

Unit 16 HISTORICAL PLACES



A. READING

Before you read

Work in pairs.

- List some historical places you know in Vietnam.
- Is Van Mieu – Quoc Tu Giam a historical place?
- What do you know about this place?

While you read

Read the passage and then do the tasks that follow.


Van Mieu – Quoc Tu Giam is a famous historical and cultural site in Hanoi. Originally built in 1070 in the Ly dynasty, Van Mieu was representative of Confucian ways of thought and behaviour. Six years later, Quoc Tu Giam, the first university of Vietnam, was established on the grounds of Van Mieu. Between 1076 and 1779, Quoc Tu Giam



educated thousands of talented men for the country. In 1482, Van Mieu became a place to memorialize the most brilliant scholars of the nation. The names, places of birth and achievements of top students in royal examinations were engraved on stone stelae. These stelae, carried on the backs of giant tortoises, are still standing today and they attract great interest from visitors.



After more than 900 years of existence, Van Mieu is an example of well-preserved traditional Vietnamese architecture. The banyan trees in Van Mieu, which witnessed festivals and examinations during feudal times, continue to flourish. Van Mieu – Quoc Tu Giam is a site of national pride for Vietnamese people.

 **Task 1.** Choose A, B, or C that best suits the meaning of the italicised word.

1. Van Mieu was *originally* built in 1070 in the Ly dynasty.
A. beautifully B. initially C. finally
2. It is *representative* of Confucian ways of thought and behaviour.
A. typical B. fond C. traditional
3. Van Mieu was a place to *memorialize* the most brilliant scholars of the nation.
A. ignore B. gather C. honor
4. The stone stelae were *engraved* with the names of the top students in royal examinations.
A. printed B. carved C. washed
5. The banyan trees in Van Mieu continue to *flourish* even now.
A. slow down B. fall off C. grow well

 **Task 2.** Decide whether the following statements are true (T) or false (F).

- | | T | F |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. The construction of Van Mieu took place between 1076 and 1779. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Quoc Tu Giam is considered to be the first university of Vietnam. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Thousands of talented men were trained in <i>Quoc Tu Giam</i> from the 11 th to the 19 th century. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Van Mieu has now lost most of its traditional Vietnamese architecture. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Festivals and examinations used to be held in Van Mieu – Quoc Tu Giam. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Visitors can still see some trees which have been in Van Mieu for a long time. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |


After you read

Work in groups. Talk about Van Mieu – Quoc Tu Giam, using the suggestions below.

- Why is Van Mieu – Quoc Tu Giam a place of interest?
- When and where were they built?
- What were their functions?
- What is special about the stelae there?



B. SPEAKING

 **Task 1.** A foreign visitor has taken some notes about President Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum. Ask and answer questions with a partner, using his notes.

Example:

A: Where is President Ho Chi Minh's Mausoleum situated?

B: It is situated in Ba Dinh District in Hanoi.


A: When did the construction of the Mausoleum start?

B: It started in September 1973.

PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH'S MAUSOLEUM

- Place: Ba Dinh District, Hanoi
- Built in September 1973, completed in August 1975
- 1st floor: a stand for important meetings organised at Ba Dinh Square, 2nd floor: where the late president is lying, 3rd floor: the roof
- Visiting hours: 7:30 – 10:30 a.m. in summer and 8:00 – 11:00 a.m. in winter. Every day except Monday and Friday.
- Usually closed September 5 – December 10 for maintenance
- No photography allowed inside



 **Task 2.** *Work in pairs.* Take turns to act as a tourist guide and give a short introduction to either of the historical places below, using the information given.

HUE IMPERIAL CITY


- Listed as a World Cultural Heritage by UNESCO in 1993
- In Hue City, 654 km from Hanoi and 1071 km from Ho Chi Minh City
- Construction: started 1805 and completed 1832
- Comprises 3 sections: the Royal Citadel, the Imperial Enclosure and the Forbidden City
- Open daily from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
- Admission fee: 55,000 VND



THONG NHAT CONFERENCE HALL

- Also called Reunification Hall or Independence Palace
- In District No 1, Ho Chi Minh City, 1,730 km south of Hanoi
- Originally built in 1865 and heavily damaged by an air bombardment in February 1963
- Rebuilt and construction completed in 1966
- Has 5 floors with 100 beautifully decorated rooms and chambers
- Open daily from 7:30 to 11:00 a.m. and from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.
- Admission fee: 10,000 VND



 **Task 3.** *Work in groups.* Ask other members of the group questions about a historical place they have been to or know about, note down the main information, and then report to the class what you have learnt about that place.

C. LISTENING

Before you listen

Work in pairs. Look at the pictures then answer the following questions.

1. What are the names of the places?
2. Which of the places have you been to?
3. Which one would you like to visit most? Why?



