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When a word in the text is printed in bold, look for its meaning in the glossary boxes.
World Heritage

There are places around the world that are important to all peoples. We call these places the world’s heritage. Some of these places are human creations, such as the pyramids of Egypt. Some are natural creations, such as the Great Barrier Reef of Australia.

The World Heritage List

The World Heritage List is a list of sites that must be protected because they have some kind of outstanding importance for the world. This list was created in 1972, and new places are added every year. Each site on the World Heritage List belongs to one of the following categories:

- **Natural** – for example, waterfalls, forests or deserts
- **Cultural** – for example, a building or a site where an event occurred
- **Mixed** – if it has both natural and cultural features

**World Heritage criteria**

A place can be inscribed on the World Heritage List if it meets at least one of these ten criteria, and is an outstanding example of it. The criteria are:

1. a masterpiece of human creative genius
2. a site representing the sharing of human ideas
3. a site representing a special culture or civilisation
4. a historical building or landscape from a period of history
5. a site representing or important to a traditional culture
6. a site representing an important event, idea, living tradition or belief
7. a very beautiful or unique natural site
8. a site showing evidence of Earth’s history
9. an important ecosystem
10. an important natural habitat for species protection

UNESCO

UNESCO, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, is the organisation that maintains the World Heritage List. Find out more at www.unesco.org.

Protecting Ancient Heritage

Protecting Ancient Heritage is about protecting places on Earth that are excellent examples of a past culture or civilisation. Some of these cultures still exist today, but whether they continue in the present or not, protecting our ancient heritage is important to the entire world. We can learn about past civilisations from the ruins that they left behind. This study is called archaeology.

**Criteria for Protecting Ancient Heritage**

Many of the places in this book are important for many reasons. This book focuses on just one reason: how a place shows us evidence of a special culture or civilisation. This is reason iii on the list of criteria for being on the World Heritage List.

This map shows the location of the World Heritage sites covered in this book.
Archaeological Areas of Pompei, Herculaneum and Torre Annunziata

The Archaeological Areas of Pompei, Herculaneum and Torre Annunziata are the ruins of three ancient towns in Italy which were destroyed by a volcanic eruption. The areas were built by the Ancient Romans, who formed an enormous empire around the Mediterranean Sea.

**FACT FILE**

- The ruins of Pompei, Herculaneum and Torre Annunziata protect evidence of the Ancient Roman civilisation.
- **Category:** 🏛️
- **Criteria:** 🏛️

Pompeii was the largest town to be destroyed by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius.

**TIMELINE**

- **1000 BCE**
  - The Roman civilisation begins in Italy.
- **600–500 BCE**
  - Pompeii is established.
- **79 CE**
  - Mount Vesuvius erupts.
- **476 CE**
  - The Roman civilisation ends.
- **1750**
  - People dig up the ruins of the towns.
- **1997**
  - The site is inscribed on the World Heritage List.

**Important features**

The eruption of Mount Vesuvius covered Herculaneum, a holiday resort for rich Romans, in 20 metres (65 feet) of lava and boiling mud. It also buried Pompei and Torre Annunziata in ashes and stones. These towns remained just as they were on the day the volcano erupted, until they were dug up. Houses and shops run along the paved streets, and you can still see the messages that the people of Pompei wrote on their walls.

**Issues**

The ash and dust protected the ruins for hundreds of years. Once people dug out the towns, wind, rain, snow and heat **eroded** the ruins. Scientists are working to control or prevent this. Future discoveries in the area may be kept buried in order to keep them safe.

**Glossary**

- **empire**
  - a group of nations and kingdoms with one ruler
- **lava**
  - hot, melted rock
- **eroded**
  - wore away
Archaeological Sites of Mycenae and Tiryns

The Archaeological Sites of Mycenae and Tiryns are the ruins of two different cities located on small hills in the south of Greece. These citadels were once the two greatest cities of the Mycenaean civilisation. The Mycenaean were an early Greek people.

FACT FILE

The ruins of Mycenae and Tiryns protect evidence of the Mycenaean civilisation.

Category:

Criteria:

The Archaeological Sites of Mycenae and Tiryns are the ruins of two different cities located on small hills in the south of Greece. These citadels were once the two greatest cities of the Mycenaean civilisation. The Mycenaean were an early Greek people.

