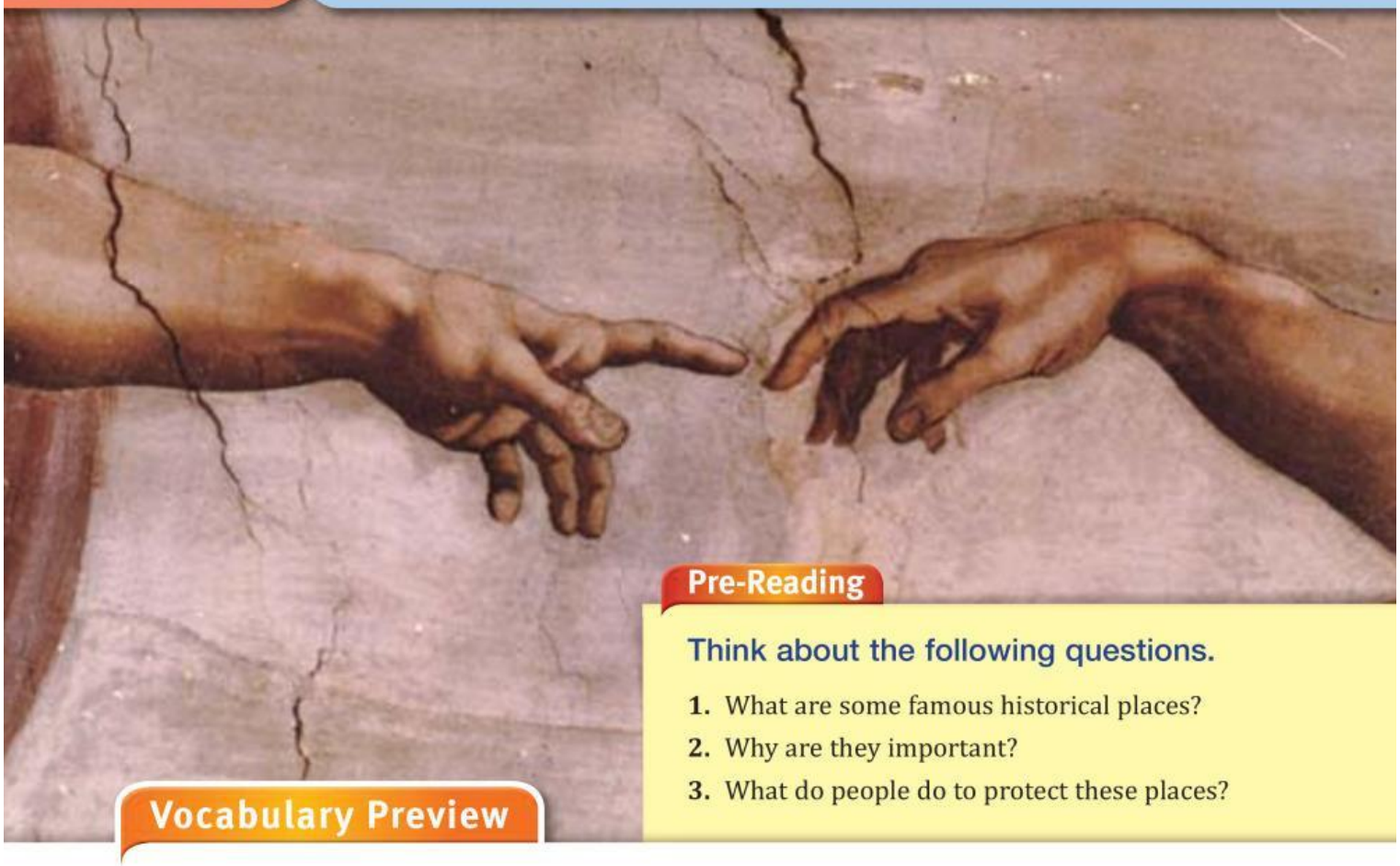
11 A Controversial Restoration



Pre-Reading

Think about the following questions.