- Listen and repeat.

merchant	pillar
carved	destination
vessel	ornamental
heritage	certified



Assembly Hall of Cantonese Chinese Congregation




Tan Ky House



Japanese Covered Bridge

While you listen

 **Task 1.** Listen and choose A, B, or C that best completes the sentence.

1. Hoi An is located _____ kilometres south of Da Nang.
 - A. 13
 - B. 30
 - C. 16
2. Hoi An used to be an important trading centre _____.
 - A. in Southeast Asia
 - B. in the 19th century
 - C. in the Far East
3. Hoi An is well-known for its old houses which are _____.
 - A. small and thatch-roofed
 - B. narrow and carved
 - C. small and tile-roofed
4. The Japanese Covered Bridge was built _____.
 - A. in 1855
 - B. in the 18th century
 - C. in the 16th century
5. Tan Ky House was built as a _____.
 - A. house for a Chinese merchant
 - B. meeting hall for the Cantonese Chinese
 - C. house for a Vietnamese merchant

Task 2. Listen again and answer the following questions.

1. Where is the ancient town of Hoi An situated?
2. What was Hoi An known as between the 16th and the 17th centuries?
3. What is it now famous for?
4. What are the old houses in Hoi An like?
5. How old is the Assembly Hall of Cantonese Chinese Congregation?
6. When was Tan Ky House built?
7. What is special about this house?
8. When was Hoi An recognised by UNESCO as a World Cultural Heritage Site?

After you listen

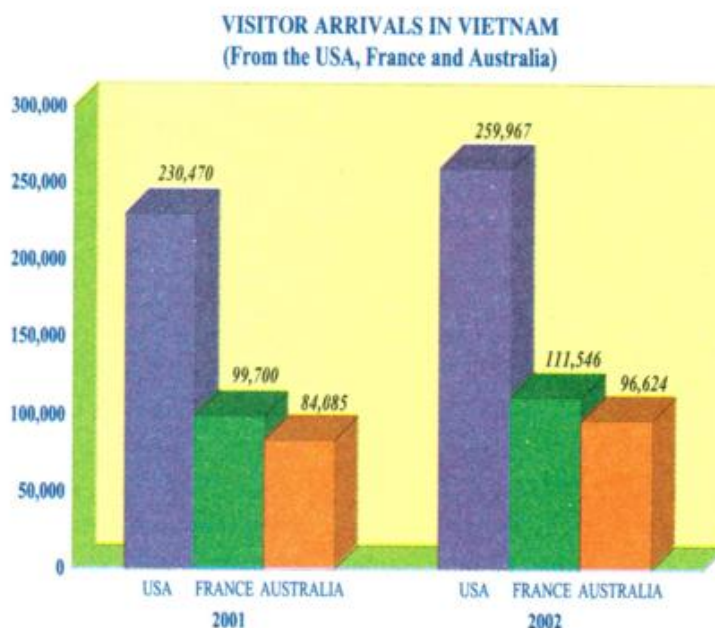
Work in groups. Talk about the ancient town of Hoi An, using the following cues.

- its location and roles in the past
- its attractive characteristics at present
- its main tourist attractions and their features

D. WRITING


Describing a chart

Task 1. The chart on the right presents some information about visitor arrivals in Vietnam from the USA, France and Australia in 2001 and 2002. Study the chart and then answer the questions that follow.



(Source: Vietnam National Administration, 2002)

1. According to the chart, which country had the biggest number of visitors to Vietnam in 2001?
2. How many French visitors arrived in Vietnam in 2001?
3. Which country had the smallest number of visitors to Vietnam in 2002?
4. Is the number of Australian visitors coming to Vietnam in 2001 greater than that in 2002?
5. Which country, France or Australia, had more visitors to Vietnam in 2002?
6. How did the number of American visitors to Vietnam in 2002 increase in comparison with that in 2001?

 **Task 2.** Based on the answers to the questions above, write a description of the chart provided in Task 1.

E. LANGUAGE FOCUS

● **Pronunciation:** / ʒ / - / ʃ /

● **Grammar and vocabulary:**

1. Comparatives and superlatives

2. Making comparisons

Pronunciation

● Listen and repeat.

television	/ ʒ /	Asia	shop	/ ʃ /	washing
pleasure		illusion	machine		English
measure		massage	Swedish		special

● Practise these sentences.

1. It's his pleasure to visit Asia.
2. You shouldn't have any illusions about television.
3. A massage can be a good measure to help you relax.
4. Does this shop sell washing machines?
5. Is he English or Swedish?
6. Is there anything special on TV tonight?

Grammar and vocabulary

• Comparatives and superlatives

Exercise 1. Write the comparative and superlative forms of the adjectives.

Adjective	Comparative	Superlative
1. cheap	<i>cheaper</i>	<i>the cheapest</i>
2. expensive	<i>more expensive</i>	<i>the most expensive</i>
3. young	_____	_____
4. happy	_____	_____
5. big	_____	_____
6. busy	_____	_____
7. intelligent	_____	_____
8. beautiful	_____	_____
9. bad	_____	_____
10. far	_____	_____
11. new	_____	_____
12. dangerous	_____	_____

Exercise 2. Put the words in the correct order to make sentences or questions.

1. family/the/am/my/in/I/oldest

I am the oldest in my family.

2. sister/me/my/than/younger/is

3. class/who/oldest/the/the/in/is/?