Important features

Mycenae and Tiryns, 20 kilometres (12 miles) apart, were surrounded by walls that were about 8 metres (26 feet) thick and at least 13 metres (43 feet) in height. In later times, the walls were called cyclopean walls, because people believed they were built by mythical one-eyed giants called Cyclopes. Each city had a palace in the centre. The floor of the palace at Tiryns is decorated with drawings of dolphins and octopuses.

Issues

Both Mycenae and Tiryns are managed very strictly. At both sites, ruins have been strengthened and restored. For example, part of the wall at Tiryns was in danger of collapsing, but restoration work has strengthened the walls. Mycenae is surrounded by farmland, and there are strict rules about what can be built around the ancient city.

Did You Know?

The great Greek poet Homer mentions both Mycenae and Tiryns in his poetry.

Many gold items, such as this face mask, were discovered in the grave circle at Mycenae.

GLOSSARY

citadels

fortresses in or near a city
Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site

Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site is an area containing 70 built mounds of earth, near the Mississippi River in the centre of the United States. The area was one of the largest settlements in North America during the years 1050 to 1200 CE.

**FACT FILE**

The Cahokia Mounds site protects the Mississippian civilisation.

**Category:**

**Criteria:**

Monks Mound once had wooden buildings on it and a wooden staircase where this concrete staircase is now.

**TIMELINE**

- **700 CE:** People begin to settle in the Cahokia area.
- **1050:** Mound building begins in the area.
- **Around 1400:** The Mississippian civilisation begins to decline.
- **1966:** Cahokia is listed as a historic place.
- **1982:** The site is inscribed on the World Heritage List.

**Important features**

Beginning around 500 CE, a mound-building society began to develop in the area of the Mississippi River. This society was made up of many different Native American peoples, speaking different languages. This civilisation is now called Mississippian. Many of the mounds they built had pyramid-shaped bases. The tops were flattened and houses and other buildings were built on them. Up to 20000 Mississippians lived in the area.

**Issues**

There are plans to build a landfill site within 700 metres (2300 feet) of the Cahokia Mounds site. There is already a landfill site visible from the top of Monks Mound, and many people do not want a second site to be built. However, other people argue that the landfill site would not affect the World Heritage area.

**GLOSSARY**

- **landfill** garbage buried in the ground

Did You Know?

Monks Mound is the largest of the Cahokia mounds. Its base is 305 metres (1000 feet) by 213 metres (700 feet), making it larger than the base of Egypt’s largest pyramid, the Pyramid of Khufu.
The Capital Cities and Tombs of the Ancient Koguryo Kingdom are the ruins of three ancient cities in north-east China. The Koguryo Kingdom emerged in the area in the first century BCE, and soon came to rule parts of northern China and Korea.

Important features
The three cities of the Koguryo were Wunu Mountain City, Guonei City and Wandu Mountain City. These cities were built in harmony with their natural surroundings. Today, the site is centred around the modern cities of Ji’an and Huanren. It contains 14 imperial tombs, built of stones and holding members of the royal families. There are also 27 tombs of nobles.

Issues
Ancient Guonei City is located within the modern city of Ji’an. No new buildings are allowed to be built in the area. Buildings that were put up before the site was added to the World Heritage List will be removed. This will restore the area to how it looked in ancient times.

TIMELINE

37 BCE
The Koguryo Kingdom begins with the building of its first capital city.

7 BCE
Guonei City becomes the capital of the Koguryo Kingdom.

209 CE
Wandu Mountain City is built.

427
Pyongyang, in modern North Korea, becomes the capital.

668
The Koguryo Kingdom falls to neighbouring kingdoms after long wars.

2004
The site is inscribed on the World Heritage List.

FACT FILE

The Capital Cities and Tombs of the Ancient Koguryo Kingdom protect evidence of the Koguryo empire.

Category:

Criteria:

Glossary

empire a group of nations and kingdoms with one ruler
imperial relating to an empire
Great Zimbabwe National Monument

The Great Zimbabwe National Monument is an area of stone-block ruins in Zimbabwe. From the 1000s to the 1400s CE, it was a city of more than 10000 people. The people of Great Zimbabwe became rich through trading gold with their neighbours. They are the ancestors of the Shona people who still live in parts of Zimbabwe.

FACT FILE

The Great Zimbabwe National Monument protects evidence of the lost civilisation of the Shona.

Category: 
Criteria: 

The Great Enclosure was the largest structure south of the Sahara Desert when it was built.

TIMELINE

1000s
The building of Great Zimbabwe begins.

