come to enjoy its magnificent natural (1) _____. However, the bay is also facing a number of threats that may lead to serious damage to the site.

Wildlife in Ha Long Bay is being (2) _____ by overfishing as this is the only job to support most of the inhabitants here. As a (3) _____, rare sea creatures may become extinct soon.

(4) _____ problem is deforestation of mangrove forests. The mangroves, known as the plants native to Ha Long Bay, provide protection during storms, preserve the shoreline, and act as a natural filter that keeps the sea environment clean and healthy. Numerous wildlife species (5) _____ plants and fish also depend on the mangroves.

What is more, some markets in Ha Long Bay sell unusual relics and natural (6) _____, such as coral pieces, sea shells, or unique stones, probably illegally removed from the (7) _____ areas. Many of these items, converted into rings, key chains, and other souvenirs, are purchased by unsuspecting tourists. Buying these items creates a black market (8) _____ to further destruction of Ha Long Bay.

As eco-tourists, we can help to protect Ha Long Bay for future generations in several ways. For example, by sailing or fishing with the fishermen, we can share the benefits of tourism with the local (9) _____. This will help them to increase their income and reduce excessive fishing. We can also help local people to learn about the significance of the mangrove forests and help them to replant the mangroves. We should also avoid purchasing unusual souvenirs. As responsible tourists, we can (10) _____ suspected traders or vendors by refusing to buy their illegal goods.

- | | | | |
|-------------------|---------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1. A. middle | B. main | C. landscape | D. point |
| 2. A. destruction | B. destroyed | C. destructing | D. destroy |
| 3. A. instant | B. example | C. accident | D. result |
| 4. A. Others | B. Other | C. Another | D. One |
| 5. A. making | B. including | C. getting | D. creating |
| 6. A. objects | B. dangers | C. lost | D. escapes |
| 7. A. protective | B. protection | C. protecting | D. protected |
| 8. A. allowing | B. leading | C. appointing | D. sending |
| 9. A. community | B. people | C. society | D. human |
| 10. A. do | B. discourage | C. compare | D. contrast |

IV. Read the passage and choose the best answer.

A rather surprising geographical feature of Antarctica is that a huge freshwater lake, one of the world's largest and deepest, lies **hidden** there under four kilometers of ice. Now known as Lake Vostok, this huge body of water is located under the ice block that comprises Antarctica. The lake is able to exist in its unfrozen state beneath this block of ice because its waters are warmed by geothermal heat from the earth's core. The thick glacier above Lake Vostok actually insulates it from the **frigid** temperatures on the surface.

The lake was first discovered in the 1970s while a research team was conducting an aerial survey of the area. Radio waves from the survey equipment penetrated the ice and revealed a body of water of indeterminate

size. It was not until much more recently that data collected by satellite made scientists aware of the tremendous size of the lake; the satellite-borne radar detected an extremely flat region where the ice remains level because it is floating on the water of the lake.

The discovery of such a huge freshwater lake trapped under Antarctica is of interest to the scientific community because of the potential that the lake contains ancient **microbes** that have survived for thousands of years, unaffected by factors such as nuclear fallout and elevated ultraviolet light that have affected organisms in more exposed areas. The downside of the discovery, however, lies in the difficulty of conducting research on the lake in such a harsh climate and in the problems associated with obtaining uncontaminated samples from the lake without actually exposing the lake to contamination. Scientists are looking for possible ways to accomplish this.

Question 1: The word "**hidden**" in paragraph 1 is closest in meaning to ____.

- A. undrinkable B. untouched C. unexploitable D. undiscovered

Question 2: What is true of Lake Vostok?

- A. It is completely frozen. B. It is saltwater lake.
C. It is beneath a thick slab of ice. D. It is heated by the sun.

Question 3: Which of the following is closest in meaning to "**frigid**" in paragraph 1?

- A. extremely cold B. easily broken C. quite harsh D. lukewarm

Question 4: All of the following are true about the 1970 survey of Antarctica EXCEPT that it ____.

- A. was conducted by air B. made use of radio waves
C. could not determine the lake's exact size D. was controlled by a satellite

Question 5: It can be inferred from the passage that the ice would not be flat if ____.

- A. there were no lake underneath B. the lake were not so big
C. Antarctica were not so cold D. radio waves were not used

Question 6: The word "**microbes**" in paragraph 3 could best be replaced by which of the following?

- A. Pieces of dust B. Tiny bubbles C. Tiny organisms D. Rays of light

Question 7: Lake Vostok is potentially important to scientists because ____.

- A. can be studied using radio waves
B. may contain uncontaminated microbes
C. may have elevated levels of ultraviolet light
D. has already been contaminated

Question 8: The purpose of the passage is to ____.

- A. explain how Lake Vostok was discovered
B. provide satellite data concerning Antarctica
C. discuss future plans for Lake Vostok
D. present an unexpected aspect of Antarctica's geography