



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**QUIZ**

Points: \_\_\_\_\_

### Reading Explorer 3: Unit 5

**DIRECTIONS:** Read the passage. Look at the map and label each place (a-e).

#### While It Lasts

[A] The ultimate irony<sup>1</sup> of writing an article about the charms of a relatively unspoiled island is the fact that the writer is contributing to the island losing those very charms. We all know what happens. The more people that the article inspires to travel to the island, the more likely that peace and quiet will give way to noise and bustle.<sup>2</sup> For this reason, I have decided that I am not going to tell you the name of this island. I will be honest and tell you, rather selfishly, that I do not want you to go there. The next time I go back - which I hope is soon given the magnificence of the place - I would rather not be faced with the heart-sinking, gut-wrenching<sup>3</sup> reality that a large chunk of humanity has migrated there.

[B] At this point, I think you must have a question: "What is the point of writing this article?" Although this answer may not satisfy you, I am writing this article to simply tell you that such an island - clean, beautiful, raw, and inspiring - still exists somewhere on Earth. In fact, if you look hard enough, you might even be able to find it yourself. I am already anticipating another question from you. I can almost hear you screaming at the page. "If you don't tell us anything about the island, why would we want to go there?"

[C] That is a good question and, so, I will say this. The island is relatively isolated and located somewhere in Southeast Asia. That narrows it down to about a dozen countries or so. If you know anything about isolated islands in Southeast Asia, then you should be picturing an incredible coastline, crystal clear water, plenty of sunshine, and spectacular sunsets. It is the kind of scene that appears in a photoshopped picture on the cover of a travel magazine - a quiet beach, few boats in the sea, and no (literally zero) fast food restaurants. On this island, that scene is real. Even the ugly electrical cables and wires that remind you of the city are highly inconspicuous<sup>4</sup> as most of the island's accommodations run on solar power.

[D] I can hear another question coming: "What can people do at this place?" Once again, you may not be satisfied with my answer. The answer is "nothing." Sure, there are places to go and things to see, but they are nothing to write home about. There are two small fishing villages on either end of the island. Their purpose is to provide employment for the local population and, aside from some decent seafood in the south and a temple in the north, they are not really destinations for visitors. In the center of the island there are some very old trees that some people choose to take pictures of. However, they are certainly not the tallest or the oldest trees in the world. About 1.5 kilometers west of this, there is a waterfall that one can swim under. This is fun, of course, but not something that will make you run to renew your passport. Finally, on the far western edge of the island, some of the locals have converted their own kitchens and living rooms into casual restaurants. Once again, the food is very good but not the best you will ever have.

[E] I can now hear your last question: "Why bother going if there is really nothing to do?" The answer is easy. Because, the last time I checked, doing nothing is the ultimate goal of a real vacation. And what better place to do nothing than in such a naturally wonderful island? See you there!

## Glossary Study

1 **Irony** refers to an amusing situation in which something that is opposite to what you intended or expected happens.

2 **Bustle** means a lot of activity.

3 Something that is **gut-wrenching** makes you upset or anxious.

4 Something that is **inconspicuous** is hardly noticeable.



_____ 1. Location 1	a. a fishing village where you can enjoy seafood
_____ 2. Location 2	b. a fishing village that has a place of worship
_____ 3. Location 3	c. a causal restaurant in a local's home
_____ 4. Location 4	d. somewhere you can swim under a waterfall
_____ 5. Location 5	e. somewhere you can see old trees

**DIRECTIONS: Complete the sentences. Choose the correct word.**

The Greek Island of Santorini has houses that are well adapted to the climate. The (1) \_\_\_\_ features stone houses that are built right into the pumice or volcanic rock. The shape of the houses and the surrounding rock (2) \_\_\_\_ cools the houses in summer and warms them in winter. When you look at villages, the houses (3) \_\_\_\_ seem to grow out of the earth. The (4) \_\_\_\_ effect of the white houses with their bright blue roofs has been photographed many times by tourists. Today, many of the cliff houses have been (5) \_\_\_\_ to small hotels.

- a. architecture
- b. converted
- c. literally
- d. naturally
- e. spectacular

**DIRECTIONS: Complete the sentences. Choose the correct word.**

Native people from the Amazon basin were familiar with many plants that could (6) \_\_\_\_ diseases. While some of these plants have been (7) \_\_\_\_ special protection, not all areas where they grow are being protected. In recent years, the construction of new roads has changed these areas. Huge or (8) \_\_\_\_ machinery has been brought in to develop the area. People from outside have (9) \_\_\_\_ to these developing areas to live. These changes have caused (10) \_\_\_\_ , or sometimes even conflict between traditional people and newcomers.

- a. cure
- b. migrated
- c. monster
- d. tension
- e. awarded

Thanks!