1450
The people abandon the settlement and migrate north.

1986
The Great Zimbabwe National Monument is inscribed on the World Heritage List.

Important features

The ruins include three areas – the hill fort, the valley ruins and the Great Enclosure. The ruins of the valley were once the homes of the people, while the Great Enclosure was the home of the king. It is thought that the area was abandoned because the population became too large and could not find and grow enough food in the area.

Issues

Zimbabwe is a nation in political turmoil and it does not have enough money to support its people. This means that protecting places like the Great Zimbabwe National Monument is very difficult. Some of the walls of the ancient buildings have fallen over or are in danger of collapsing.

Did You Know?
The word Zimbabwe means ‘stone houses’. Zimbabwe gets its name from the stone houses in the area of the Great Zimbabwe National Monument.

Glossary

ancestors people who came before you in your family
The Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu is an area of ruins high in the Andes mountains of Peru. A village was built there by the emperor of the Inca people, Pachacutec, in the 1400s CE. The Incan civilisation emerged in the 1200s CE and by 1500 CE most of the west coast of South America was part of their empire.

**Important features**

Pachacutec built Machu Picchu as a place where he could relax and hunt. There were about 150 houses in the mountain village, as well as baths, temples and palaces. The Incas built the houses from carefully cut blocks of stone that fitted together perfectly. The roofs were made from plant materials. The Incas also cut into the side of the mountain, creating terraces where they could grow crops.

**Issues**

Already, about 2500 people visit Machu Picchu every day, but a new bridge below Machu Picchu could allow double that number to access the site. Archaeologists are worried that too many people visiting the site will damage it.

**GLOSSARY**

- emperor: the ruler of an empire
- empire: a group of nations and kingdoms with one ruler
- terraces: flat, raised banks with vertical or sloping sides
- archeologists: people that study the remains of civilisations

**FACT FILE**

The Historic Sanctuary of Machu Picchu protects evidence of the Incan civilisation.

- **Category:**
- **Criteria:**

**TIMELINE**

- **1438 CE**
  - Pachacutec comes to power.
- **1460**
  - The building of Machu Picchu begins.
- **Around 1570**
  - The Spanish conquer the Incan Empire.
- **1981**
  - Machu Picchu is made a historical sanctuary.
- **1983**
  - The site is inscribed on the World Heritage List.

**Did You Know?**

Spanish soldiers first came into contact with the Incas in 1528, and within 50 years they had destroyed the civilisation through war and disease.
Masada

Masada is a rocky mountain plateau overlooking the Dead Sea in Israel. The king of Judea, Herod the Great, turned the hill into a fortified palace. When the Jewish peoples of Judea fought with the Ancient Romans, Masada was the last place to be captured.

Masada stands between 100 and 400 metres (328 and 1312 feet) above the surrounding area. It was very hard to attack.

Important features
Herod the Great built three palaces at Masada. He also built bath houses and other buildings with mosaic floors, using Roman styles. Herod surrounded the hill with a strong wall, nearly 1300 metres (4265 feet) long, with 27 towers. After 66 CE, the Jews built a synagogue at Masada.

Issues
Masada is in a remote desert, so human activities have not had a negative impact on it. Many of the buildings have been carefully restored. However, some people argue that the cable car that runs up the side of Masada spoils the ancient site, while others argue that it is needed to help people who could not climb the difficult path up the hill.

Did You Know?
One of the reasons Herod fortified Masada was because he was afraid the Queen of Egypt, Cleopatra, would invade Judea.

Masada protects evidence of the kingdom of Judea.

Category: Cultural Mixed
Criteria: iii Sharing human ideas, vi special culture, iv historical building, vii unique natural site, ix important ecosystems, x important natural habitat, v traditional culture, vi important event, idea, living tradition or belief

FACT FILE

plateau a wide, flat area in a high place
fortified palace a palace surrounded with walls and other defences to protect it
synagogue a Jewish place of worship

TIMELINE

37–4 BCE
Herod the Great builds palaces and walls at Masada.

66 CE
War breaks out between the Jewish peoples and the Romans.

70
The Romans take over Jerusalem and many people flee to Masada.

73
The Romans take over Masada.

2000
Masada is inscribed on the World Heritage List.

GLOSSARY
Memphis and its Necropolis – the Pyramid Fields from Giza to Dahshur

Memphis and its Necropolis – the Pyramid Fields from Giza to Dahshur is a combination of areas, containing ancient rock tombs, temples and pyramids, in Egypt. The area was the capital city of Egypt from about 2700 to 2150 BCE and the pharaohs were all crowned there.

