

Assignment: Researching a UNESCO World Heritage Archaeological Site

UNESCO is the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Among its duties, it is tasked with promoting and preserving world heritage. UNESCO maintains a list of World Heritage Sites. These sites can be recognized for natural or cultural value (or both). Cultural sites are nominated based on having one or more of the following criteria:

- i. to represent a masterpiece of human creative genius;
- ii. to exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design;
- iii. to bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared;
- iv. to be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history;
- v. to be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change;
- vi. to be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance. (The Committee considers that this criterion should preferably be used in conjunction with other criteria);

Many of the sites are beautiful buildings, but others are archaeological sites.

Search the UNESCO World Heritage List to find an archaeological site. *Do NOT select a cultural site that is not archaeological.* If you use the Advanced Search, you can select a site by the year it was inscribed, the region of the world it is located in, and/or the specific criteria it was nominated under. You can also just scroll around the map and it will list the name of the sites as you roll over them. If you specifically want to look at a site that is in danger of being damaged, there is a link on the left side of the page listing 'Sites in Danger'. Feel free to pick a site that corresponds to your own interests; just be sure that it is an archaeological site.

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list>

Publish a blog post with the following information:

Title: Make the title of your blog the name of the World Heritage Site

Background:

- The name of the archaeological site
- The country it is located in today
- The year that it was added to the World Heritage List
- The criteria that the site was nominated for (do not just list the roman numeral – list the description as well so a reader knows what you are talking about)
- The total number of Cultural or Mixed Heritage Sites Located in that country

Basic Archaeological Site information:

- How big is the archaeological site?
- What time period does the site represent (e.g. 1000-3000 B.C.)

- If there is a cultural period that the site is said to be from, list that as well (i.e. Basketmaker III culture; the Middle Kingdom)
- If there is a cultural group associated with the site, list that as well (e.g. the site is in Egypt but it was used by the Ancient Greeks; or the site was a Phoenician town)

Archaeological Summary:

Write 1-3 paragraphs that summarize what is known of the site, the culture that lived there, and its significance to world heritage. To do this, you will need to read the site description and some of the associated documents (The Advisory Body Evaluation may be the most helpful). I recommend you also look through the photographs or videos, and follow some of the links which will give you more general descriptions of the site/culture. If you can find information on when the site has been excavated, and by whom, include it here (you may not be able to find this kind of information). You might also try doing a Google search – if the site has a heritage center it likely has a website. Be wary of personal websites, folks may misinterpret data! ‘

Threats/Status:

Check the ‘threats’ section of your site’s listing and discuss any threats to the archaeological site. Some examples of threats are destruction due to warfare, political upheavals, looting and no infrastructure to support the protection of the site. If your site has no threats, Simple state “There are no known threats to this site at this time.”

Links/Media:

- Post at least two pictures from your site (you may post more – some of these sites are really cool!)
- Post at least one link to a website/newspaper/magazine article about your site. *Be sure the link works.*
- Post a link to the World Heritage Site website for your particular Archaeological Site.

Additional Information/Fun Facts:

This is not required, but if you want to talk about something that struck you about the site, or threats to it, feel free to include that here. Also, if you found something particularly interesting about the site, but it didn’t fit in the general summary, you can also post it here.

Grading:

50% of your grade will be based on the archaeological summary. In addition to having accurate information, it should have proper grammar and should flow in an essay format.

40% of your grade will be based on including the other information, and having the material clearly identifiable. Do not just write “460ha”. Write “Site Size: 460ha.” Readers who visit our site should be able to skim through all of these site summaries and find information in the same places.

10% of your grade will be based on proper spelling and formatting, including making sure the links work.

Assignment should be posted by 5pm on Tuesday February 22nd.