

THE TAJ MAHAL

The Taj Mahal is a famous mausoleum next to the river Yamuna –(0) _____ the Indian city of Agra. A mausoleum is a building where people bury the dead. The name Taj Mahal means 'the crown of palaces'.

The most famous part of the Taj Mahal is the large white dome in the centre. It is 35 metres high and is surrounded by four smaller domes. The rooms inside the building are (1) _____ with beautiful archways and precious stones in the walls. The buildings (2) _____ surrounded by gardens with pathways, pools, fountains and green gardens.

The construction of the Taj Mahal (3) _____ in 1632 and finished in 1653. It was built with materials from all over India and Asia, but the main material is white marble. Historians believe that the materials were transported by over 1,000 elephants for the construction.

The emperor Shah Jahan (4) _____ the Taj Mahal as a burial place for his wife, Mumtaz Mahal. According to legend, he wanted to build another Taj Mahal in black on the other side of the river, but this never happened. (5) _____ the Indian Rebellion of 1857, many parts of the Taj Mahal were damaged by British soldiers, who took some of the precious stones from its walls. Over the years, the Taj Mahal has (6) _____ from environmental damage, and there have (7) _____ many government attempts to conserve its beauty.

The Taj Mahal is one of India's most famous landmarks. There are millions of visitors to the mausoleum every year. The Taj Mahal is almost always (8) _____ in lists of famous buildings to visit and is considered one of the New Seven Wonders of the World.