

## UNIT 8

Complete the paragraph with the correct words.

holy	represent	sculptures	symbol	temple
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1. The Parthenon is a famous \_\_\_\_\_ in Athens, Greece. It is so famous, that it has become a \_\_\_\_\_ of Greece, of classical architecture, and of democracy. Now, a popular tourist attraction, the Parthenon was once a \_\_\_\_\_ place dedicated to the goddess Athena. Many beautiful stone \_\_\_\_\_ of Greek gods were taken from the Parthenon and put into museums. There are also wall carvings that \_\_\_\_\_ scenes from myths and history.

Choose the correct meaning of the words in bold.

2. Archeologists study **ancient** sites to learn about the people who lived there many years ago.
- old
  - buried
  - foreign
  - interesting
3. People had to **transport** heavy stones to build the temple. Researchers think they used wooden carts.
- cut
  - move
  - look for
  - fit together
4. The group is **committed to** protecting the environment. It is their highest priority.
- required by law to act on
  - ignoring the importance of
  - given money by an agency for
  - willing to spend time and energy on

LEVEL 2 Assessment

5. The book **illustrates** the importance of studying monuments from the past. It was very clear to me why we need to preserve these monuments.
  - a. shows
  - b. introduces
  - c. argues against
  - d. draws pictures of
6. Experts **debate** how people lifted large, heavy stones to build monuments in the past, and there still isn't widespread agreement.
  - a. research about
  - b. argue about
  - c. discover
  - d. explain

**Choose the correct word to complete each sentence.**

7. Many government buildings are designed in a \_\_\_\_\_ style, to look like ancient Greek and Roman structures.
  - a. modern
  - b. classical
8. Art Deco was a \_\_\_\_\_ style of architecture and design in the 1920s and 1930s. There are many buildings from that period in the Art Deco style.
  - a. popular
  - b. personal
9. Although every home on this street looks the same on the outside, the residents have decorated each of the interiors in their own \_\_\_\_\_ style.
  - a. regional
  - b. personal

**Match the words to the definitions.**

- |               |   |  |
|---------------|---|--|
| 10. transform | ● | ● a. to change from one shape or way of being into another |
| 11. transport | ● | ● b. to change from one language to another                |
| 12. translate | ● | ● c. to carry from one place to another                    |

**Read the passage.****Unfinished Masterpiece**

- A** It's a structure that isn't finished, yet millions of people visit it every year. Antoni Gaudí began building La Sagrada Família in 1883—and work continues to this day.
- B** The architect Antoni Gaudí was born in 1852 near the town of Reus, in the Catalan region of Spain. As a child, he was interested in the natural wonders of the countryside. When he grew up, he went to Barcelona to study architecture. Gaudí designed many structures in Barcelona, but he was most committed to the Sagrada Família church. In fact, after 1910, he stopped working on nearly all other projects to focus on it.

**INSPIRED BY NATURE**

- C** Gaudí experimented with many styles early in his career, but eventually developed his own ideas about architecture. "Nothing is art if it does not come from nature," he believed. Gaudí understood that the natural world is full of curved forms, not straight lines. With this in mind, he based his structures on a simple idea: If nature is the work of God, then the best way to honor God is to design buildings based on nature.
- D** This theme of nature combined with the architect's religious beliefs guided the design of La Sagrada Família. Gaudí placed sculptures of wildlife outside the church. For example, a turtle—a symbol of the sea—and a tortoise—a symbol of the land—are carved into the base of two columns. Carvings of lizards and birds appear elsewhere on the outer walls. Inside the church, pillars rise up like trees. Gaudí wanted the inside of La Sagrada Família to feel like a forest.

**AN END IN SIGHT**

- E** Gaudí died in 1926. Before his death, he made models of his plans for the church, hoping that others could complete his masterpiece. Many of these models were lost during the Spanish Civil War (1936–1939), but some survived. These models have helped Gaudí's successors. For example, Mark Burry, an architect from New Zealand, has worked on La Sagrada Família since 1979. He uses computer technology and the surviving models to bring Gaudí's plans to life.
- F** Gaudí's work illustrates a timeless truth. As the architectural historian Joan Bassegoda wrote: "The lesson of Gaudí is ... [N]ature does not go out of fashion." In fact, you might say Gaudí's architectural style was ahead of its time. The nature-inspired designs can be seen as an early example of biomimetics—a science that uses designs in nature to solve modern problems.
- G** Work on La Sagrada Família was expected to be finished in 2026, a hundred years after Gaudí's death. However, some experts believe this deadline will not be met, in part because of delays related to COVID-19. Gaudí was once asked why La Sagrada Família was taking so long to complete. "My client is not in a hurry," he said.

