

Unit 8

World Heritage



Objectives

After the completion of this unit, you should be able to

- read and understand texts through silent reading
- ask and answer questions
- describe a heritage site

Overview

Lesson 1: The Paharpur Vihara

Lesson 2: The Shat Gambuj Mosque

Lesson 3: The Statue of Liberty

Lesson 4: Lake Baikal



Answer Key

Lesson 1: The Paharpur Vihara

A. Read the text



‘Heritage’ is what we inherit from the past, live with them in the present and then transmit to our future generation. Our unique source of life and inspiration is our cultural and natural heritages. ‘World Heritage’ means the heritage which bears the Outstanding Universal Value. It must be declared by the UNESCO.



Paharpur Vihara, Naogaon

Paharpur is located in the village named ‘Paharpur’ of Badalgachhi upazila under the district of Naogaon in the north-west Bangladesh. The word ‘Pahar’ denotes hill and ‘Pur’ locality. Paharpur is an important archaeological site. Sir Alexander Cunningham visited this site in 1879. He excavated a small part of this site. In 1919 the Archaeological Survey of India declared the site to be protected under the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act of 1904. This site has been extensively excavated by KN Dikshit of Archaeological Survey of India during the thirty’s of the 20th century.



Rows of Terracotta Plaques, Central Temple, Paharpur Vihara

Paharpur is basically a Buddhist monastery complex with a temple (23 metre in height) in the centre of the courtyard. The outer walls of central temple were decorated by rows of terracotta plaques. These plaques primarily represent the folk art of ancient Bangladesh. The monastery is square in plan (281m on each side). There are 177 cells in the monastery. In the middle of the northern wing there exists a gateway complex. Apart from the central temple there are many other subsidiary structural remains like votive *stupas*, a model of central temple, *pancha-bedi*, kitchen, wells etc.

Besides the architectural ruins, a huge number of antiquities such as copperplate inscriptions, stone inscriptions, seals, sealings, sculptures, coins, terracotta plaques, etc. have been revealed through excavations from Paharpur Vihara. Paharpur Vihara was built by the Pala King Dharmapaladeva (c. 770–810 AD) and it was named Somapura Mahavihara as testified by inscribed terracotta sealings.



Terracotta Sealing from Paharpur Vihara

Paharpur Vihara represents the most magnificent monument in Bangladesh and the single largest Buddhist monastery in south of the Himalayas. The *Vajrayana* Buddhism was evolved in this monastery from the 8th century AD onwards and it was a renowned intellectual centre in the Buddhist world until the 12th century AD. Due to the outstanding universal significance and

historical and archaeological importance, the site has been inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1985 by UNESCO.



B. Read and note

Words	Meanings
archaeological	ancient cultural remains
declare	acknowledge
excavate	unearth something through systematic digging
extensive	wide-ranging
heritage	the history, traditions and qualities that a country or society belongs for many years
magnificent	Wonderful
monastery	a building in which monks live together
terracotta	fired clay materials with design



C. Read the text again and choose the correct answer.

- Paharpur is under the district of
 - Naogaon
 - Badalgachhi
 - Gaibandha
 - Rangpur
- After excavation, the archaeologists discovered a huge
 - King's palace
 - King's courtyard
 - Buddhist monastery complex
 - Hindu temple
- Sir Cunningham visited Paharpur in
 - 1897
 - 1927
 - 1879
 - 1979
- What thing indicates that the site was built by the second Pala king?
 - bronze seals
 - terracotta sealings
 - stone sealings
 - iron seals
- Paharpur Vihara was established by
 - Vishnupaladeva
 - Karmapaladeva
 - Dharmapaladeva
 - Buddhadeva

D. Read the text again and answer the following questions.

- Where is the gateway of Paharpur Vihara?
- When did the 'Vajrayana' Buddhism develop?
- How many cells are in the monastery?
- What do the terracotta plaques represent?
- When did UNESCO declare Paharpur Vihara as a World Heritage site?

Now write the answers in your exercise book.



E. Do you have any old or ancient site in your city/town/village? Write about it with the help of the following questions.

- Where is it?
- Who built it?
- How does it look like?
- How big is it?
- What was it for?
- When was it established?
- What is its present condition?
- Why do you like it?

