
WORLD HERITAGE

What it is. Why it matters.
The three types we protect.

A presentation for Grade 10



THE BIG IDEA

What is World Heritage?

Places of outstanding value to all humanity.

Not just a place on a map.

A World Heritage Site has “Outstanding Universal Value”: its importance reaches beyond national borders.

UNESCO

maintains the World Heritage List under the 1972 World Heritage Convention.

Sites may be cultural, natural or mixed. Countries nominate them; an international committee decides.

THREE CATEGORIES

Types of World Heritage

The difference is what gives a place its outstanding value.



01 CULTURAL

Human history, art, buildings and traditions



02 NATURAL

Landscapes, habitats and living nature



03 MIXED

Important for both culture and nature

TYPE 01 / CULTURAL

Made meaningful by people

Cultural heritage includes monuments, buildings and archaeological places that reveal human history, beliefs and artistic achievement.

EXAMPLE

Taj Mahal • India

17th-century marble mausoleum in Agra, built by Shah Jahan.



ANOTHER EXAMPLE

Culture takes many forms

A site can tell stories through buildings and the landscape around them.



MACHU PICCHU

An Inca city in the Andes

Peru · A 15th-century Inca site with stone terraces and buildings that show remarkable engineering.



TYPE 02 / NATURAL

Nature at its most remarkable

Natural heritage includes exceptional habitats, ecosystems and geological formations. It helps safeguard biodiversity.

EXAMPLE

Great Barrier Reef • Australia

The largest coral reef ecosystem, home to marine life.

TYPE 03 / MIXED

Culture + nature in one place

Mixed sites meet both cultural and natural criteria. Their value is not just beautiful scenery beside a historic building.

EXAMPLE

Khangchendzonga National Park

India · Sacred landscapes, forests and mountain wildlife.



THE SELECTION PROCESS

How does a site get listed?

A nomination needs evidence and a plan to protect the place.

01 Nominate

A country proposes a site and explains its value.

02 Evaluate

Expert bodies assess its cultural or natural case.

03 Decide

The World Heritage Committee makes the decision.



Inscription brings recognition and responsibility — it is not automatic protection.

What puts heritage at risk?

Different places face different pressures.



CLIMATE CHANGE

Warmer seas can bleach coral reefs.



HUMAN PRESSURE

Too many visitors can damage fragile sites.



LOSS OF HABITAT

Land-use change can harm natural ecosystems.

How can we protect it?

Good care combines knowledge, cooperation and everyday choices.

01 **Preserve**

Experts repair monuments and monitor habitats.

02 **Visit responsibly**

Stay on paths and leave no litter or damage.

03 **Work together**

Communities and governments plan for the future.

CHECK YOUR UNDERSTANDING

Three types. One shared future.

CULTURAL

Taj Mahal

Human achievement

NATURAL

Great Barrier Reef

Living ecosystems

MIXED

Khangchendzonga

Culture + nature

Think: Which type includes both sacred traditions and important wildlife?

Sources: UNESCO World Heritage Centre — whc.unesco.org/en/about/ · [/en/criteria/](https://whc.unesco.org/en/criteria/) · [/en/list/](https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/)

Thank you!

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