## LEVEL 2 Assessment

**Choose the correct answers.**

13. What is the main idea of the passage?
- Antoni Gaudí was a Catalan architect who was also very religious, and who has inspired many architects since his death.
  - La Sagrada Família is a special monument inspired by nature that the famous architect Gaudí left unfinished.
  - Gaudí designed La Sagrada Família using themes and shapes from nature because he believed nature was the best way to honor his God.
14. When did construction begin on La Sagrada Família?
- 1852
  - 1883
  - 1910
15. Which detail best helps you to understand that La Sagrada Família was the project that was most important to Gaudí?
- He wanted the interior to look like a forest.
  - He was not in a hurry to finish it before his death.
  - He stopped almost all other work to focus on it.
16. How has Mark Burry been able to continue Gaudí's work since 1979?
- with the help of some of Gaudí's original models plus computers
  - by training with Gaudí in his childhood to become his successor
  - by studying Gaudí's writings from before the Spanish Civil War
17. How was La Sagrada Família an early example of "biomimetics"?
- It used designs based on nature to create a more spiritual space.
  - It was based on a new kind of three-dimensional model.
  - It was ahead of its time because of its size and difficulty.

**Read the passage.****World Heritage Sites in Indonesia**

**A** Borobudur and Prambanan are important UNESCO<sup>1</sup> World Heritage Sites located in Central Java in Indonesia, near the city of Yogyakarta. The two sites have several features in common as well as significant differences.

**Borobudur**

## LEVEL 2 Assessment

- B** Borobudur is the world's largest Buddhist temple, reaching 35 meters high with a base of 123 by 123 meters wide. It was constructed in the 9th century under the Buddhist Sailendra ruling family. It is shaped like a pyramid with three levels, each one representing a different stage in the Buddha's life. The reason people journey to the top of Borobudur is for both physical and spiritual reasons.
- C** Borobudur was mysteriously abandoned by the 15th century. There are several possible reasons for this. Firstly, political power moved east in the 10th century. Later, the religion of Islam began to spread. Moreover, volcanoes and earthquakes threatened the area. The site was eventually covered with volcanic ash and later by jungle. However, local people continued to tell folk stories about it.
- D** In the 1800s, the British Empire took control of Java. One leader, Sir Thomas Stamford Raffles, had heard stories about Borobudur and organized efforts to uncover the site. Unfortunately, this led to people stealing stones and sculptures. Weather also damaged the site. In the 1960s and 70s, UNESCO and 27 countries joined to help restore Borobudur, which remains a popular tourist site as well as a holy place for Buddhists today.

**Prambanan**

- E** Prambanan is the largest Hindu temple site in Indonesia. It consists of 240 temples, the tallest of which, at 47 meters high, is dedicated to the god Shiva. Prambanan was constructed in the 9th century, slightly later than Borobudur—and only 19 km away—during the period of the Hindu Sanjaya ruling family.
- F** Less than 100 years after its completion, Prambanan, like Borobudur, was abandoned—and for similar political and environmental reasons. An earthquake in the 1500s destroyed some of Prambanan's structures, and it was later covered in jungle. However, it remained the inspiration for local folktales.
- G** Like Borobudur, Prambanan, was briefly of interest to the British Empire in the early 1800s, and it was also visited by thieves. Local people took stones for construction. Furthermore, it was damaged by weather. Major efforts to restore the site began in the 1990s and continue today. More than a million tourists visit Prambanan every year, and it remains a holy site for Hindus. The area is used as an outdoor stage for the traditional dance drama of *Ramayana*.

**Today**

- H** In 2006, a severe earthquake hit the nearby city of Yogyakarta. Borobudur was spared, but Prambanan suffered damage. In 2010, nearby Merapi volcano erupted. The ash blew away from Prambanan but covered Borobudur. Another volcano erupted in February 2014. Now scientists and the Indonesian government are debating how best to protect these special sites.

<sup>1</sup> UNESCO is the acronym for the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization.

