



lingoda

The Grand Canyon

READING

LEVEL
Advanced

NUMBER
C1_3045R_EN

LANGUAGE
English



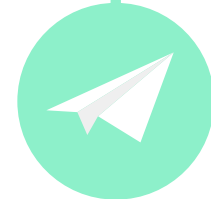


Goals

- Can read and understand a challenging text about the Grand Canyon.
- Can maintain an in-depth discussion on nature and geography and discuss the impact of changing landscapes.



Famous the world over, the Grand Canyon is one of earth's natural wonders. The **immense** size of the canyon is **daunting**, but the vast rocky landscape is also incredibly beautiful. Year on year the Grand Canyon draws millions of visitors from around the world.





Landscape



What is the natural environment and landscape of your home country like? Give a broad overview to your teacher. Remember to talk about the coast, farmland, elevation and forest or wooded areas.

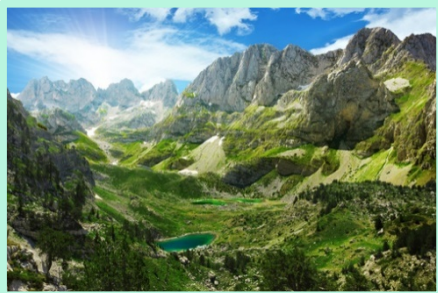


Describing landscape

How would you describe the landscapes in the photos below?
What do you think life is like for people who live there? Would you like to live there?



rocky
flat
hilly



green
coastal



A trip to the USA

Have you ever visited the USA before? What do you know already about the landscape there? What do you know about the country's history and culture?



landscape

culture

people

history



The Grand Canyon

Carved by the force of the Colorado River many millions of years ago, today the Grand Canyon is recognised as one of Seven Wonders of the Natural World. A visit to the sight is top of many **bucket lists**, and every year the Grand Canyon Natural Park attracts around 5 million visitors from around the world.

The exact age of the canyon is a matter of **hot debate** amongst geologists. As recently as 2011, the canyon's age was generally believed to be around 6 million years old.





The Grand Canyon

However, a 2012 study of the rocks revealed **startling** results and estimated the canyon's age as being much older, suggesting that **formation** of the canyon actually began around 70 million years ago. It's likely that the **canyon** we know today originally started out as a series of smaller canyons which over time combined to form the **immensity** of the Grand Canyon. **Incidentally**, despite its telling name and reputation, the Grand Canyon is actually not the deepest canyon in the world. That title belongs to the Yarlung Tsangpo Grand Canyon in Tibet.





The Grand Canyon



When planning a visit to the Grand Canyon, the first thing tourists should decide is which **rim** they would prefer to visit. There are four different rims open to visitors for the four points on the compass: north, south, east and west. The southern rim is the most popular location for tourists, being the most photographed and **portrayed** in the media. Tourists have been journeying to the southern rim ever since the 1850s.



Look at the following words and phrases. Check their meaning with your teacher. Can you use each in a sentence?

rim

formation

immensity

startling

to carve

to portray

incidentally

hot debate

canyon



What's on your bucket list?

A bucket list is a list of things you would like to see or do before you die. The term comes from the English expression, 'to kick the bucket', which means to pass away. What about you? Tell your teacher the top ten things you would like to see and do in your lifetime. Then, prioritise them from most to least important and explain your reasoning.





Natural wonders of the world

The Grand Canyon is one of the natural wonders of the world. What other natural wonders of the world do you know of? Tell your teacher about them. Which would you most like to visit?

beauty

landscape

natural wonder



A changing landscape

It is thought that the Grand Canyon originally started out as a series of smaller canyons which combined together over time. Can you think of landscapes that have changed over time? Describe the changes that have occurred to one rural landscape you know, and one urban landscape. Which landscape changes more rapidly over time? Which changes more drastically?





The Grand Canyon

Back in the 1850s, reaching the southern rim was an arduous and exhausting stagecoach trip over rocky **terrain**, with the journey sometimes taking up to two days. Only the most **intrepid** of travellers **ventured out** there in the 19th century. However, the building of a grand hotel on the site at the **turn of the 20th century** marked the beginning of more intensive development of tourism in the area. These days there is actually a small town, named Tusayan, located close to the southern rim of the canyon. Although the population of the town is no greater than 600 people, it does have its own airport, the **aptly** named Grand Canyon National Park Airport. Airplane and helicopter tours are popular ways to get a bird's eye view of the canyon and most tour operators depart from this small airport.



