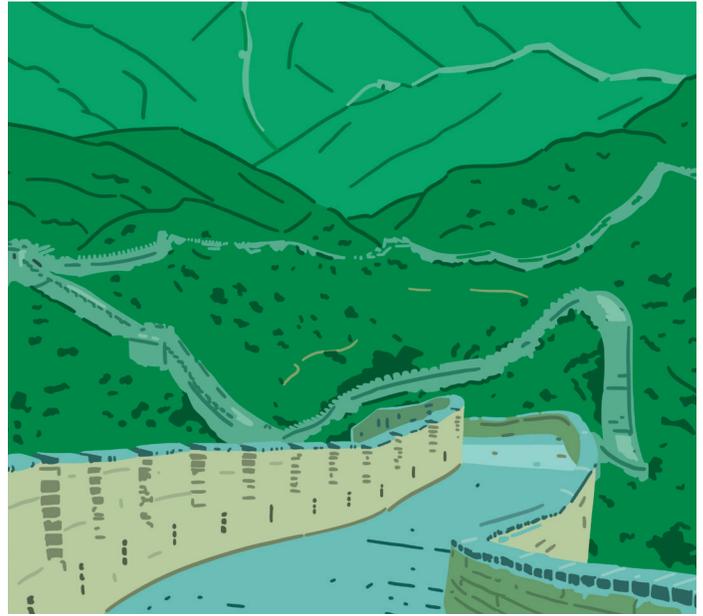


The Great Wall of China

Pre-Reading

A. Warm-Up Questions

1. Have you ever been to China and seen the Great Wall? If not, would you like to go?
2. How many people do you think visit the Great Wall of China each year?
3. What do you think was the purpose in building the Great Wall?
4. Do you know when construction first began on the Great Wall?
5. What is a World Heritage Site? Have you ever been to a World Heritage Site?



B. Vocabulary Preview

Match the words on the left with the correct meanings on the right.

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| ___ 1. military | a) to become one |
| ___ 2. heritage | b) a place |
| ___ 3. rival | c) a large, heavy gun that fires big, metal balls |
| ___ 4. invader | d) a space between two points |
| ___ 5. unify | e) army |
| ___ 6. century | f) someone who comes into a country and attacks |
| ___ 7. reinforce | g) something coming from the past |
| ___ 8. interval | h) to make stronger |
| ___ 9. cannon | i) a competitor |
| ___ 10. site | j) 100 years |

Reading

1. The Great Wall of China is the largest **military** structure in the world and one of its great wonders. It runs from east to west across northern and north-central China, winding through hills and mountains for about 4,500 miles (7,242 kilometers). The United Nations declared it a World **Heritage Site** in 1987.
2. Parts of the Great Wall are over 2,000 years old. **Rival** rulers of small areas built earth and stone walls to mark their boundaries and as protection from northern **invaders**. Messengers also traveled along these walls to take messages from one ruler to another.
3. About 210 BC, Emperor Qin **unified** the country and ordered these individual sections to be connected. This took several **centuries** to complete. Qin and succeeding emperors used forced labor to build the wall higher, wider, and longer. Bricks and granite were used to **reinforce** old sections and to build new ones. Lookout posts and battle forts were constructed at **intervals** along the wall, and soldiers were stationed along it. The soldiers would light huge bonfires on the wall to signal danger.
4. During the Ming Dynasty (1368–1644), a major renovation of the Great Wall began, which took 200 years to complete. The wall became much more elaborate in design, and modern **cannons** were added at strategic positions.
5. The Great Wall lost its military importance in the modern era, and many sections of the wall are in ruins or have disappeared. However, there is still great interest in the wall, and previously undiscovered sections of it have been found in the last few years.
6. Today, the Great Wall is one of China's most important tourist attractions. Each year, hundreds of thousands of visitors tour a well-preserved section of the wall located about 50 miles from Beijing. Parts of the wall are being restored, but it is a difficult and expensive process.

The Great Wall is often referred to as “the longest cemetery on earth” because so many laborers died during construction.

Comprehension

A. True or False?

Read the statements below.

If the statement is true, write T beside the sentence.

If it is false, write F and correct the information.

- _____ 1. The Great Wall of China runs from north to south across eastern China.
- _____ 2. The Great Wall is 4,500 years old.
- _____ 3. Parts of the Great Wall were originally built for military purposes.
- _____ 4. The Great Wall still serves an important military purpose.
- _____ 5. The entire wall has been well preserved.

B. Ask and Answer

Practice asking and answering the following questions with your partner. Then write your answers in complete sentences in your notebook.

- 1. Where is the Great Wall of China located and how long is it?
- 2. How old is the Great Wall?
- 3. Why was the wall built?
- 4. What part did Emperor Qin play in the building of the Great Wall?
- 5. How did the Great Wall change under the rule of Emperor Qin and his successors?
- 6. What changes occurred during the Ming Dynasty?
- 7. What is the importance of the Great Wall today?

Vocabulary Review

A. Complete the Sentences

Complete the sentences using vocabulary from page 1.

You may need to change the word forms.

- 1. Coca-Cola and Pepsi are _____ soft drink companies.
- 2. We're going to add some more wood pieces to _____ our old fence.
- 3. He has served as a captain in the _____ for the last ten years.
- 4. There is a lot of disagreement among the club members, but the president is trying to _____ the different groups.
- 5. They could hear the sound of the loud _____ fire from a very far distance.

Vocabulary Review cont.

B. Choose the Correct Word

Choose the word or phrase with the closest meaning to the underlined word or phrase in the following sentences.

- The emperors used forced labor to build the wall.
 - a lot of money
 - workers
 - bricks
- Soldiers were stationed along the wall.
 - placed
 - trained
 - shot
- During the Ming Dynasty, a major renovation began.
 - restoration
 - war
 - tourist attraction
- Today, many section of the wall are in ruins.
 - run by the government
 - in very bad condition
 - fixed up
- Tourists visit the well-preserved section of the wall.
 - popular
 - mountainous
 - kept in good condition

Discussion

- Why has the Great Wall of China lost its military importance in today's world?
- Do you think that it is important to maintain World Heritage Sites? Why or why not?
- What other historical structures have been built through forced labor?
- The Great Wall was built for protection against invaders. How do countries protect their borders in modern society?