4. passenger/plane/used to be/Concord/world/fastest/the/in/the

5. book/interesting/than/my/your/more/is/book

6. bought/expensive/shop/the/in/watch/most/Peter/the

7. cheapest/buy/you/shop/in/the/the/did/watch/?

8. difficult/German/English/is/than/more/much

9. weather/better/today/than/much/is/yesterday/the

● Making comparisons

Exercise 3. Look carefully at each line. Some of the lines are correct, and some have a word which should not be there. Put a tick (✓) for each correct line. If a line has a word which should not be there, write the word in the space.

Transport solutions

First of all, walking is obviously the cheapest✓.....
means of travelling, and can be the quickerthe.....
in a city centre. Of course, the further you have	1.....
to go, the more so tired you will become.	2.....
In some ways walking is more healthier than	3.....
travelling by bus or car, but it can be just as the	4.....
unhealthy because cities are the much more	5.....
polluted than they used to be. Cars are faster	6.....
of course and more than convenient, but as cities	7.....
become more of crowded, parking is getting	8.....
harder. Sometimes public transport is better,	9.....
even though buses don't go as fast as cars do it.	10.....
Cars are a lot more and convenient but as they	11.....
cause most pollution, it is the better to avoid	12.....
using them if possible. In a city the fastest way	13.....
of travelling is on a bike, which keeps you fitter	14.....
and is not so that noisy as a motorbike or a car.	15.....

TEST YOURSELF F

I. Listening (2.5 points)

Listen and fill each blank with the missing word.

Well, I think that living in Bangkok is very exciting, but I haven't lived here all my life. My family came here when I was (1) _____. But now it is my home. Nearly all my (2) _____ live here.

It's our (3) _____ city, and very big. From morning till night there are (4) _____ of people on the main streets. Some parts of the city are very (5) _____. I have a long journey to school every day, but I don't mind because it's so (6) _____. There's always something happening in the (7) _____. There are all kinds of people selling things – fruits, (8) _____, cooked food, clothes – everything you could imagine. I really (9) _____ the excitement of the crowded streets and large (10) _____ buildings. I love walking around the streets at the weekend with some other boys from my class.

II. Reading (2.5 points)

Read the passage, and choose A, B, or C that best completes the sentences.

Sydney – the largest metropolitan area in Australia – is located on the southeastern coast of the country. With a population of about 4 million people, it is the capital of New South Wales (NSW), Australia's most populous and economically important state. The city is a dynamic cultural centre with the economy focused on service industries, tourism, manufacturing, and international commerce. Its harbour is one of the leading centres of intercontinental trade in the Asia-Pacific region.

Sydney was founded as a British colony on January 26, 1788. Today, the natural harbour forms the centrepiece of a modern, cosmopolitan city. Sydney's population is diverse with its people coming from many other countries, which results in the city's vibrant cultural life. It is the top Australian destination for tourists from abroad, and tourism is a leading industry in the city. Sydney hosted the 2000 Summer Olympic Games, which boosted its image worldwide as the gateway to Australia.

1. Sydney is _____.
 - A. the capital of Australia
 - B. the capital of the Asia-Pacific region
 - C. the capital of New South Wales
2. The population of New South Wales is _____.
 - A. larger than that of other states of Australia
 - B. smaller than that of other states of Australia
 - C. as large as that of any other states of Australia
3. The harbour is _____.
 - A. the most important feature of Sydney
 - B. a dynamic cultural centre
 - C. a cosmopolitan city
4. Sydney has a vibrant cultural life because _____.
 - A. its people come from different parts of the world
 - B. it was founded by the British
 - C. it is the top destination for tourists abroad
5. After the 2000 Summer Olympic Games in Sydney _____.
 - A. more people come to Australia through Sydney
 - B. fewer people come to Australia through Sydney
 - C. people had a bad opinion of the city

III. Grammar (2.5 points)

Combine the following pairs of sentences, changing the second sentence into a non-defining relative clause, and putting it in the correct place (1.5 points).

Example:

When I was in town, I met your sister. She was shopping for some clothes.

*When I was in town, I met your sister, **who was shopping for some clothes.***

1. Their house is quite big and modern. It's in the suburb of the city.
2. The new English teacher seems to be very friendly. I met her yesterday.
3. Sandra has got a new job with Capital Insurers. It's a much better company than the last one she worked for.
4. Her latest novel is really good. I read it on holiday.
5. This bag is full of books. I carried it all the way from the station.

- Put the adjectives in brackets into the comparative or superlative form. (1 point)

Pam: So how are you enjoying living in the new place?

Debbie: Oh, it's very nice. The house is much (1) _____ (big) than the one we had in London, and one of the (2) _____ (good) things is being able to walk in the garden.

Pam: So all in all, it's much (3) _____ (good) than London, isn't it?

Debbie: Yes, I think so. In London, it's certainly (4) _____ (polluted), and (5) _____ (stressful). Here it's so much quieter, and that's good for my health.

IV. Writing (2.5 points)

Write a description of Taipei, using the cues below.

- capital city of Taiwan
- founded in the 18th century
- population: 2.3 million
- country's most exciting city
- weather: humid, not very pleasant
- busy city, crowded streets
- famous for excellent museums