

# The "New Seven Wonders of the World"

Task 1. Read the article from "NY Times" and fill in the missing words

(you can experience these majestic sites in 360 video here - <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/12/01/travel/the-new-seven-wonders-of-the-world.html> )

These sites and monuments are popularly known as the "new Seven Wonders of the World," modern additions to the ancient Seven Wonders laid out by Philo of Byzantium in 250 B.C., which included the hanging gardens of Babylon and the pyramids of Giza.



(Of those ancient seven, only the pyramids remain). The new wonders were chosen in 2007 through an online contest put on by a Swiss company, the New 7 Wonders Foundation, in which more than tens of millions of people voted. All are Unesco World Heritage sites.

Built on four continents, most by ancient and medieval empires, the sites selected in 2007 are all architectural marvels of enormous scale — and are among the most visited tourist attractions in the world.

Now a Chinese national symbol, the vast Great Wall was built over nearly 1800 years. The Great Wall is actually many walls that **overlap**; the combined length of those layers is **estimated** to be 10,000 to 20,000 kilometers. The design of the wall, which is constructed across mountain passes and **ridges**, makes strategic use of the natural terrain. 1) \_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_ The Ming dynasty strengthened and maintained these sections from 1368 to 1644.

The Taj Mahal is one of the crowning architectural achievements of the Mughal empire, which ruled most of the Indian subcontinent from 1526 to 1761. It took around 20,000 workers and 16 years to build. The building reflects the Mughal architectural style, stressing symmetry and balance. In recent years, restoration efforts have been focused on protecting the ivory marble facades from pollution. 2) \_\_\_\_\_



It took around 20,000 workers and 16 years to build. The building reflects the Mughal architectural style, stressing symmetry and balance. In recent years, restoration efforts have been focused on protecting the ivory *marble* facades from pollution.

The city of Petra was built by the Nabateans, who lived in the Wadi Musa valley for more than 400 years, in a spot strategically located along early silk and spice trade routes. The city fell to the Roman Empire in A.D . 106. 3) \_\_\_\_\_

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The Hellenistic facades are *carved* directly into the canyons and use the natural terrain as guides. Today, the monuments are vulnerable to flash flooding in the Wadi Musa and continuing erosion from wind and rain.

The Colosseum — an amphitheater with arcades and half columns — is an example of the Roman Empire’s architectural innovation. It was used for gladiator and hunting shows, as well as public executions, for four centuries. After the fall of the Roman Empire, it was used *temporarily* as a housing complex.



4) \_\_\_\_\_

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Restoration efforts have been stepped up since the early 19th century. In 2016, a three-year restoration of the building’s facade was completed.

The Christ the Redeemer statue in Brazil, the most recently constructed of the new Seven Wonders, stands 125 feet tall. At the time the statue was commissioned by the Catholic Church in the early 20th century, over 90 percent of Brazilians were Catholic. Images of the Christ statue are reproduced throughout Brazil.

In order for the statue, which weighs 1,145 tons, to support its massive arm *span*, it was made with *reinforced* concrete. 5)

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Its location, atop a 710-meter-tall mountain, has left it vulnerable to weather and damage from lightning. One of the greatest restoration challenges presented by the statue is matching the color of its six million stone tiles.

Chichén Itzá was an ancient Maya city that eventually became part of the Maya-Toltec civilization. It *flourished* until around A.D. 1200, and later joined a political alliance with the cities of

Mayapán and Uxmal. It had already been abandoned by the time the Spanish arrived in the 16th century. 6)



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Machu Picchu is a pre-Columbian Incan settlement, one of the few that remain intact. Situated on the eastern slope of the Andes Mountains, it was probably built as a royal retreat for the Incan emperor Pachacuti Inca Yupanqui, not intended to be visited by the masses. In use from the mid-15th century to the mid-16th century, it was eventually abandoned, although the reason is not clear.

Though the Incan empire was *conquered* by the Spanish in 1532, the conquistadors did not find the site; it was eventually “discovered” in 1911. The architecture was integrated into the natural terrain, its walls and terraces cut into the rock. 7)

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In order to better preserve the structures, the Peruvian government has started to limit the amount of time tourists may spend at the site.

## Vocabulary

<i>overlap</i> – перекрывать	<i>temporarily</i> – временно
<i>estimate</i> – оценивать	<i>span</i> – размах
<i>ridge</i> – хребет	<i>reinforce</i> – усиливать
<i>marble</i> – мрамор	<i>flourish</i> – процветать
<i>carve</i> – вырезать	<i>conquer</i> – завоёвывать

a) The number of visitors to Petra has decreased in recent years, in part because of instability and violence in the Middle East.
b) It is considered the largest Art Deco sculpture in the world.
c) The best preserved portion of the wall runs east to west from southeastern Liaoning Province to northwestern Gansu Province.
d) Earthquake damage and the mining of the Colosseum’s materials have left just one-third of the original structure in place.
e) Today, it is reached either by hiking up the Incan trail through the Andes

or by train.
f) The Taj Mahal is one of the crowning architectural achievements of the Mughal empire, which ruled most of the Indian subcontinent from 1526 to 1761.
g) Archaeological excavations began in the early 19th century.

### *Task 2. Match the wonder and its location*

1) Jordan	a) the Great Wall
2) Brazil	b) the Taj Mahal
3) Peru	c) Petra
4) China	d) the Colosseum
5) Mexico	e) Christ the Redeemer
6) Italy	f) Chichén Itzá
7) India	g) Machu Picchu

### *Task 3. Write the translation of new words (try not to use the vocabulary)*

- 1) overlap – \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) estimate – \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) ridge – \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) marble – \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) carve – \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) temporarily – \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) span – \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) reinforce – \_\_\_\_\_
- 9) flourish – \_\_\_\_\_
- 10) conquer – \_\_\_\_\_

### *Task 4. How do you think ...*

<p><i>1. What makes a site wonder?</i></p>
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2. What would you put on this list? Why?

## Answers

*Task 1.* 1 – c 2 – f 3 – a 4 – d 5 – b 6 – g 7 – e

*Task 2.* 1) c 2) e 3) g 4) a 5) f 6) a 7) b

*Task 3.* 1. Перекрывать  
2. Оценивать  
3. Хребет  
4. Мрамор  
5. Вырезать  
6. Временно  
7. Размах  
8. Усиливать  
9. Процветать  
10. Завоёвывать

*Task 4.* ВАШИ ОТВЕТЫ