

# 16

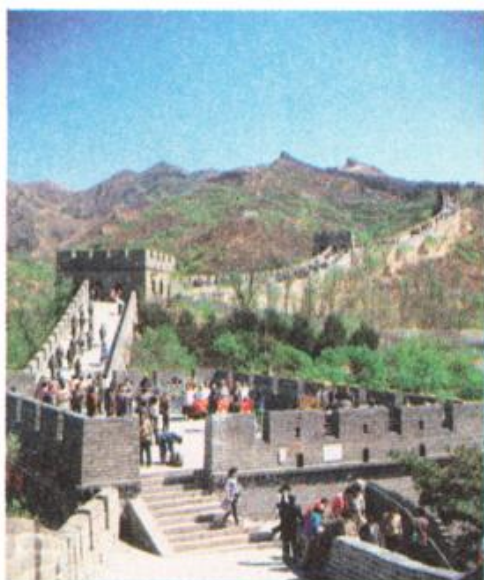
## Historical Places



### READING

#### Before You Read

Work with a partner. Match the pictures with the names of the countries they belong to.



a



b

1. Cambodia

2. Viet Nam

3. China

4. Japan



c



d

## Reading Text

Read the text and do the tasks that follow.

After its establishment as the national capital of Japan in 794, Kyoto became the new base of the Japanese imperial family, and for over a thousand years it developed into a center of Japanese culture.

With its 1,600 Buddhist temples, 400 shrines, many palaces, and dozens of fabulous gardens, Kyoto is ranked one of the most culture-rich cities of the world. Kyoto is also famous for its colorful festivals. Every year, the enthronement anniversary of the emperor and other fascinating state events are still held here.

Since the imperial capital was moved to Tokyo in 1868, Kyoto has been transformed into a modern city under the influence of Western culture. As the Japanese government recognizes the need to protect its invaluable properties, the cultural and historical sites in Kyoto and in the surrounding areas have been given appropriate care and maintenance.

In fact, a set of 17 historical sites was registered as World Heritage in 1993.

In the hilly northeastern edge of the Nara Basin, 40 km east of Osaka, lies the city of Nara. Although the city's name was officially changed to Heijo-kyo when it was made the capital of Japan in 710, Japanese preferred calling it the capital of Nara because of its location. Both businesses and the arts started to flourish in Nara until 794 – when the capital was moved to Heian-kyo (Kyoto). Nara is now referred to as the ancient capital of Japan, and in spite of the change in status, it has become one of the most visited cities in Japan. The hidden beauty, the rich history, and the atmosphere of ancient Japan that Nara retains make it one of the highlights of Japanese tourist industry.

*a) Choose the best title for the text.*

1. Kyoto, Ancient Capital of Japan
2. Ancient Capitals of Japan
3. Nara, First Capital of Japan
4. Capitals of Japan



• *b) Find the words in the text with the following meanings.*

1. extremely good (like in fairy tales)
2. founding (n.)
3. a ceremony to show that a king or queen starts his / her rule
4. the act of keeping something in good condition
5. things that are owned by somebody or by a nation
6. develop highly

*c) Answer the following questions.*

1. Why is Kyoto considered an important cultural center of Japan?
2. How are Japanese ancient rituals and traditions kept alive in modern Kyoto?
3. Has the Japanese government given proper preservation of Kyoto's historical sites? Why or why not?
4. How long did Nara function as Japan's imperial capital?
5. What makes Nara a famous tourist attraction nowadays?

*d) Work in groups of four. Talk about what you know about Hue, the former capital of Viet Nam.*

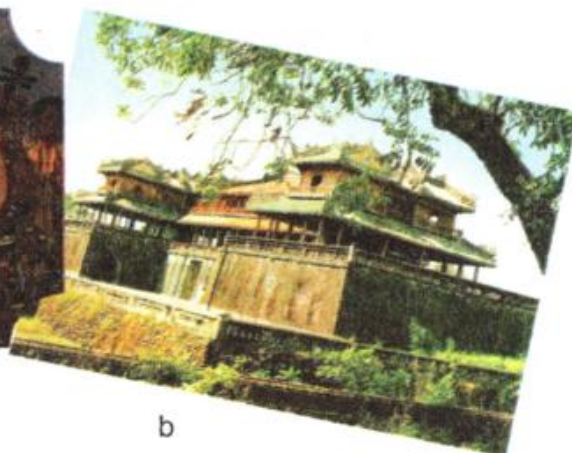


## LISTENING

*a) Work in pairs. Match the following words / phrases with the corresponding pictures.*