Important features
The pyramids are the tombs of pharaohs. Khufu is the largest of the pyramids and is often called the Great Pyramid of Giza. It was probably built by the pharaoh Khufu. To the east of Khufu is the Great Sphinx, a lion with the head of the pharaoh Khafre.

Issues
The pyramids of Giza are on the edge of the largest city in Egypt, Cairo. The city is continuing to grow and pollution is damaging the pyramids. Waste water has seeped into the earth, threatening the stability of the pyramids and especially of the Sphinx, but archaeologists have installed pumps to remove the water every day.

Glossary
- necropolis: a cemetery or burial ground
- pharaohs: kings and queens of Egypt
- sphinx: a mythical creature with the body of a lion and the head of a man, ram or hawk
- archaeologists: people that study the remains of civilisations
Mesa Verde National Park

Mesa Verde National Park is a semi-dry plateau in the United States. The plateau is cut through by canyons, containing more than 600 homes and buildings built into the cliffs. The homes were built by the Ancestral Pueblo people, ancestors of today’s Pueblo people.

Important features
The plateau of the Mesa Verde National Park is 2600 metres (8530 feet) above sea level. Water has caused erosion over thousands of years, forming alcoves in the base of the canyon walls. While the Ancestral Pueblo people actually spent more of their time living on the plateau, they are best remembered for the buildings they created in these canyon alcoves. In the 1300s, they abandoned the Mesa Verde area for unknown reasons and migrated south to New Mexico and Texas.

Issues
The erosion that created the alcoves continues today and can damage the walls and foundations of many of the Mesa Verde buildings. Archaeologists keep an eye on these processes and reduce or reverse any damage that may occur.

Did You Know?
There are more than 4000 archaeological sites within the Mesa Verde National Park, including dams, farming areas and buildings on the top of the plateau.

Archaeologists look after the buildings to prevent further damage from erosion.

GLOSSARY
- plateau: a wide, flat area in a high place
- canyons: deep valleys with steep sides
- ancestors: people who came before you in your family
- erosion: the process of being worn away
- alcoves: indents or very shallow caves
- archaeologists: people that study the remains of civilisations

FACT FILE
Mesa Verde National Park protects evidence of the Ancestral Pueblo civilisation.

Category: 🕵️
Criteria: 🥨

The building known as Cliff Palace had more than 181 rooms.

UNITED STATES

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The building known as Cliff Palace had more than 181 rooms.
Persepolis was the ancient capital of the Achaemenid Persian Empire. Persia is an old name for Iran and the Achaemenid Empire was the largest empire in the ancient world. It stretched from India to Egypt and Greece. The Achaemenid Empire came to its end in 330 BCE when Alexander the Great of Greece looted and destroyed Persepolis.

The architecture of Persepolis is Persian but it was also influenced by Egyptian, Greek, Assyrian and Babylonian styles. The Persians had a huge empire so they drew on other cultures they conquered.

### Important features

The centre of Persepolis was on a stone terrace, half natural and half built. It was a city only for the royal family. The city ruins include palaces and great halls, such as the Hall of 100 Columns, where the kings held important events. The walls of the hall are decorated with reliefs. The palaces were reached by massive staircases. The sides of the staircases are also decorated with reliefs.

### Issues

The main problems facing Persepolis come from farms and factories moving ever closer to the borders of the World Heritage site. Farming and industry can cause air pollution. The managers of Persepolis are trying to measure the pollution and find out what impact it is having on the buildings and reliefs.

### GLOSSARY

- **empire**: a group of nations and kingdoms with one ruler
- **looted**: took everything of value from
- **terrace**: a flat, raised bank with vertical or sloping sides
- **reliefs**: sculptures carved on walls
The Pre-Hispanic City of Teotihuacan is an area of pyramids, palaces, temples and brilliant artwork in central Mexico. Teotihuacan was the first great city of the Americas but it was abandoned in the 600s CE. The identity of the people of Teotihuacan is not known.

**FACT FILE**
The Pre-Hispanic City of Teotihuacan protects the remains of a lost civilisation.

**Criteria:**
- Heritage
- Cultural Mixed
- Natural

**Category:**
- Special culture
- Special natural habitat
- Special cultural landscape

Teotihuacan was one of the largest cities in the world at its time.