Lesson 2: The Shat Gambuj Mosque



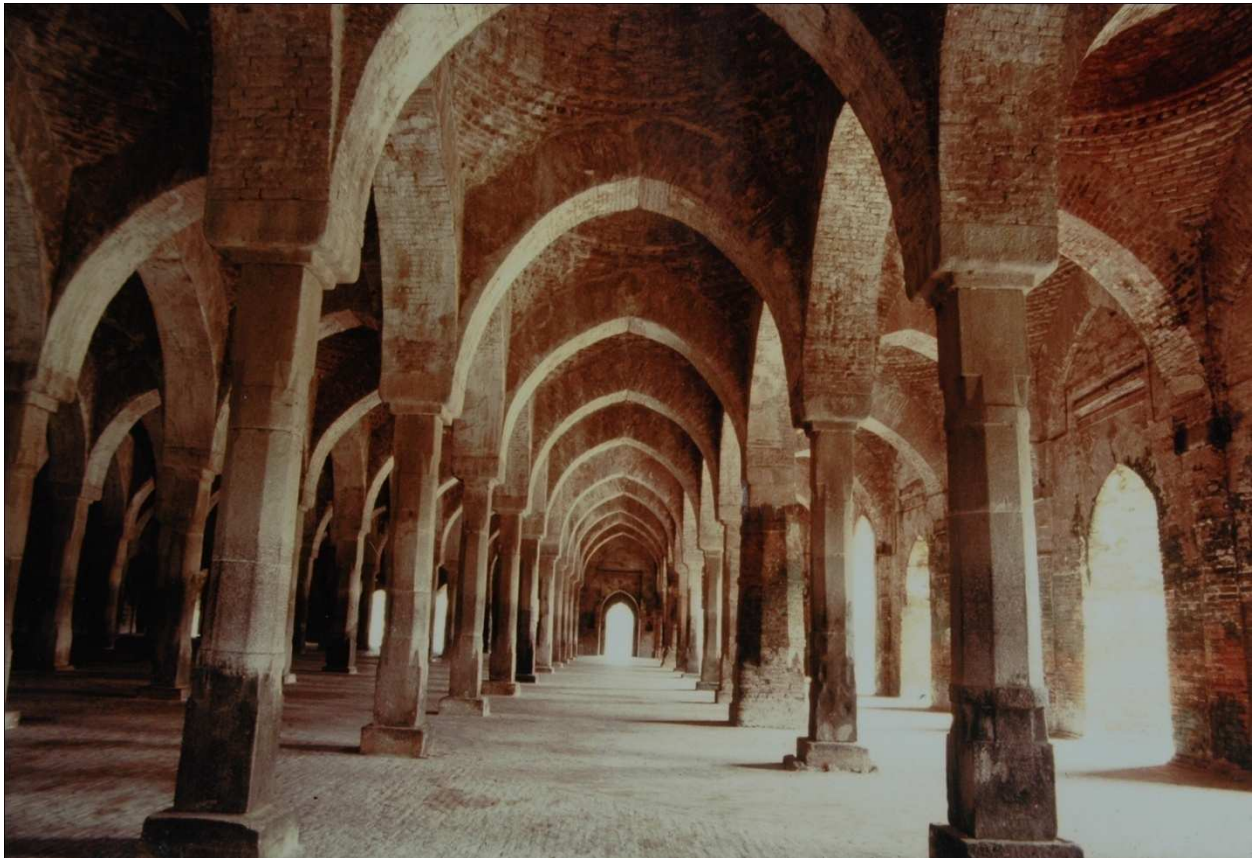
A. Read the text

Bagerhat, the ‘Historic Mosque City’ was declared as a World Heritage site by UNESCO in 1985. This medieval city was known as ‘Khalifatabad’ and was founded by the Turkish general, a saint warrior Ulugh Khan Jahan in the fifteenth century AD. Most of the establishments of this town have disappeared with the passage of time. Only a few survive, most of which are religious buildings like mosque, ‘mazar’ etc. The infrastructure of the city reveals significant technical skills. Fired brick and mud are used for the construction of the buildings. The planning of the city is distinctly dominated by Islamic architecture.



Shat Gambuj Mosque, Bagerhat

Khan Jahan built a network of roads, bridges and water reservoirs to make the city habitable. It is said that there were about 360 mosques in the city. Among them the most remarkable is the multi-domed Shat Gombuj Mosque. Actually the mosque has 60 stone pillars and 77 low height domes. The 4 towers at 4 corners have smaller domes on the roof as well. The large prayer hall has 11 arched doorways on the east and 7 each on the north and south for light and ventilation. The west wall has 10 niches, the central one being bigger than the side ones. There is a small gate in the west wall. These ‘mihrabs’ are decorated with stonework and terracotta plaques. The floor of the mosque is made of brick. Besides being used as a prayer hall, Khan Jahan might use the mosque as his court also. Today, it is one of the greatest tourist attractions and one of the best architectural beauties of Bangladesh.