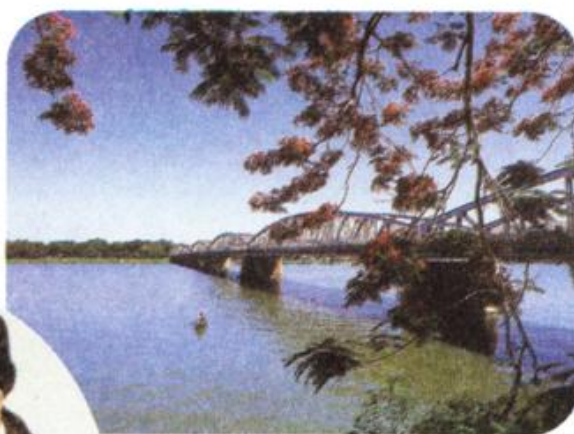
a



b



c



d



e

1. The Royal Citadel
2. The Perfume River
3. Court music
4. A mandarin
5. Artisan and handicrafts

b) Listen to a tour guide giving some information about transportation in Hue and choose the correct answers.

1. Phu Bai Airport is about \_\_\_\_\_ of the center of Hue.
  - A. 40 kilometers south
  - B. 14 kilometers north
  - C. 40 kilometers north
  - D. 14 kilometers south
2. Tourists can travel around the Royal Citadel \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. by bicycle
  - B. on horseback
  - C. by cyclo
  - D. by boat
3. You pay \_\_\_\_\_ for a boat tour on the Perfume River.
  - A. 40,000 VND
  - B. 50,000 VND
  - C. US\$ 5
  - D. US\$ 9

4. Hue is about one thousand kilometers from \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. Ho Chi Minh City  
B. Da Nang  
C. Ha Noi  
D. Hai Phong
5. There are flight connections to Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh City \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. every other day  
B. every day  
C. three times a week  
D. weekly

*c) Listen to a tour guide talking to visitors about some attraction features of Hue and write short answers to the questions below.*

1. How long did the Nguyen Dynasty last?
2. Are the buildings in Hue varied in styles?
3. Where is Thien Mu Pagoda located?
4. Besides its ancient buildings and beautiful landscapes, what has made Hue more attractive?
5. What can tourists see in local villages?



## **SPEAKING**

### **Giving Explanations of an Event**

*a) In groups of four, answer the following questions about Hoi An Ancient Town.*

1. Where is it located?
2. Why does it attract many Vietnamese and international tourists?
3. Why is it called an ancient town?



### Useful Expressions

- It is famous because ...
- It is famous for ...
- It was one of the major ...
- It used to be ...
- Since it is ... , it has attracted ...
- It is well-preserved so that ...

*b) Work in groups of four. Talk about Hoi An Ancient Town based on the facts and figures below.*

#### *Hoi An Ancient Town*

- Location: 30 km south of Da Nang
- Past event: Seaport attracting foreign traders (16th, 17th, 18th centuries)
- Present status: World Cultural Heritage Site
- Tourist attractions:
  - Narrow streets
  - Moss-walled buildings
  - Old pagodas and other places of worship
  - Low tiled-roof houses of Chinese and Japanese styles
  - Features of an ancient seaport

#### Example

A: Is Hoi An very close to Da Nang?

B: Er... about 30 km south of Da Nang.

C: Why is it called an ancient town?

B: Well, because... it was built very long ago, um... around the 16th century.

D: ....


*c) Work in pairs. Talk about the historical or cultural event(s) that you know well.*

(You may talk about King Hung's Anniversary or any historical / cultural event(s) in your hometown.)

## **WRITING**

### Describing Information Using a Table

*a) Work in pairs. Tell your partner about your neighborhood or hometown.*

 **Example**

I live in a small .... It's a ... community of about one thousand inhabitants .... People work hard here, and they....

*b) Work in pairs. Use the facts and figures from this table to write about Ha Noi, the capital of Viet Nam, or about Ho Chi Minh City.*

Cities	Ha Noi	Ho Chi Minh City
Facts and Figures		
1. Original name	Thang Long	Saigon
2. Year founded	1010	1698
3. Location	In the heart of the Red River Delta	On a large bend of the Saigon River
4. Founding father	King Ly Thai To	Nguyen Huu Canh
5. Population (2006)	About 4 million	Over 8 million
6. Historical and/or cultural features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Site of Old Citadel</li> <li>– Witness of August Revolution</li> </ul>	Buildings and people's lifestyles reflecting Vietnamese, Chinese, and Western cultures
7. Current status	Political, economic, and cultural center of Viet Nam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Economic and cultural center of Viet Nam</li> <li>– Cosmopolitan city</li> </ul>
8. Tourist attractions	Old Citadel; Ba Dinh Square; Tran Quoc Pagoda; West Lake, etc.	Ben Thanh Market; Chinatown; Ho Chi Minh Museum





## LANGUAGE FOCUS

### Word Study

#### Adjectives Ending in -al or -ical

Many adjectives end in -al or -ical. Complete the conversation below with the adjectives corresponding to the following nouns. The first one has been done for you.

