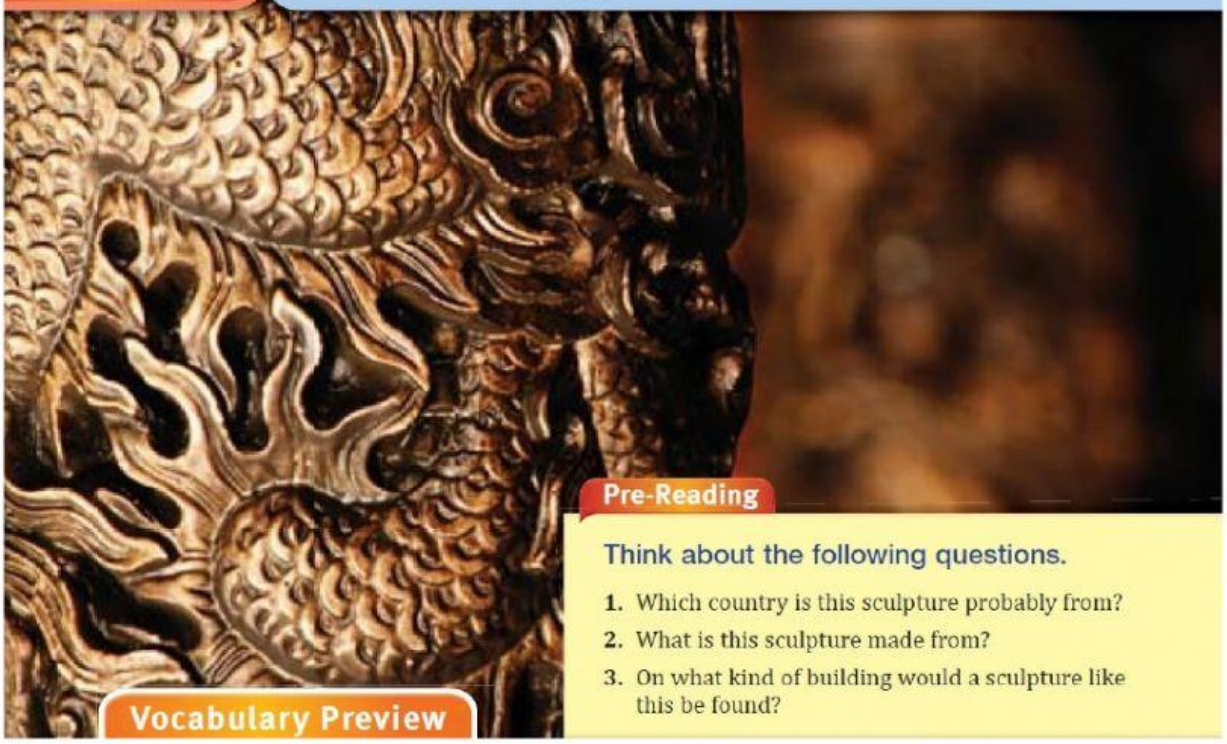
6 Rescuing Relics



Pre-Reading

Think about the following questions.

1. Which country is this sculpture probably from?
2. What is this sculpture made from?
3. On what kind of building would a sculpture like this be found?

Vocabulary Preview

1. Match the words from a to f with the numbers from 1 to 6.

a. big; important
b. collected; gathered
c. showed; put out for viewing
d. changed; took away to put something new in
e. related to today
f. succeed in doing

1. ___He visited a museum that displayed postage stamps from around the world.
2. ___I like ancient sculptures more than modern sculptures.
3. ___The city replaced the old brick street with a smooth new street.
4. ___My friend has accumulated more than 2,000 comic books in his collection.
5. ___The country went through major changes during the 1960s and 1970s.
6. ___We won't be able to manage to see the whole museum in one day.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2. Vocabulary

A relic: a valuable, ancient artifact or work of art

To sponsor: to support with money

Folk art: works of art usually made by non-professional artists for decorative purposes

