

The world's newest landmark

Level

Pre intermediate and above (equivalent to CEF level A2-B1 and above)

Comment

Students at pre-intermediate level need to be focused on the tasks at hand; try to prevent them becoming distracted by unknown lexis in the text.

Photos of landmarks, though not essential, would be both helpful and stimulating for this lesson. Try to find the following in particular, which are discussed in more detail in the text: the Burj Khalifa (Dubai), the Angel of the North (UK); the Angel of the South (UK). Students are unlikely to be familiar with the two UK landmarks.

How to use the lesson

- 1 Display a selection of names/pictures of famous landmarks that you think your students will be familiar with, e.g. *the Taj Mahal; Christ the Redeemer (Rio de Janeiro)*, etc. Include the Burj Khalifa amongst your selection. Alternatively, hold up one name/picture of a landmark at a time, just showing a fraction of the writing/visual and covering up the rest (use a piece of fabric or paper). Elicit from students what they think the landmark is. Gradually reveal it all.
- 2 Students in pairs tell each other what they know about the landmarks you've given, e.g. *where is it/what is or was it for/how old is it?* Take feedback on points of interest or questions, and elicit some information about the Burj Khalifa. Write this name on the board if necessary.
- 3 Tell students they are going to read a text about landmarks, including the Burj Khalifa. Students complete Exercise 1 - inform them that they will only have a short time for this, e.g. 2 minutes. Take feedback. Ask students which of the landmarks they are familiar with.
- 4 Students complete Exercise 2. Ensure that they know the word 'symbol' before they complete this task. Refer them to the Glossary. Let students compare their answers in pairs before whole class feedback. Early finishers could write two more true/false statements for their peers.
- 5 Particularly for less strong students, ask them to first locate the adjectives from Exercise 3 in the text itself: in some cases this might help them to understand the meaning [striking = paragraph 1; visible, ancient, distinctive = paragraph 2; powerful, iconic, distinctive = paragraph 3; giant = paragraph 5; breathtaking = paragraph 6]. Do the first one together. Encourage students to do the ones they know first, if necessary working in pairs. Let students check their answers in a dictionary if necessary. At the end, double check the students' understanding as necessary, asking for examples, e.g. *Which landmark is particularly distinctive for you? Why?* Drill the new words, as most are fairly high frequency.
- 6 Let students work in pairs to complete Exercise 4, which practises the new adjectives. Monitor as they are working.
- 7 Clarify the meaning of the different inspirations, as mentioned in Exercise 5 and in the text in paragraph 2. Be prepared to show a visual if necessary, to remind students of the relevant landmark. Students then work in different pairs to discuss what probably inspired each one. If they do not know, encourage them to simply make logical guesses. Early finishers can think of more landmarks and their inspirations in the same way. If feasible, you could let students research or check their answers as homework.

Reading eLesson

Week starting 1st March 2010

- 8 Give students a few minutes independent think-time before they start the discussion task in Exercise 6. Put them into groups of three. Monitor and take feedback on any points of interest. Give some feedback on language use too, as appropriate.
- 9 To round off the lesson, you could get students to play a definitions game. They work in pairs to think of 2-3 famous landmarks, giving a 3-5 line definition in each case, e.g. *It's in the middle of a famous city; it was built to protect the people of the county; it also held prisoners; it now holds something very precious, belonging to the Queen; it is also famous for its ghosts.* Answer: *The Tower of London.*

Answer key:

1

Burj Khalifa, St Basil's Cathedral, Statue of Liberty, Eiffel Tower, Angel of the North, Angel of the South.

2

1 F, it opened in January 2010.

2 T

3 T

4 T

5 F; some members of the French public didn't like it at first.

6 F; The Eiffel Tower was intended to be a temporary structure.

7 T

8 F; it will look like a horse.

9 T

10 T

3

1 breathtaking 2 giant 3 powerful 4 ancient 5 distinctive 6 iconic 7 distinctive
8 visible

4

Students' own answers.

5 (All of these are inspired by art in some way.)

1 St Basil's Cathedral – pride and religion: it was built to celebrate and commemorate a military victory in the 16th century.

2 The Great Wall - fear: it was built to protect and defend China from invading tribes and was first started in the 7th century BC.

3 The Sydney Opera House - art: it is a centre for music and performing arts.

4 The Colosseum – power and pride: it was built to entertain the Romans, opening in 80 AD.

5 The Taj Mahal – honour: it was commissioned by Shah Jahan, in memory of his wife, completed 1653.

6 Mount Rushmore National Memorial – pride and honour: the faces of four US presidents (Washington, Jefferson, Roosevelt and Lincoln) were completed in 1941. It was actually initially driven by the desire to attract tourists to the region.

7 The Petronas Towers – power and pride: the towers (the highest twin towers in the world) were built by the national oil and gas company Petronas, incorporating motifs from Islamic art.

8 The Tower of London – power, pride and fear: it was built shortly after William the Conqueror's success at the Battle of Hastings in 1066 to show his power over the region. It was also a fortress used to protect royalty and the city.

9 The Blue Mosque (The Sultan Ahmed Mosque) – religion, power. Sultan Ahmet wanted this to be the first mosque of his empire, even more significant than the Hagia Sophia (mosque), which stands in the same square in Istanbul. It was built in the 17th century.

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10 Christ the Redeemer – religion: nearly 40 metres high, made of soapstone and concrete. It overlooks the city of Rio de Janeiro. There is a small chapel under the statue.

6

Students' own answers.

(In relation to the third question, the Burj Khalifa cost \$1,500,000,000 (1.5 billion US dollars) to construct.)

Related websites

The following websites might be useful, for either yourself or your students.

Burj Khalifa

<http://www.burjkhalifa.ae/the-tower/worlds-tallest-towers.aspx>

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/8439618.stm>

UK landmarks – Angel of the North / South

<http://www.gateshead.gov.uk/Leisure%20and%20Culture/attractions/Angel/Facts.aspx>

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/kent/7880889.stm>

Landmarks in general

http://www.history.com/minisite.do?content_type=Minisite_Generic&content_type_id=57786&display_order=6&mini_id=57517

<http://www.virginmedia.com/travel/destinations/features/famous-world-landmarks.php?ssid=11>