**royalty   architecture   coast   history   culture   center**

**Tourist:** What can I see in (1) Central Viet Nam?

**Guide:** You can enjoy yourself at the beautiful beaches of many of the (2)\_\_\_\_\_ towns. Besides, you can go to Hue and visit the (3)\_\_\_\_\_ tombs of the kings of the Nguyen Dynasty.

**Tourist:** I've heard of Hoi An. Is it an interesting place?

**Guide:** Yes. It's an ancient town with many Japanese and Chinese (4)\_\_\_\_\_ and (5)\_\_\_\_\_ features.

**Tourist:** What other places should I visit?

**Guide:** Why don't you go to Ha Noi? You can find many (6)\_\_\_\_\_ sites, like the Old Citadel and Sword Lake.

### Grammar

#### a) Use of *the* with Geographical Names

Oceans	<i>the</i> Pacific Ocean
Seas	<i>the</i> Black Sea
Rivers	<i>the</i> Mekong River, <i>the</i> Nile
Mountain ranges	<i>the</i> Alps, <i>the</i> Rocky Mountains
Place names that look plural	<i>the</i> Netherlands, <i>the</i> United States, <i>the</i> Philippines
Groups of lakes	<i>the</i> Great Lakes
Place names in specific directions	<i>the</i> North of Viet Nam



Look at this piece of information. Write the in the blanks where it is needed.

You'll take a flight across (1)\_\_\_\_\_ Pacific Ocean, and your first stop in (2)\_\_\_\_\_ United States is in (3)\_\_\_\_\_ San Francisco, (4)\_\_\_\_\_ California, on (5)\_\_\_\_\_ West Coast. Next, you'll fly to (6)\_\_\_\_\_ Rocky Mountains, and then to (7)\_\_\_\_\_ Grand Canyon National Park and see (8)\_\_\_\_\_ Mount Trumbell. From there, you'll fly on to (9)\_\_\_\_\_ New York, where you can take another plane to (10)\_\_\_\_\_ Europe.

b) Make complete sentences with the following prompts. The first one has been done for you.

1. We take / boat trip / along / the Red River / last week  
*We took a boat trip along the Red River last week.*
2. Nile / flow / through / Egypt
3. Washington, D.C. / capital / United States
4. Ha Noi / capital / Socialist Republic of Viet Nam
5. Netherlands / in / Europe
6. Jack / go skiing / Alps / every winter
7. There be / tidal waves / on South Coast / Pacific Ocean / last year

c) Sentences with *Although / Even Though, or But and In Spite of / Despite*

 Examples

- *Although / Even though* the official name of the capital was Heijo-kyo, it was called the Capital of Nara because of its location.
- The official name of the capital was Heijo-kyo, *but* it was called the Capital of Nara because of its location.
- *In spite of* its official name – Heijo-kyo, it was called the Capital of Nara because of its location.

Fill in the blanks with *although / even though, but, or in spite of / despite*.

### Tourism in Sa Pa

This year's figures show that Sa Pa has attracted more tourists than the previous year. In fact, (1) \_\_\_\_\_ weather conditions were not favorable in the cold months, holidaymakers came in large groups to Sa Pa this January. Many paid a visit to the tribal villages (2) \_\_\_\_\_ the slippery roads. Also, accommodation in Sa Pa may not have been so good as the visitors had expected, (3) \_\_\_\_\_ local people's kind hospitality with which they were entertained was an enjoyable experience. And what's more, Sa Pa's atmosphere remained as cozy and peaceful as ever (4) \_\_\_\_\_ the number of tourists is on the increase.

d) Join each pair of sentences with the word(s) in parentheses.

1. The flight was long. I wasn't very tired. (*although*)  
*Although the flight was long, I wasn't very tired.*
2. We took that package tour. Its cost was high. (*despite*)  
*We took that package tour despite its high cost.*
3. We couldn't get tickets to the Old Citadel. We lined up for an hour.  
(*even though*)
4. Many parts of the Old Citadel were destroyed. Archeologists could find valuable relics. (*although*)
5. We went on exploring Hoi An Ancient Town. We felt tired.  
(*in spite of*)
6. The sign was right in front of him. He didn't notice it. (*even though*)
7. The house is old. It looks very attractive. (*despite*)
8. We could get to the airport in time for our flight home. The traffic was heavy. (*in spite of*)