

Name:

Date:

Class:

## Cultures of the World

### Reading Comprehension

Read the following passages carefully and answer the questions.

#### Reading Passage 1

##### 8.2 Ho Chi Minh City

Ho Chi Minh City has an interesting mix of history and culture, of East and West. Ho Chi Minh City is named for the man who led Vietnam in its decades-long struggle to free his country from the Chinese, the French, and finally the Americans. He died on September 2, 1969, almost six years before the Americans finally left Ho Chi Minh City on April 30, 1975. When the Americans left, however, the name of the city was Saigon. Since that time, Ho Chi Minh City, like the country, has been trying to **modernize** itself after decades of war. Vietnamese flags **flutter** in the wind.

10 The **exteriors** of new buildings shine in the tropical sun, while the government works to improve a system of roads and schools that has been **deteriorating**.



There is one **certainty** in Ho Chi Minh City—you can **stumble** across street markets at anytime in even the most **obscure** places. The government does not **prohibit** these activities, so people **peddle** goods all over the city and at all hours of the day and night.

15 Unfortunately, some people choose crime as a **substitute** for these honest kinds of work, so **theft** can be a problem in these busy areas.

Beyond the **metropolitan** district and the **suburban** areas are the famous Cu Chi Tunnels. During the time when the Vietnamese were fighting to get the Americans out of their country, these tunnels stretched for 250 kilometers. Now this area **thrives** on tourism.

20 The tunnels are **accessible** to visitors, who can actually climb down into them and see how the Vietnamese soldiers lived and hid from the American enemy.

Now the Americans, the French, and the Chinese are back in Ho Chi Minh City. However, this time they are business people and tourists, and they are making positive contributions to the growth of the city and of Vietnam.



#### Vocabulary



<b>accessible:</b> [æk'sesəbəl] <i>adj</i> 可進入的	<b>peddle:</b> ['pedl] <i>v</i> 叫賣、兜售
<b>certainty:</b> ['sɜ:tntɪ] <i>n</i> 必然的事	<b>prohibit:</b> [prə'hɪbɪt] <i>v</i> 阻止
<b>deteriorate:</b> [dɪ'tɪrɪə,ret] <i>v</i> 惡化	<b>stumble:</b> ['stʌmbəl] <i>v</i> 偶然發現
<b>exterior:</b> [ɪk'stɪrɪə] <i>n</i> 外部、外面	<b>substitute:</b> ['sʌbstə,tju:t] <i>n</i> 代替品
<b>flutter:</b> ['flʌtə] <i>v</i> 飄動	<b>suburban:</b> [sə'bʌbən] <i>adj</i> 郊區的
<b>metropolitan:</b> [ˌmetrə'pələtɪn] <i>adj</i> 大都市的	<b>theft:</b> [θeft] <i>n</i> 偷竊、盜竊
<b>modernize:</b> [ˌmɑ:də'n,aɪz] <i>v</i> 使現代化	<b>thrive:</b> [θraɪv] <i>v</i> 繁榮、發達
<b>obscure:</b> [əb'skjʊr] <i>adj</i> 隱匿的、昏暗的	

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**Reading Comprehension**

*Choose the correct answers.*

**Main Idea**

1. What is the main idea of the passage?
- (A) Famous places in Ho Chi Minh City.  
(B) Foreigners living in Vietnam.  
(C) The life of Ho Chi Minh.  
(D) An introduction to Ho Chi Minh City.

**Supporting Idea**

2. What did the Vietnamese soldiers use their tunnels for?
- (A) Traveling. (B) Hiding. (C) Storing food. (D) Meetings.

**Detailed Information**

3. Which of the following countries did Ho Chi Minh **NOT** fight?
- (A) England. (B) China. (C) France. (D) America.

**Multiple Choice**

*Choose the correct answers.*

1. Is your house also \_\_\_\_\_ from the road on the other side?
- (A) accessible (B) obscure (C) suburban (D) metropolitan
2. He said that tea is no \_\_\_\_\_ for a good cup of coffee.
- (A) exterior (B) certainty (C) theft (D) substitute
3. Yesterday, I \_\_\_\_\_ upon a wonderful restaurant in Hualien.
- (A) deteriorated (B) thrived (C) stumbled (D) peddled
4. You are \_\_\_\_\_ from smoking anywhere in this building.
- (A) modernized (B) prohibited (C) accessible (D) suburban
5. Life has been much quieter now that we have moved into our new \_\_\_\_\_ home.
- (A) exterior (B) suburban (C) modernize (D) metropolitan
6. Although the \_\_\_\_\_ of the building looks pretty old, the inside is actually quite nice.
- (A) exterior (B) substitute (C) certainty (D) theft
7. The argument between the two students quickly \_\_\_\_\_ into a fight.
- (A) fluttered (B) stumbled (C) deteriorated (D) thrived