1. What are some famous historical places?
2. Why are they important?
3. What do people do to protect these places?

Vocabulary Preview

Write the letter of the word or phrase with the same meaning as the underlined word.

a. big; impressive	d. continue to say
b. fix or repair to be like new	e. small or minor defects
c. showed; exposed	f. stop

1. ___ The city government plans to <u>restore</u> the oldest building downtown.
2. ___ The art expert demanded that the museum <u>halt</u> its plan to clean the painting.
3. ___ After several months, the museum finally <u>revealed</u> the results.
4. ___ The piece of marble is not pure white. It has some <u>irregularities</u> in it.
5. ___ The critics have not changed their minds. They <u>maintain</u> that the restoration project is a bad idea.
6. ___ The front of the building used to be very ugly. Repainting it has made a <u>dramatic</u> difference in the building's appearance.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

A Controversial Restoration

Track 21

Certain masterpieces are recognized worldwide as outstanding achievements in human creativity and **ingenuity**. Three good examples of such works are the Taj Mahal, the Sistine Chapel, and the sculpture of *David*. All of these works are hundreds of years old, and like everything that **ages**, some parts of them need to be restored from time to time. However, not everyone agrees on how and when certain works should be restored.

In some cases, there is a **pressing** need for something to be done in order to save a historical treasure. For example, through careful study of the building, experts found that the Taj Mahal was sliding toward the river beside it! Restoration efforts then began to repair cracks in the building and halt its slide. However, such works as the Sistine Chapel and the statue of *David* are not under any threat of serious damage or loss. Rather, restorations are planned to clean or touch up the works so that they look better.

David is a perfect case in point of just such a touch-up project. For the statue's 500th "birthday," the museum in Italy where *David* stands today planned to restore the statue's appearance. In reality, *David* was just dirty. That should not have surprised anyone. For more than 300 years, the statue stood outdoors in a square in Florence. When he carved the sculpture, Michelangelo planned for it to stand outside and naturally accumulate the marks of weathering. Therefore, critics of *David*'s restoration claimed that cleaning the statue would alter its intended appearance by the artist.

Ignoring these cries of protest, the museum went ahead with the restoration. After nine months of careful cleaning, the restored *David* was revealed to the public. So, how was the statue different? For one thing, *David*'s hair was no longer blackened with **grime**. Also, the stains on his hands were gone, and the dirty **streaks** on his left **shin** had been erased. As one art expert remarked, "Only someone with expert knowledge and long familiarity with the 'skin' of the statue will be aware that certain unattractive irregularities are no longer there." Even critics of the project agreed that the touch-ups to *David* were very moderate.

On the other hand, the restoration of the Sistine Chapel resulted in a dramatic difference in the work's appearance. Through **painstaking** efforts, the **frescoes** of the Sistine Chapel were beautifully restored by erasing years of dirt and grime from the ceiling and walls. Although a few critics maintain that Michelangelo's work has been ruined, most view its restoration as a marvelous success.

Reading Time _____ minutes _____ seconds 431 words

2 *ingenuity*: imagination; cleverness
4 *age*: to become older
7 *pressing*: urgent
22 *grime*: thick dirt or black dust from pollution
23 *streak*: a long irregular mark on some surface
23 *shin*: the front part of the leg below the knee
29 *painstaking*: thorough and very careful
30 *frescoe*: a picture painted on a wall, usually done over wet plaster

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Reading Comprehension

Choose the best answer.

1. What is the main idea of the reading?

a. People sometimes disagree about restoring historical treasures.
b. The statue of *David* is a famous masterpiece.
c. Restoring works of art is expensive.
d. The Taj Mahal needs to be repaired.

2. What kind of restoration was planned for the Taj Mahal?

a. Pressing critics to see it
b. Repairing it
c. Sliding it into the river
d. Touching up the art inside it

3. What can be assumed about Michelangelo's vision of *David* in the future?

a. *David* would be destroyed.
b. *David* would be well protected.
c. *David* would get dirty.
d. *David* would stand in a fountain.