The Havasupai



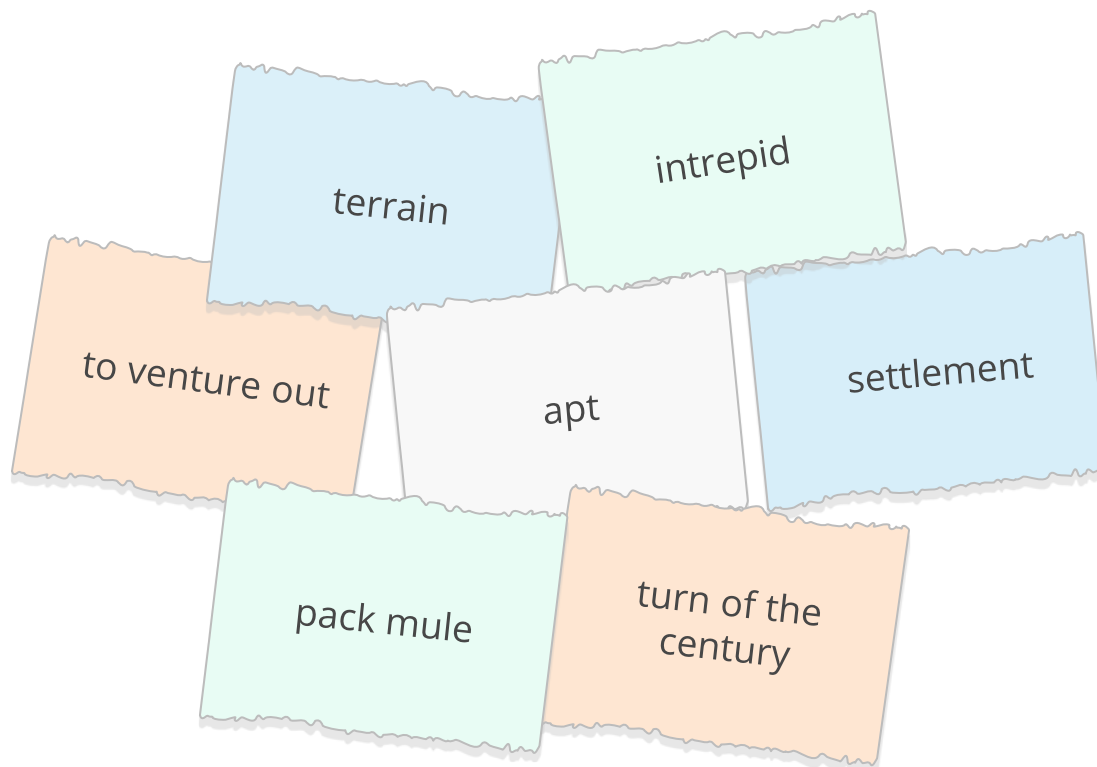
However, Tusayan is not the only town to be found near the canyon's valley. The Grand Canyon National Park is also home to the Havasupai Indian Reservation and Supai Village, a **settlement** within the reservation. Supai Village holds the title of being the most remote community in the lower 48 states and is completely inaccessible by road. The population of the village is just 208 and it's also the only place in the United States where post is still delivered by **pack mule**.

Havasupai means 'people of the blue-green waters', and the tribe feel a strong spiritual connection to the surrounding waterfalls, pools and the land itself.



Vocabulary review

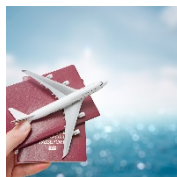
Look at the following words and phrases from the text. Check their meaning with your teacher. Try to build a story using all 7 cards!





Travelling, past and present

Nowadays we tend to take the ability to travel so easily for granted. However, it wasn't always so easy. In the past travelling anywhere more than a few miles away required a long, and often gruelling journey.



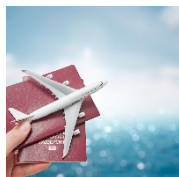
1

What was different about travelling in the past compared with travel today? Think about journey length, accessibility, travel methods, cost. Imagine and describe a 2 day journey to the Grand Canyon in the 19th century.