Architectural: related to man-made structures like buildings

A decoration: a thing used to make something or a place look nice

Acapital: the city where the government is located

A pier: a post or pillar that gates hang on

To carve: to cut or chip into a certain shape or design

A demolition: the act or state of being destroyed or torn down

Economic: related to money or the economy

A reform: a change that is meant to improve something

Atemple: a building dedicated to religious worship

Luckily: by good fortune

LIVEWORKSHEETS

3. Read the following text:

Have you ever wondered where museums get the works and **relics** that they put on display? If the museum is **sponsored** by the government, then the relics were probably collected under special laws that protect historical treasures related to that country. However, not all museums are sponsored by the government. Sometimes a private collector decides to set up a museum so that the public can view the works or relics in his or her collection. Since the 1990s, more and more of these museums set up by private collectors have sprung up in China. Typically, these private museums are small, but they give visitors the chance to see works and relics not found anywhere else.

Songtang Li is one such collector who has put part of his private collection on display for the public. In 2001, Li opened his museum in an old 18th century house in Beijing. The museum displays some of the best examples of Chinese **folk art** he has collected over his lifetime. Many of the pieces in the collection are actually **architectural decorations** from old houses and buildings around China's **capital**. Whenever an old building was being torn down, Li would visit the site to see if there was anything from the building worth rescuing. In this way, Li managed to accumulate thousands of folk art pieces, some of which are over 1,000 years old.

Li began collecting folk art sculptures when he was young. The first pieces in his collection were two gate **piers** that stood in front of his house. The stone piers were **carved** with historical designs, and Li thought of them as his two friends. During his childhood, he would sometimes even sit beside them and tell them stories. When Li was seven, the city told Li's family to get rid of the piers so that the street could be rebuilt.

Rather than throwing them away, Li's father allowed his son to keep them.

Thus began Li's lifetime hobby of visiting **demolition** sites and collecting pieces of sculpture or decorative architecture. Anything that he was allowed to take away would end up in his collection. In the late 1970s, China underwent major **economic reforms.**

At that time, Beijing started widespread demolition and rebuilding across the city. According to Li, more than ninety percent of the old houses and **temples** in Beijing have since been torn down and replaced with modern buildings.

Luckily, all of old Beijing's architectural folk art has not been lost. Visitors to the Songtangzhai Folk Sculpture Museum can view some of the best relics Li rescued over the years.

4. Choose the best answer.

1. What is another possible title for this reading?

a. "A Man and His Museum"
b. "Beijing's Best Museum Designer"
c. "Changes in Chinese Architecture"
d. "The Largest Museum in China"

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2. Where is the Songtangzhai Folk Sculpture Museum?
a. In a city near Beijing
b. In an 18th century temple
c. In China's capital city
d. In Songtang Li's house

3. What would a visitor NOT see in the Songtangzhai Folk Sculpture Museum?
a. Carved wood and stone
b. Folk art from 1,000 years ago
c. Paintings that Li made in childhood
d. Pieces of decorative architecture

4. What can be inferred about most of the pieces in Li's collection?
a. He paid a lot of money for them.
b. People took them from demolition sites and gave them to Li.
c. The government was not interested in them.
d. They came from his childhood home.

5. According to Li, what is true about modern Beijing?
a. Ninety percent of it needs to be torn down.
b. Few parts of it are very old.
c. Folk art can be seen in most of it.
d. Not much of it was rebuilt.

5. Find these idioms in the reading.

set up (something) [to establish or create something] After she moved in, the girl **set up** her bedroom how she liked it.

take (something) away [to remove something to some distance away] My mother would **take** my toys **away** if I left them in the living room.

tear down [to destroy; to break (a building) into pieces]
My father **tore down** the old dog house in our backyard and built a new one for our dog.

6. Fill in the blank with one of the above idioms. Change its form if necessary.

1. When he finally arrived, he discovered that there was nothing left to _____.
2. The teacher needed to _____her classroom for the new school year.
3. The government will not allow anyone to _____the building because it is a historical treasure.

LIVEWORKSHEETS