LEVEL 2 Assessment

**Choose *True* or *False*.**

18. This passage is mostly about regional styles of religious architecture in Java.
  - a. True
  - b. False
  
19. Borobudur and Prambanan were built in the same century.
  - a. True
  - b. False
  
20. Both sites were abandoned centuries before the British Empire arrived in Java.
  - a. True
  - b. False
  
21. People stole stones for building from both Borobudur and Prambanan in the 1800s.
  - a. True
  - b. False
  
22. Both sites are currently threatened by earthquakes and volcanoes.
  - a. True
  - b. False

**Scan the passage to find the information. Choose the correct answers.**

23. How tall is Borobudur temple?
  - a. 35m
  - b. 47m
  - c. 123m
  
24. How far is Prambanan from Borobudur?
  - a. 47 meters
  - b. 19 kilometers
  - c. 190 kilometers

## LEVEL 2 Assessment

**Complete the sentences with the correct comparative form of the adjectives in the box.**

easy	exciting	famous	massive	old	tall
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25. Prambanan is 47 meters high and 35 m wide, whereas Borobudur is around 35 m high and 123 m wide, comprising a total of 60,000 m<sup>3</sup> of solid stone. So, while Prambanan is \_\_\_\_\_ Borobudur, Borobudur is \_\_\_\_\_.
26. Although few people have heard of it, the holy city of Caral-Supe in Peru was built around the same time as the pyramid of Saqqara in Egypt, around 2600 BCE. So, Caral-Supe is \_\_\_\_\_ the Saqqara pyramid even though it is \_\_\_\_\_.
27. Visiting an ancient site is a bit like traveling back in time. It can be much \_\_\_\_\_ than seeing objects locked in cases in a museum. However, going to a museum has advantages too. For one thing, museums are often \_\_\_\_\_ to get to.

**Complete the comparison paragraph with the correct words.**

also	both	however	like	unlike
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28. \_\_\_\_\_ Stonehenge, Avebury is an ancient site in the U.K. that consists of a massive circle of stones. \_\_\_\_\_ sites were probably places where people gathered for religious ceremonies. \_\_\_\_\_, the two sites were in use around 4,000–5,000 years ago. \_\_\_\_\_, Avebury is much, much larger than Stonehenge—in fact, it surrounds a village. \_\_\_\_\_ Stonehenge's stones, which were cut and shaped by people, Avebury's stones were naturally shaped.

## LEVEL 2 Assessment

**Read the comparison paragraph.**

Borobudur is a massive pyramid-shaped Buddhist temple on the island of Java. Prambanan is also on the island of Java; however, it is a Hindu religious site and consists of hundreds of temples. Both sites were built in the 9th century, and both were eventually abandoned and covered by jungle. They were also both “discovered” again in later centuries, though the local people had never forgotten them. Prambanan has been damaged by earthquakes. On the other hand, Borobudur has been affected by volcanic eruptions. Both have been damaged by rains and by human activity. Borobudur was repaired in the 1970s. Similarly, many temples at Prambanan have been repaired and continue to be repaired. Like Borobudur, Prambanan is a popular destination for religious and non-religious visitors alike.

**Decide if each detail describes Borobudur, Prambanan, or both. Choose the correct answer.**

- 29. has many temples on the site
  - a. Borobudur
  - b. Prambanan
  - c. Both
- 30. attracts many religious visitors
  - a. Borobudur
  - b. Prambanan
  - c. Both
- 31. remembered by local people after it was abandoned
  - a. Borobudur
  - b. Prambanan
  - c. Both
- 32. in the shape of a pyramid
  - a. Borobudur
  - b. Prambanan
  - c. Both
- 33. damaged by earthquakes
  - a. Borobudur
  - b. Prambanan
  - c. Both



LEVEL 2 Assessment

**You are going to write a paragraph on one of the following topics.**

34. Choose one topic and compare the places.

**Topic 1:** Compare two places that have a special meaning for you.

**Topic 2:** Compare two famous buildings that you know well.

**Topic 3:** Compare two buildings in your town or city: one that you like, and one that you dislike.

**A. OUTLINE** Plan an outline for your paragraph. Include notes for a topic sentence and at least four similarities and differences between the two places you chose.

**B. Think of some words and phrases you can use in your paragraph. Write them in the box.**

The words and phrases below can be useful when comparing buildings or places.