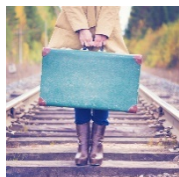
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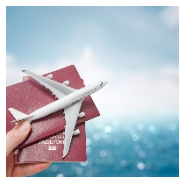
2

What about today: do you travel a lot? Do you enjoy the journey? Do you think we take travelling for granted now that it's easier than ever?



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3

Imagine you have the opportunity to meet with someone from the 1900s and compare your travel experiences. They want to know all about how travel is today. In turn you can ask them questions about their experiences.



The Havasupai

For the Havasupai people, the advance of tourism in the Grand Canyon has been a **mixed blessing**. At one point, the tribe once **laid claim to** a land mass of 1.6 million acres, but during the mid 19th century the people were forced by the federal government to abandon much of their land. Instead this land was to be used for industrial purposes: silver mining and for the building of a railroad. When the Grand Canyon National Park was first formed, this actually **spelled** even more **trouble** for the Havasupai people, who were then **pushed** even further **out** of their land by the National Park Service. However, nowadays they have been forced to come to an uneasy compromise and accept the Grand Canyon's status as a major tourist destination in order to benefit from this themselves. Much of their **revenue** now comes from tourism and as such it has become a **means** of survival for the tribe.



Discuss the kinds of contexts in which you would use these words and come up with an example sentence for each.

to lay claim to sth

to spell trouble

means

to push out

mixed blessing

revenue



Remote life

Read the quote below of someone speaking about their life in a remote area.

People often think it's a quiet life living in the middle of nowhere, but at night I listen to the owls hooting, or foxes fighting, and the birds singing in the morning. If I walk outside on a clear night, the light of the moon guides my way and the stars shine so brightly that I can pick out all the constellations. Some people ask me, how can you live in such a remote place so far from life? I find this such a strange question, because to me this *is* life. Nature is life and I am surrounded by it. I wouldn't want it any other way.

What do you think? Would you like to live somewhere rural? What would the advantages and disadvantages be? Which do you prefer, city or countryside? Do you agree with the speaker that nature is life?



Discuss the following

Answer the following questions in relation to what you read about the Havasupai and Supai Village.



1

Think about the opinion of rural life on the last page. Do you think that remote life for the Havasupai is similar to this? Do you imagine they live a life of simplicity?

2

How quickly or slowly do you think life for the Havasupai might have changed? How do you think the Havasupai adapted to working in the tourist industry?

3

Supai Village still has its post delivered by pack mule. Imagine you are the post man or woman for the village. Describe the daily journey you make with your mule.



Two sides to every coin

Look at the cards below. Change can be positive, but it can have far reaching consequences too. What are the positive and negative aspects of each change listed below for the Grand Canyon as a natural site of wonder, and for American citizens in general? Compare the answers you have given in this activity to the answers you gave in the previous activity.

Mining activity

The development
of tourism

The founding of
the Grand
Canyon National
Park

The building of a
railroad near the
Grand Canyon



Writing practice



Write down four questions you would like to ask a Havasupai and four questions you would like to ask someone in charge of tourism at the Grand Canyon.



Panel discussion



You have the opportunity to chair a panel discussion between a member of the Havasupai tribe, and a representative from the American tourism board. Use the questions you prepared in the previous activity to help you. Thinking of the future, how do you think a compromise can best be reached to ensure the protection of the Grand Canyon, encourage tourism, and also protect the rights of the native people? See if you can help everyone reach a compromise.

