

International Conversation Café

Lifestyle Topic: UNESCO World Heritage Sites

UNESCO stands for United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Given the title, what kinds of things might this United Nations group be interested in preserving?

UNESCO had its beginning even before World War 2 ended. The allied nations were looking for ways to reconstruct education once peace was restored. By November 1945, a conference was held in London with representatives of forty-four countries. These representatives wanted to establish an organization that brought people together around knowledge and moral values. In doing so, their hope would be to prevent the outbreak of another world war.

Does anything about the history of this organization surprise you?

How do you think that starting a world organization that focuses on Education, Science and Culture can help promote world peace and prevent war?

The UNESCO constitution states: "Since wars begin in the minds of men and women, it is in the minds of men and women that the defenses of peace must be constructed." [From the website:

<https://whc.unesco.org>]

How familiar are you with UNESCO and all that it does?

One of the many things that UNESCO does is to promote World Heritage Sites. There are 869 Cultural Sites, 213 Natural Sites, and 39 Mixed Sites that are a combination of Cultural and Natural.

Do you know of any UNESCO sites in your country? or other places in the world?



Here is a map. *Can you guess any?*









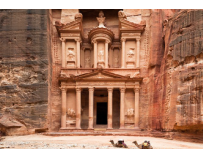

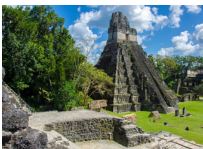

Here is a list of the Top 10 UNESCO Sites to Visit according to the website traveladdicts.com:

1. Galapagos Islands, Ecuador
2. Pingvellir National Park, Iceland
3. The Nubian Mountains from Abu Simbel to Philae, Egypt
4. The City of Bath, United Kingdom
5. Budapest, The Banks of the Danube and the Buda Castle Quarter, Hungary
6. The Wurzberg Residence, Germany
7. The Historic Center of Riga, Latvia
8. The Cape Floral Protected Regions, South Africa
9. Kutna Hora, Czech Republic
10. The Giant's Causeway and Causeway Coast, United Kingdom

How many of these sites have you heard of?

Why do you think these places have made the top 10 list? What makes a place worth going to and visiting?

Here are some more sites that you may be more familiar with. *Can you match them?*

a. 	b. 	c. 	___ Humayun's Tomb Delhi, India
			___ Rome Coliseum, Italy
			___ Stonehenge, England
d. 	e. 	f. 	___ Machu Picchu, Peru
			___ Easter Island
			___ Great Wall of China
h. 	i. 	j. 	___ Borobudur, Indonesia
			___ Pyramids of Giza, Egypt
			___ Mesa Verde, USA
k. 	l. 	m. 	___ Mayan Ruins of Tikal, Guatemala
			___ Acropolis of Athens, Greece
			___ Petra, Jordan

What do you know about any of these sites?

Have you been to any of them? Do you hope to visit any of them someday? Why or why not?

Are there any other famous sites that you have been to? Would like to go to? Or would recommend?