- |                           |                       |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| • <i>both</i>             | • <i>represent</i>    |
| • <i>constructed</i>      | • <i>similarly</i>    |
| • <i>In contrast, ...</i> | • <i>smaller than</i> |
| • <i>like</i>             | • <i>structure</i>    |
| • <i>older than</i>       | • <i>unlike</i>       |

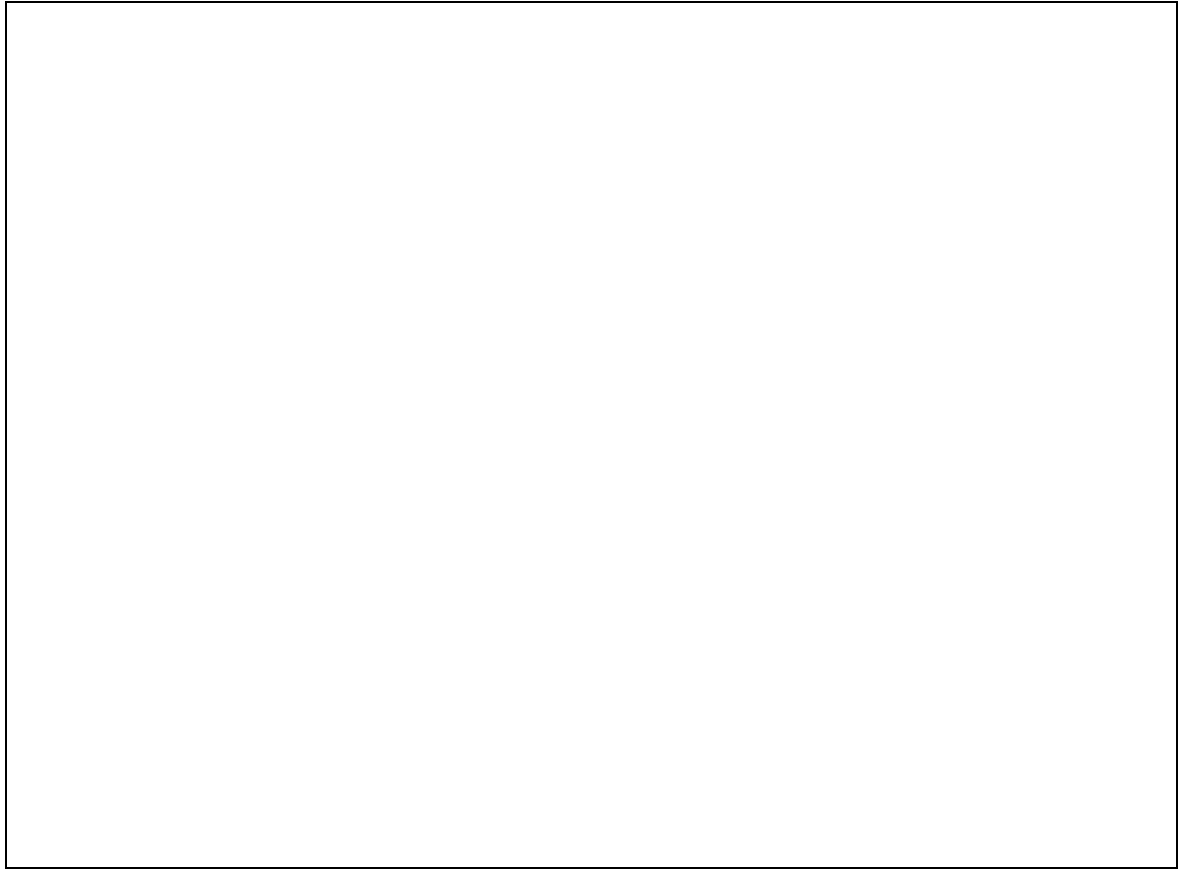
## LEVEL 2 Assessment

- C. Write your paragraph based on your outline. Use the model to help you. Remember to include transition words for comparing and contrasting, your vocabulary words, and comparative adjectives.**

**Model:**

*My grandmother's house and the town library are two very different structures, but they both have special meaning for me. First, the structures have very different styles. They were both built in the 1800s, but my grandmother's home was constructed from wood in the Victorian style, and is painted a lovely light shade of purple. In contrast, the library was constructed from large brown and grey stones to look like a medieval religious building. The library is small for a library, but it is still much bigger than my grandmother's house, although my grandmother's house is the largest house on her street. Obviously, the two buildings have very different purposes, and I visit them for very different reasons. However, I feel a similar affection for both places. I could spend all day in the library, sitting in the comfortable chairs reading books or attending the special events they have every month. Similarly, I often spend all day at my grandmother's house, where there are also lots of books to read, interesting old objects to look at, and wonderful people to talk to. Although my grandmother is more important to me than the contents of the town library, both places will always hold a special place in my heart.*

LEVEL 2 Assessment



(12 points)