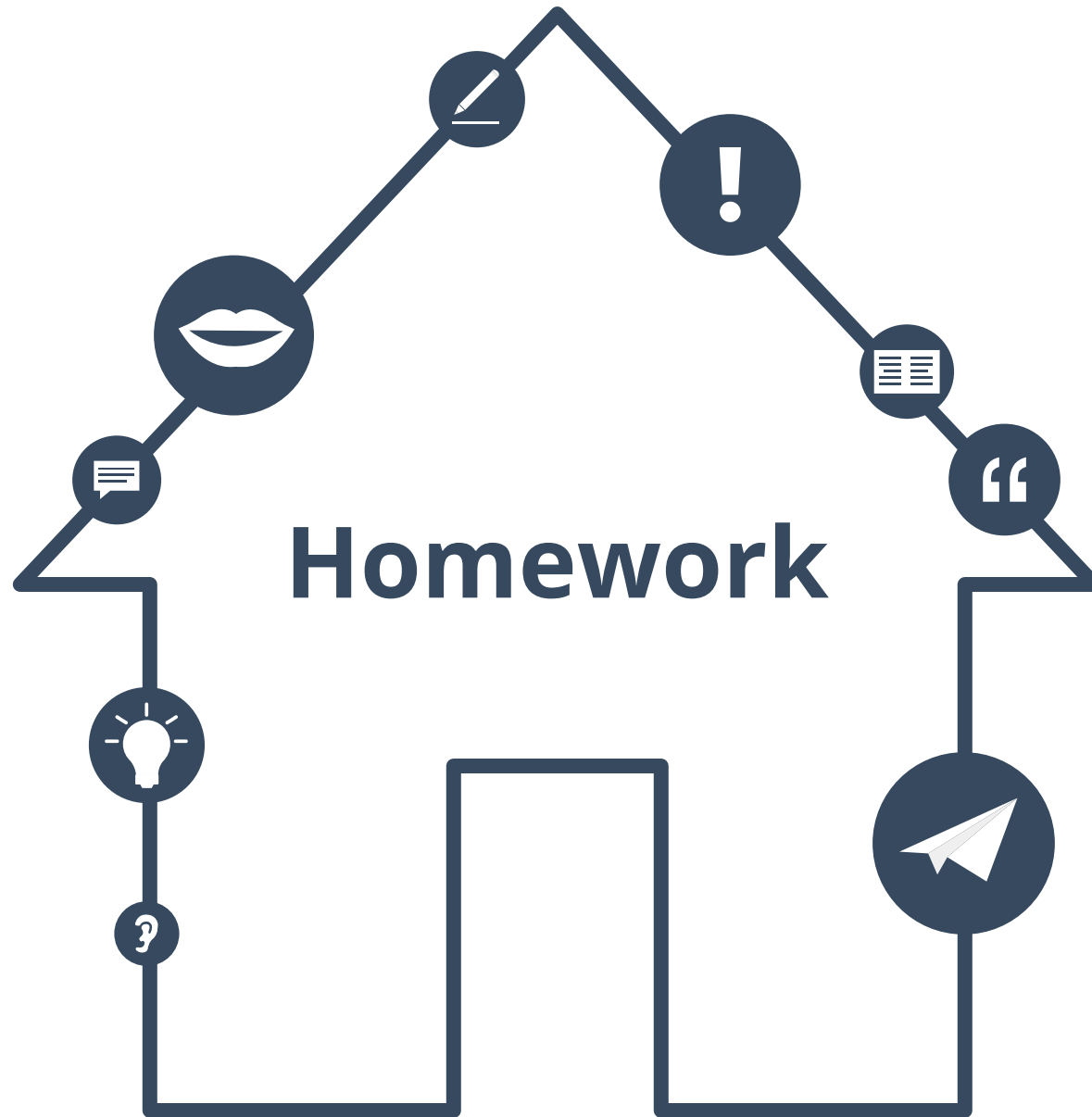


Reflect on the lesson

Take a moment to review any new **vocabulary, phrases, language structures** or **grammar points** you have come across for the first time in this lesson.

Review them with your teacher one more time to make sure you don't forget!







New vocabulary

Look back over the lesson and pick out vocabulary that you will find most useful. Write them in a list below.

A graphic of a spiral-bound notebook with a light gray cover and white pages. The notebook is open to a page with horizontal lines. A white sticky note with a torn edge is attached to the page, featuring the text "new vocabulary" in a black, sans-serif font. Below the sticky note, the text "to spell trouble" is written on one of the lines. The notebook has a silver spiral binding on the left side.



Imagine...

Imagine you are visiting the Grand Canyon for the first time. Write a letter to your best friend about your trip, you can include facts about the Grand Canyon that you have learned in this lesson but also talk about your experience and first hand impressions of the place. Use vocabulary you noted down from the previous activity.

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