Shat Gombuj Mosque (inside view), Bagerhat



B. Read and note

Words	Meanings
architectural	something related with architecture
dome	a rounded roof convex in shape
mihrab	niche in mosque pointing towards Makkah
court	place used for judicial and administrative purpose
stonework	stone inscribed with design



C. Read the text and choose the correct answer.

- Shat Gombuj Mosque is under the district of
 - Barisal
 - Bagerhat
 - Comilla
 - Bargona
- Shat Gombuj Mosque was established by
 - Beg Jahan
 - Ulugh Khan Sarwar
 - Jahan Ali Sarkar
 - Ulugh Khan Jahan
- Construction materials of Shat Gombuj Mosque are
 - Fired brick and lime
 - Fried brick and concrete
 - Fired brick and mud
 - Fried brick and cement
- Number of towers of Shat Gombuj Mosque is
 - 81
 - 60
 - 7
 - 4
- Number of gate in the west wall of Shat Gombuj Mosque is
 - 1
 - 10
 - 7
 - 2

D. Read the text again and complete the chart

Shat Gambuj Mosque	Information
Located in the medieval city named	
When	
Number of domes	
Number of pillars	
Number of doorways in the east	
The 'mehrab' is designed with	

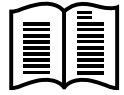
E. Read the text again and answer the following questions.

- How many niches are in the west wall of the Shat Gombuj Mosque?
- How many doorways are in the south wall of the Shat Gombuj Mosque?
- What is the main material of the floor of Shat Gombuj Mosque?
- What did Khan Jahan build to make Khalifatabad habitable?
- When did UNESCO declare Historic Mosque City of Bagerhat as a World Heritage site?



Now write the answers in your exercise book.

Lesson 3: The Statue of Liberty



A. Read the text

The Statue of Liberty was a joint venture between the USA and France. It was declared as a World Heritage site by UNESCO in 1984. The French sculptor Frederic Auguste Bartholdi was assigned to design and complete the sculpture within 1876, so that it could be a gift for the Americans on the occasion of celebrating the hundred years of the American Declaration of Independence. The French people would build the statue and assemble it in the States, and the people of the USA were to build the pedestal for the statue. Raising money for the pedestal was completed in August 1885. The construction of the pedestal was finished in April 1886. In the meantime, France completed the Statue in July 1884. They sent it to New York on board of the French war ship 'Isere' in 1885. While transporting the statue, it was split up into 350 individual pieces and packed in 214 crates. It took four months to put the Statue together and place it on the pedestal. Thousands of people saw the unveiling ceremony of the Statue of Liberty on October 28th 1886. It was centennial gift ten years late.

The Freedom that the Statue stands for is not stationary. The broken chain wrapped around her feet, protruding from the bottom of her robe, symbolizes her free forward movement, enlightening the world with her torch, free from oppression and slavery. The Statue's original torch was the first part constructed in 1876. It was replaced by a new copper torch covered in 24K gold leaf in 1984. The torch is lighted by flood light at night. The original torch is currently located in the lobby of the monument. Access to the torch has been closed since 1916.

From October 28, 2011, on her 125th anniversary, the Statue of Liberty was named

“Liberty Enlightening the World Wide Web”. The credit goes to a series of new web cams placed around her torch. Several amazing views will be just a click of a mouse away. On clear days, three cameras provide unobstructed scenes and views. Two cameras provide an ultra wide-angle interactive view of the famous golden torch. The remaining camera looks downwards towards the crown of the Statue of Liberty, her face, the tablet she is holding from your computer or smart



The Statue of Liberty, New York, USA



The Statue of Liberty, New York, USA

phone. So a person can have access to the web cam's live feed of The Statue of Liberty from anywhere in the world.



