

A photograph of Gene Wilder, dressed as Gene Wilder, wearing a purple velvet suit, a brown top hat, and a large brown bow tie. He is smiling and resting his head on his hand. The background is a plain white wall with some faint, illegible text.

Yes! About mystic places!

Look at these photos. What do you know about these places? What do you think makes them mysterious?

Easter Island

Kailasa Temple

Machu Picchu

Delphi

These places are mysterious because they contain the remains of lost civilisations, they have strange buildings, unusual statues or temples.



дальний,
далёкий

передвигаемый

поклоняемый

СИМВОЛЫ

уникальный

невидимый

захватчики

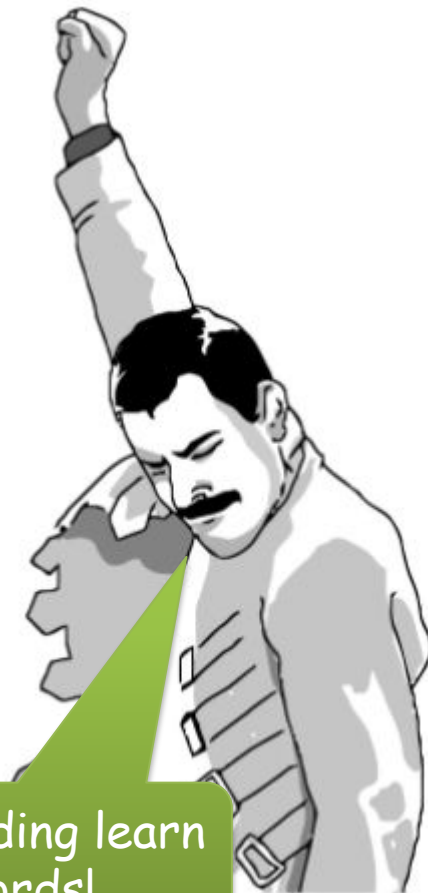
сохраненный

ПОДВИГ,
достижение


свойства

консультиро
ваться

подношения



Before reading learn
new words!

Listen to and read the texts to find out. 

Easter
Island



Kailasa
Temple



Machu
Picchu




Delphi



The Kailasa Temple was cut by hand from a granite cliff in Ellora, about 300 km northeast of Mumbai. Generations of dedicated monks lived, worked and worshipped their gods there and created the largest structure in the world carved from a single rock. Built around the 8th century, it is believed to have taken 7,000 workers 150 years to carve it and remove 200,000 tonnes of rock from it. Every surface is covered with symbols and figures, and the temple is full of beautiful sculptures. It was built to honour the Hindu god, Lord Shiva. Around the base of the temple, some 90 metres below the surface, there are hundreds of carved elephants that look as if they are carrying the temple on their backs. This unique place brings the ancient culture of India to life.

cement, and the stones fit together so perfectly, not even a knife edge can fit between them. It is an amazing feat of craftsmanship. According to legends, the mountain has magical properties and that's why the city was built there in the first place.



You are tour guides. You should tell us the main facts about the place you have got on the paper.

It was the name of the Oracle, a mysterious force said to be the spirit of the god Apollo which could apparently tell the future.

The surface of the rock is covered with symbols and figures.

It is known as 'The Lost of the Incas' invisible from below; no one knows when life in this city ended; it was forgotten until 1911; everything is made perfectly from dry stone.

No one knew why the stone statues had been built or how the stone was carved and transported.



Read again. Which place ...

... has decorations below ground level?



