

a Read texts 1–3 about traditional villages around the world and match them to images a–c.

1 Ait Benhaddou

People have been building their homes out of the red earth of Northern Morocco for thousands of years. Ait Benhaddou is one of the best preserved of these adobe villages, which seem to grow out of the desert that surrounds them. No one knows exactly how long people have been living in this particular settlement, but it must be at least 1,500 years old. There are still families living there today, and the houses and walls of the village need constant care as the wind and the rain eat away into these incredible, almost living structures.

2 Kullu Valley

Kullu Valley, or the Valley of the Gods, in the foothills of the Himalayas is in one of the most fertile agricultural regions in the whole of India. The people of Kullu Valley have been growing crops on its terraced hillsides for at least 3,000 years. In recent years, apple trees and other fruits have been taking over more traditional crops, making Kullu Valley the "fruit basket" of the Himalayas. In the image we can see traditional Kullu houses built of local wood and stone and with heavy slate roofs that insulate the homes against the cold temperatures of winter when snow covers the slopes of the nearby mountains. They are built just above the irrigated rice fields that provide the backbone of the Kullu people's daily diet.

3 Ko Panyi

Ko Panyi is a fishing village in Phang Nga Bay in southern Thailand. The village was founded in the eighteenth century by two Indonesian fishing families, and the descendants of these two families have been fishing in the bay ever since. What makes the village unusual is that it's a floating village, built on stilts. This is because, at the time, non-Thai nationals were not allowed to own land, so the fishermen built their homes on water. Recently the villagers have been supplementing their income from fishing by inviting tourists to visit the village. There are no hotels, but plenty of restaurants specializing in local seafood.



1. Ait Benhaddou



2. Kullu Valley



3. Ko Panyi

b Read the texts again. Match villages 1–3 to statements a–d.

- a The villagers are looking for new ways to earn a living.
- b The houses need constant maintenance.
- c The houses are warm in winter.
- d We don't know exactly how old they are.

Find words/phrases in the texts that mean...

- 1 to emerge ➔
- 2 a place where people live permanently ➔
- 3 to destroy little by little ➔
- 4 to replace ➔
- 5 the side of a hill or mountain ➔
- 6 a curved area of coast ➔
- 7 money you earn ➔