**Important features**
The people who built Teotihuacan planned their city very carefully. The Avenue of the Dead runs through the middle of the city. It begins at the Pyramid of the Moon, passes the 75-metre (246-foot) high Pyramid of the Sun and continues as far as the Ciudadela. Ciudadela is the Spanish word for citadel. The city was abandoned after a great fire. The fire may have been lit by an invading army but it is more likely that the people of Teotihuacan started it in a rebellion against their leaders.

**Did You Know?**
When the Aztecs came across the abandoned city, many centuries later, they called it ‘the place where the gods were created’.

**Issues**
In 2008, the local government installed a sound and light show to entertain tourists during the evenings. The light fittings bolted onto the sides of the pyramids have damaged the pyramids. In 2009 the Mexican government temporarily stopped the sound and light project.

**GLOSSARY**
- **Pre-Hispanic** from the time before the Spanish conquered South and Central America in the 1500s
- **Citadel** a fortress in or near a city
Rapa Nui National Park

Rapa Nui National Park is an archaeological area containing houses, ceremonial structures, wall paintings and up to 900 large stone statues on Easter Island. The statues, called moai, were built by the Rapanui. They were a Polynesian people who settled on the islands some time after 300 CE and lived there in complete isolation for hundreds of years.

Did You Know?
A tourist from Finland was fined US$17,000 in 2008 for chipping an ear off one of the Easter Island statues.

Important features
The Rapanui cut blocks of stone from the inside of one of the island’s extinct volcanoes. They then moved the statues to platforms and placed them facing towards the centre of the island. The Rapanui believed the statues, which were between 2 and 20 metres (6.5 and 65 feet) in height, were their ancestors, protecting them and their land.

Issues
Many of the statues have fallen over. While some experts would like to restore the statues, many local people prefer that the statues remain as they are. They believe that there are enough statues already standing and claim that statues that have been restored are deteriorating quicker than the ones still on the ground.

GLOSSARY
extinct dead or no longer active
ancestors people who came before you in your family

FACT FILE
Rapa Nui National Park protects evidence of the Rapanui civilisation.

Category:
Criteria:

TIMELINE
300–1200
The Rapanui arrive at Easter Island at some point during this period.

1250–1500
The Rapanui carve the moai.

1722
Dutch explorers find Rapa Nui on Easter Sunday and call it Easter Island.

1888
Easter Island becomes part of Chile.

1935
Easter Island is made a national park.

1995
The site is inscribed on the World Heritage List.

FACT FILE
Rapa Nui National Park is an archaeological area containing houses, ceremonial structures, wall paintings and up to 900 large stone statues on Easter Island. The statues, called moai, were built by the Rapanui. They were a Polynesian people who settled on the islands some time after 300 CE and lived there in complete isolation for hundreds of years.

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Willandra Lakes Region is a desert landscape of 18 dried lakes in Australia. On the eastern sides of the lakes, there are crescent-shaped dunes of sand and clay, called lunettes. Within the lunettes, there are the ancient remains of a people who once lived in the area.

**FACT FILE**

The Willandra Lakes Region protects evidence of one of the oldest civilisations on Earth.

**Category:**

**Criteria:**

These formations at the Willandra Lakes are called the Walls of China.

**TIMELINE**

45 000 years ago

Humans live around the Willandra Lakes.

40 000 years ago

Mungo Woman and Mungo Man are buried.

1968

The remains of Mungo Woman are discovered.

1974

The remains of Mungo Man are discovered.

1979

The heart of the Willandra Lakes region is made a national park.

1981

The site is inscribed on the World Heritage List.

**Important features**

It was once thought that Indigenous Australian peoples first lived in Australia 8000 years ago, but then two separate burials of Indigenous Australians – called Mungo Man and Mungo Woman – were discovered at Willandra Lakes. They showed that people lived in the area about 40 000 years ago. The body of Mungo Woman is evidence of the oldest cremation on Earth. When they lived there, the lakes were filled with water and a rainforest covered the landscape. Indigenous Australians lived beside the lakes.

**Issues**

The most popular part of Willandra Lakes is Lake Mungo and its lunette. Visitors walking on the dune can damage it, so the park managers have built boardwalks over it. There are plans to build more boardwalks.

**Did You Know?**

In 2003, about 460 footprints were discovered at Lake Mungo, dating back about 20 000 years.

Elders of the three traditional Indigenous groups of the Willandra Lakes area look at the ancient footprints found at Lake Mungo.

**GLOSSARY**

- **Indigenous Australian peoples**
  - the first people to live in Australia
- **cremation**
  - the act of burning bodies
- **rainforest**
  - a forest that gets a lot of rain
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