Easter Island



Kailasa Temple



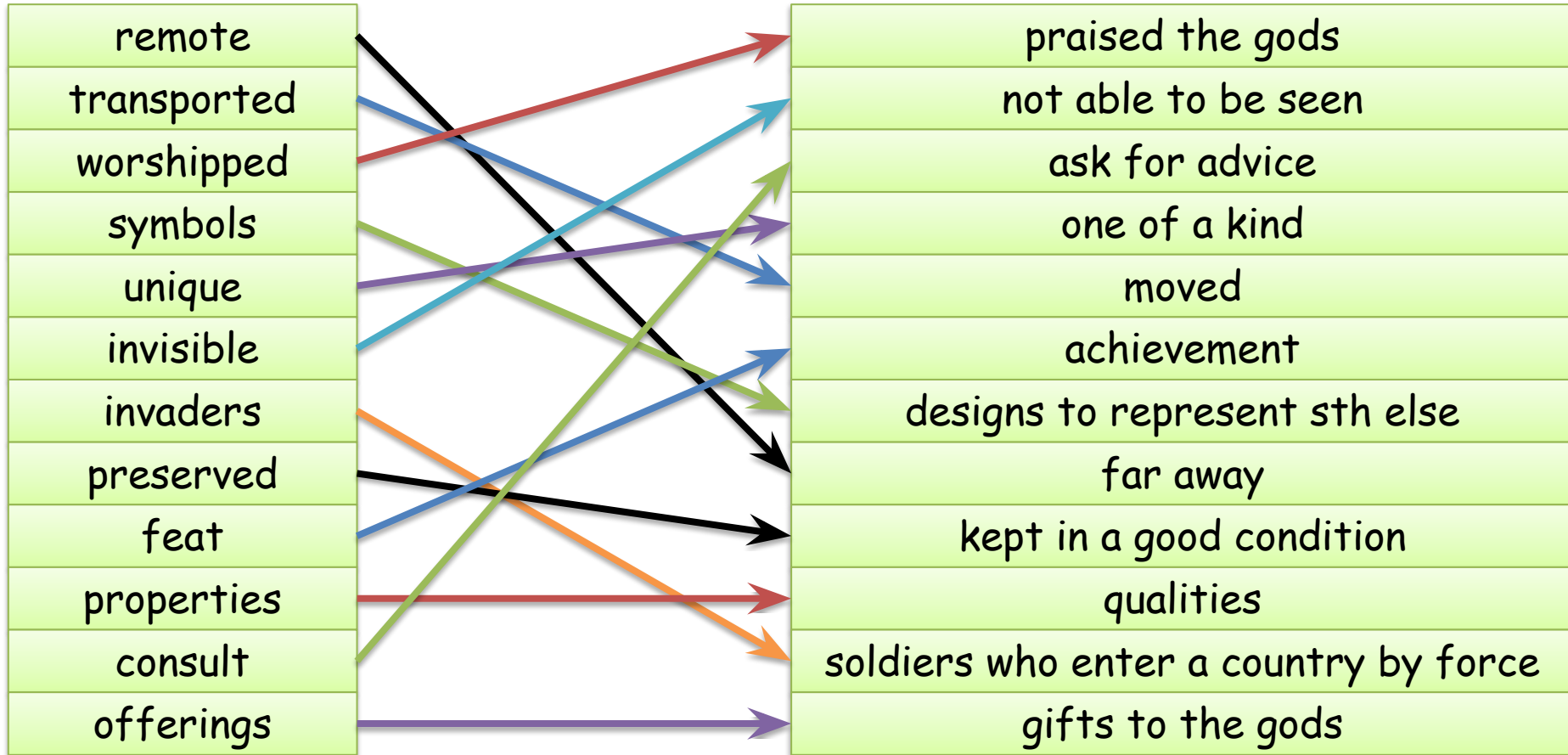
Machu Picchu



Delphi



Match the underlined words to their meanings.



How are the following related to each place?

Jacob Roggeveen

the Oracle

Lord Shiva

Hiram Bingham

Spanish invaders

the Pythia

monks

Jacob Roggeveen found Easter Island and gave it its name. He was the Dutch explorer.

The Oracle at Delphi, said to be the spirit of the god Apollo, predicted the future and answered people's questions.

Lord Shiva is a Hindu god. The Kailasa Temple was built to honour him.

Hiram Bingham was the American who found Machu Picchu in 1911.

Monks worked and worshipped at the Kailasa temple.

Spanish invaders damaged many Incan ruins, but not Machu Picchu.

The Pythia was the high priestess of the Temple of Apollo.



Plain

- mountain range
- woods
- stream
- canal
- pond
- dam
- valley
- glacier
- waterfall
- hot spring
- bay
- desert
- swamp
- grassland
- forest
- cliff
- plain

List the words under the headings.

lake

stream

canal

pond

dam

waterfall

hot spring

river

glacier

Water

L
a
n
d

Geographical features

mountain range

woods

valley

glacier

bay

desert

swamp

grassland

forest

cliff

plain

cave

- mountain range • lake • woods • stream
- canal • pond • dam • valley • glacier
- waterfall • hot spring • bay • desert
- swamp • grassland • forest • cliff • plain
- river • cave

Make sentences about your country using them.

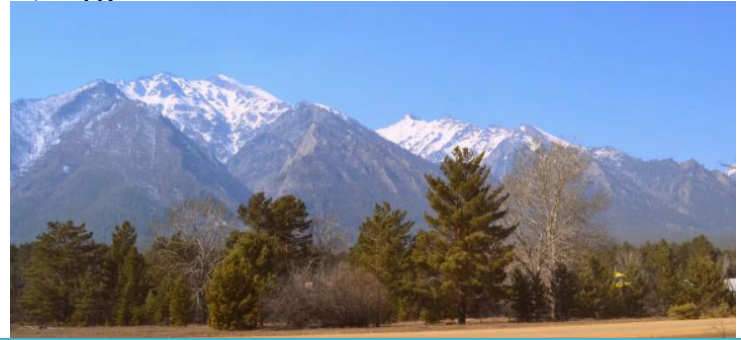
water land

- mountain range • lake • woods • stream
- canal • pond • dam • valley • glacier
- waterfall • hot spring • bay • desert
- swamp • grassland • forest • cliff • plain
- river • cave

- *Lake Baikal is located in Siberia near the Mongolian Border.*



Nepristupny waterfall in the Altai region of Siberia is 150 metres in height.



Barguzin mountain range is 280 kilometres of mountains in Buryatia, Russia.



The Diuktai Cave is an archeologist site on the Alden river in Russia and was once occupied by prehistoric man.

Choose the correct word, then make sentences with the other one.

1 The people who inhabited/lived the island had been there for centuries.

2 The statues were carved/cut in the 5th century BC.

3 What happened remains a mystic/mystery.

4 The World Heritage Organisation works hard to preserve/conserve ancient sites.

5 The Aztecs and the Incas are two lost/disappeared civilisations.

6 The city is now in ruins/remains, but still very beautiful.

7 If you go to Paris, you can't fail/miss to notice the Eiffel Tower.

8 Machu Picchu is an important archaeological/antique site.

9 People thought Delphi was the centre of the familiar/known world.

10 The Oracle was used to predict/forecast the future by the ancient Greeks.

11 The Parthenon was built to honour/praise Athena.

They **honoured** the winning football team with a parade.

Which of the places in the text would you like to visit?
Why? Tell you partner.



A: I would like to visit Machu Picchu.

B: Why's that?

A: I have always wanted to go to the Andes Mountains in Peru. I have seen it in photographs and it would be so exciting to see the 'Lost City of the Incas' and imagine how they once lived.

B: Yes, that would be an excellent experience.

A: Which place would you like to visit?

B: I think I would like to visit Delphi. I have never been to Greece. If I went there, I could ask the Oracle a few questions!

Words of Wisdom

THINK! Without mysteries, life would be very dull indeed. What would be left to strive for if everything were known?

(Charles de Lint, Canadian writer)