B. Read and Note

Word	meaning
Celebrate	rejoice
Monument	a building, column, statue etc. built to remind people of a famous person or event.
Occasion	Event
Pedestal	the base that a column, statue etc. rests on
Sculptor	a person who makes sculptures
Statue	sculpture



C. Read, think and answer the following questions.

1. Where is the Statue of Liberty situated?
2. Which country gave the statue as a gift?
3. Who was the sculptor of Statue of Liberty?
4. When did France complete the statue?
5. What was the Statue of Liberty named on her 125th anniversary?



D. Read the text again and complete the chart

Statue of Liberty	Information
A joint venture between	
Gift from	
Reason for the gift	
People saw the unveiling ceremony	
Declared year of UNESCO World Heritage Site	

Lesson 4: Lake Baikal



A. Read the text.

Lake Baikal is the deepest and the biggest lake of the world. It is situated almost in the centre of Asia. Lake Baikal is a gigantic bowl set 445 meter above sea level. This grand, enormous, unusual and charming miracle of nature is located in the south of Eastern Siberia, Russia. Lake Baikal has been inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1996 by UNESCO as the most outstanding example of a freshwater ecosystem.



Lake Baikal

The lake covers 31,500 sq.km. It is 636 km long and an average of 48 km wide. The widest point of the lake is 79.4 km. The water basin occupies 557,000 sq. km. and contains 23,000 cu.km.(cubic kilometer) of water, which is about one fifth of the world’s reserves fresh surface water. The average water level in the lake is never higher than 456m. The average depth of Lake Baikal is 730 m., and its maximum depth in the middle is 1,620 m. It would take about one year for all the rivers of the world to fill Baikal’s basin, and would take four hundred years for all the rivers, streams and brooks now flowing into Siberian lake-sea to do the same. There are hot springs in the surrounding area of Lake Baikal. The quality of the water of these springs is excellent. The lake acts as a powerful generator and bio filter producing this water.

Lake Baikal is rich in biodiversity. It hosts more than 1,000 species of plants and 2,500 species of animals based on current knowledge, but the actual figures for both groups are believed to be significantly higher. It is one of only three entirely freshwater seal populations in the world.

Baikal is a stormy lake. Autumn is the most stormy time. The wind blows various directions. The weather depends on the wind. If it is blowing from the north, the weather is bright and sunny. The water of the lake looks green and dark blue. But if the winds get stronger, Baikal turns black, waves rising high with white crest. The beauty of Lake Baikal is exceptional.

(Source: The Internet)



B. Read and note.

Words	Meanings
Miracle	an act believed to be caused by the Almighty

basin	bowl-shaped depression filled with water
brook	small stream
crest	the top part of a wave
Exceptional	outstanding

 **C. Read the text and complete the chart.**


Lake Baikal	Information
Location	
setting/placed	
Length	
Width	
maximum depth/ highest depth	
area/occupies an area	
amount of water	

D. Read the text and answer the following questions.

1. When did UNESCO declare Lake Baikal as a World Heritage site?
2. What type of water Lake Baikal contains?
3. How many plant species are in Lake Baikal?
4. How many animal species are in Lake Baikal?
5. When does Lake Baikal become most stormy?

 **E. Make a list of attractive features of Lake Baikal.**

F. Have you seen a lake or river that has attracted you very much? If yes, write what aspects of the lake or river appealed to you. If not, go and see a lake or a river. Then write about it.

 **Answer Key**
Lesson 1

C.

1. a 2.c 3.c 4. b 5. c

D.

1. In the middle of the northern wing
2. From the 8th century AD
3. There are 177 cells
4. The folk art of ancient Bangladesh
5. In 1985

E.

Answer will vary

Lesson 2

C.

- 1 b. 2 d. 3. c 4. d 5.a

D.

	Khalifatabad
	Fifteen Century AD
	77 low height domes
	60 pillars
	11 arched doorways
	Stone work and terracotta plaques

E.

1. Ten niches are there in the west wall.
2. 7 doorways
3. Brick
4. A network of roads, bridges and water reservoirs
5. In 1985

Lesson 3

C

1. New York, USA
2. France
3. Frederic Auguste Bartholdi
4. In July 1884
5. Liberty Enlightening the World Wide Web

D.

	The USA and France
	France
	on the occasion of celebrating the hundred years of the American Declaration of Independence
	On October 28 th 1886
	1984

Lesson 4

C.

	In the south of Eastern Siberia, Russia
	Almost in the centre of Asia
	636 km
	48 km
	1,620 m
	31,500 sq.km
	23,000 cu.km

D.

1. 1996
2. Excellent
3. 1,000
4. 2,500
5. Autumn