4. What was the result of the restoration project of *David*?

a. The statue's hair looked darker.
b. Only experts could notice the difference.
c. The statue was damaged.
d. The marble was thoroughly cleaned.

5. How many people probably think the Sistine Chapel looks better since it was restored?

a. None
b. Few people
c. About half of the people
d. Most people

Idiomatic Expressions

Find these idioms in the reading.

- **touch up** [to fix or make look nicer, usually by coloring or painting]
  I used a black marker to touch up the chipped paint on the table's leg.
- **case in point** [a specific example showing something is true]
  What you plan may lead to different results than your intentions.
  Censorship laws are a good case in point.
- **no longer** [not anymore; not now]
  The website you are trying to access is no longer available.

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

1. It will cost about $100 to _____ the scratch marks on my car.

2. Our store _____ carries that brand's products.

3. The editors of the newspaper are not doing their job well. Let me refer you to yesterday's front page article as my _____.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Summary

Scan the passage and complete the chart with the correct information.

Work	Why It Needed Restoring	What Was Done
Taj Mahal	• 1 _____ toward river	• 2 _____ in the building were repaired • The slide was 3 _____
David	• Dirty (from standing outdoors for 4 _____ years)	• Hair was no longer 5 _____ with grime • 6 _____ on his hands were gone • Streaks on his left 7 _____ were erased
Sistine Chapel	8 _____	• Years of dirt and 9 _____ were painstakingly 10 _____

Listening

For Its Protection

Track 22 Listen to the dialog and complete each sentence.

1. The man saw _____ in _____.
2. The work was behind _____.
3. The painting had to be restored after someone _____.

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Discussion

Discuss the following questions.

1. What historical sites have you visited? Which one was the most impressive?
2. What kinds of things should we try to preserve for future generations? Why?
3. Which do you think are more important: old buildings or old works of art? Why?

Grammar

Expressing Purpose

Use *in order to* or *so that* to express purpose of an action.

There is a pressing need for something to be done (for / in order to) save a historical treasure.
Restorations are planned to clean or touch up the works (so that / so as to) they look better.

Writing

Write your own short paragraph by answering the questions below.

An Impressive Place

(1) What was the most impressive historical site you have seen? **(2)** Where is it? **(3)** Why was it impressive? **(4)** How old is this site? **(5)** Why is it important to see sites like this one?

Example

The most impressive historical site I have visited is the Forbidden Palace. This palace is in Beijing, China. The palace grounds are huge, and the buildings all have unique and ancient designs. The Forbidden Palace is almost 600 years old. It is important to see sites like the Forbidden Palace so that we can learn about history.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Vocabulary and Idiom Review

A. Choose the best word or phrase to fill in the blank.

1. I'm a(n) _____ basketball player. I only play on weekends in the park.
   a. painstaking b. recreational c. professional d. avid

2. In order to _____ the damage to the mountain, the government prevented people from hiking there.
   a. steer b. touch up c. brakes d. halt

3. There is _____ damage to this painting. It cannot be restored.
   a. no longer b. pressing c. irregular d. extensive

4. This project is _____. It must be done as soon as possible.
   a. pressing b. careful c. effective d. accumulated

5. Look at the _____ on your window. Wash it right away!
   a. fresco b. oral c. grime d. approach

6. Dirt _____ if you don't clean very often.
   a. accumulates b. maintains c. sequences d. stimulates

7. Researchers _____ that coffee is not harmful to your health.
   a. maintain b. associate c. summarize d. persuade

B. Choose the correct form of the word to fill in the blank.

8. He is a good actor. He speaks very _____.
   a. drama b. dramatic c. dramatically

9. Her _____ surprised everyone. No one was expecting that news.
   a. revealed b. revelation c. revealing

10. Which work of art will the museum _____ next?
    a. restore b. restoration c. restoring

LIVEWORKSHEETS