## Reading Passage 2

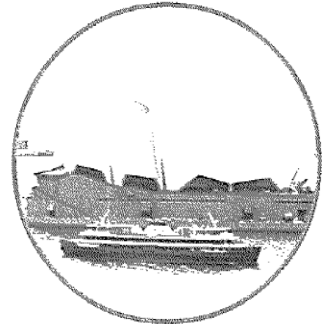
### 24.1 The Sydney Opera House

The Sydney Opera House is considered by many to be one of the wonders of the modern world. The **designer** was Jørn Utzon of Denmark. The design was very **complex** and was beyond the technology of that time. The biggest problem that Utzon had to solve was to build the roof sections. Each section had to **curve** in the shape of a **shallow** half-circle. The insides of these shapes are **hollow**. The Sydney Opera House has nearly 1,000 rooms, including five main theater halls. It is about 185 meters in length and 120 meters wide. The building was **constructed** on 580

10 **concrete** posts that had been sunk 25 meters below sea level to create a firm base. The roofs are supported by 32 concrete **columns**. The opera house weighs 161,000 **tons**. The complex design and cost made the *construction* of this facility more difficult. Work started on the Opera House in 1959. **Politics** got in the way and caused some delays, but even though there were some *political* problems, the building was finally completed in 1973.

15 This **remarkable** building has more than 3,000 events or **presentations** each year. Although it is called the Sydney Opera House, it is not just for opera. This facility is home to the Australian Chamber **Orchestra**, the Sydney **Symphony**, and several other theater and **musical** organizations. One theater group, the Bell Shakespeare Company, travels all over Australia, performing in small towns and large cities. Another theater group is Opera

20 Australia. The Sydney Opera House is a center for all sorts of music and performing arts and has a very positive influence on Australian society.



#### Vocabulary



<b>column:</b> ['kʌləm] <i>n</i> 圓柱	<b>orchestra:</b> ['ɔ:kɪstrə] <i>n</i> 管弦樂團
<b>complex:</b> [kəm'pleks] <i>adj</i> 複雜的	<b>politics:</b> ['pɒlə,tɪks] <i>n</i> 政治
<b>concrete:</b> ['kɒnkri:t] <i>n</i> 混凝土	<i>political:</i> [pə'litɪkəl] <i>adj</i> 政治的
<b>construct:</b> [kən'strʌkt] <i>v</i> 建造	<b>presentation:</b> [,prezn'teɪʃən] <i>n</i> 演出
<i>construction:</i> ['kɒnstɹʌkʃən] <i>n</i> 建築物	<b>remarkable:</b> [rɪ'mɑ:kəbəl] <i>adj</i> 非凡的
<b>curve:</b> [kɜ:v] <i>v</i> 使成曲線	<b>shallow:</b> ['ʃælə] <i>adj</i> 淺的
<b>designer:</b> [dɪ'zainə] <i>n</i> 設計師	<b>symphony:</b> ['sɪmfəni] <i>n</i> 交響樂團
<b>hollow:</b> ['hɒlə] <i>adj</i> 空心的	<b>ton:</b> [tʌn] <i>n</i> 噸
<b>musical:</b> ['mju:zɪkəl] <i>adj</i> 音樂的	

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**Reading Comprehension**

*Choose the correct answers.*

**Main Idea**

1. What is the main idea of the passage?

- (A) Why the Sydney Opera House is still so popular today.
- (B) The history of the construction of the Sydney Opera House.
- (C) Different operas that perform at the Sydney Opera House.
- (D) The places one can listen to music in and around Sydney.

**Inference**

2. What can we guess from the passage?

- (A) There was a lot of disagreement about building the opera house.
- (B) Almost everyone thought that building the opera house was good.
- (C) The opera house was constructed by workers who came from Europe.
- (D) The opera house travels all over Australia giving many performances.

**True or False**

*If the underlined words are used correctly, write T. If they are not, write F.*

- 1. The pool is shallow, so be careful when jumping in. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. The floor is made from concrete and is nice and soft. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. The rules are complex enough for anybody to understand. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. The box weighs only a ton and is easy to carry. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. The road curves slowly along the side of the mountain. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. The show was remarkable enough to put us all to sleep. \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. How long will it take them to construct the building? \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. The president got into politics at an early age. \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. As a designer, he often helps people who want to get married. \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. This orchestra has some of the finest musicians in the world. \_\_\_\_\_
- 11. The statue is hollow, so birds often stay in it during the rain. \_\_\_\_\_
- 12. The band had to get ready for the big presentation. \_\_\_\_\_
- 13. Everybody will need to bring at least one column to school tomorrow. \_\_\_\_\_