

Grenzübergreifendes europäisches Welterbe - Ein Thema für die UNESCO-Projektschulen

Teaching Manual: UNESCO and its mission to protect people's heritage and identity

Authors: Prof. Dr. Marie-Theres Albert and Hannah Röhlen
Institute Heritage Studies at the International Academy Berlin

Goals and target group

It is essential for the preservation of cultural heritage to convey to young people the importance of heritage, to present the threat to it and to enable them constructively to protect it through sustainable use. One of the aims of the EU project "Our World Heritage" is therefore to anchor the topic of (world) heritage permanently in school lessons and thus to create awareness among pupils about the importance of their regional heritage, the World Heritage and its need for protection. This teaching guide is intended to make an important contribution to this aim. It is directed to both teachers and to pupils aged 15-18.

Structure and topics of the instruction manual

The handbook is divided into five thematic teaching modules which are intended to provide teachers with motivation for teaching the overarching themes of UNESCO, heritage and identity within the framework of interdisciplinary school teaching. In order to get young people enthusiastic about the topics, five teaching modules were identified that are to be taught in school:

- 1) UNESCO - Who and what is UNESCO and what is its mission?
- 2) The UNESCO mission - What is the reason for the UNESCO mission?
- 3) Cultural heritage and identity
- 4) The UNESCO World Heritage Convention - What is the World Heritage Convention and what should it achieve?
- 5) The World Heritage Cultural Landscape Erzgebirge/Krušnohoří

Structure of the building blocks

Each of the five building blocks is divided into two parts. The first part provides an introduction to the content of each module. The introduction has a modular structure. All texts are formulated in such a way that they can be used in school lessons as information and background texts for pupils. In the second part, teaching methods are presented that support teachers in conveying the contents of the module in school lessons. Exemplary teaching materials help in the application of the teaching methods.

“The UNESCO World Heritage Convention” teaching module

What is the World Heritage Convention and what is it meant to achieve?

1. Introduction to the content of the "UNESCO World Heritage Convention" module

Our World Heritage

What is the connection between the Pyramids of Giza and the Statue of Liberty in New York? What connects the Auschwitz Birkenau Memorial with the Wadden Sea, or the Cologne Cathedral with the Rammelsberg Mine in the Harz Mountains? They are all UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

In the understanding of the international community of nations, a world heritage is a heritage that has unique significance for all of humanity. UNESCO describes this unique significance as an "outstanding universal value".

In other words: World Heritage Sites are valuable material traces, objects, buildings or landscapes of humankind and the earth. They allow us to experience the history of mankind and the planet. Because they still tell us so much today about the different cultures and ages of the world, but also about the diversity of nature, they create cohesion and belonging among people. They are important for securing peace in the world. That is why they belong to the heritage of mankind. Their destruction would be a loss for all people in the world. Accordingly, World Heritage Sites should be jointly protected, that is, by all of us together.

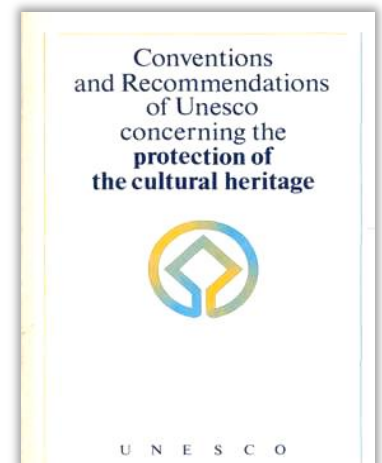


Fig. 1: World Heritage Convention

The natural and cultural heritage of mankind

The definition of what should be protected as World Heritage can be found in Articles 1 and 2 of the Convention concerning the Protection of the World's Cultural and Natural Heritage. Today, the Convention is better known as the World Heritage Convention. The Convention was adopted in 1972 and lays down all the framework conditions for the protection and use of human heritage.

The understanding of heritage on which the Convention is based is an extraordinary one. Because unlike many instruments of protection, the World Heritage Convention defines heritage not only as cultural objects, for example churches or castles. Rather, it defines world heritage as cultural heritage and as natural heritage.



Fig. 2: Cologne Cathedral



Fig. 3: Statue of Liberty



Fig. 4: Hiroshima Peace Monument

According to Article 1 of the World Heritage Convention, cultural heritage includes "monuments", "ensembles" and "sites". They all say something about human history. Well-known monuments on the World Heritage List include Cologne Cathedral (Germany), the Statue of Liberty in New York (USA) and the Peace Monument in Hiroshima (Japan).

If a World Heritage Site consists of a group of individual or interconnected buildings, it is usually referred to as an ensemble. These include, for example, historic city centers such as the Old Town of Florence (Italy) or industrial sites such as the Rammelsberg in the Harz Mountains (Germany).



Fig. 5: Mines of Rammelsberg



Fig. 6: Old town of Florence

Large areas with excavation sites or human works are referred to as sites. Well-known examples are the Stone Age excavation site Göbekli Tepe (Turkey) or the excavation site Palmyra (Syria).

The natural heritage includes unique natural formations and valuable habitats for endangered plant and animal species, which must be protected. Objects of important ecological processes and beautiful landscapes are also protected as natural heritage. Article 2 of the World Heritage Convention describes this as "natural structures", "geological and physiographical manifestations and precisely delimited areas" and "natural sites or natural areas". Well-known natural sites on the World Heritage List are the tidal flats of the Wadden Sea (Germany, Denmark, the Netherlands) or the Great Barrier Reef (Australia). Both form unique habitats for thousands of animal and plant species.



Fig. 7: Wadden Sea



Fig. 8: Great Barrier Reef

The beech forests (Slovak Republic, Ukraine, Germany) also belong to the natural heritage as sites of important ecological processes. The Dinosaur Provincial Park (Canada) allows scientific research into what the age of the dinosaurs looked like. The natural rock formation of the Grand Canyon (USA) provides an overview of the geological history of the last millions of years. All of them belong to the UNESCO natural heritage.



Fig. 9: Beech forests in the Carpathians



Fig. 10: Dinosaur Provincial Park



Fig. 11: Grand Canyon

How it all began

But why was it and why is it important for the world community to protect the heritage of all mankind together as a world community? To understand this, it is worth taking a look into the past.

In the 1950s, 60s and 70s the world society was in a state of upheaval. After the destruction of culture and nature in World War II, a need for renewal had arisen worldwide. These renewals were reflected by, among other things, large building projects and modernization works. Monuments from past times often hindered and blocked these modernization plans. They were no longer considered worthy of protection. Rather, they were at best redesigned in a modernist way. At worst, they were demolished. Accordingly, many cultural and natural heritage sites were threatened by social and economic change.

In the early 1960s, however, an outcry went around the world. The construction of the Aswan Dam in Egypt threatened the temple complex of Abu Simbel. It ran the risk of disappearing into the mass of water. Three millennia of cultural history would have had to give way to progress. The only way to save the temple complex was to dismantle it into its individual parts and rebuild it inland at a higher point.

But such an undertaking costs a lot of money and required many experts. UNESCO called for an unprecedented international aid campaign. UNESCO managed to attract 3,000 experts from all over the world and to obtain 80 million dollars, so that the temple complex could be relocated through joint efforts. The success of the rescue operation of Abu Simbel motivated the international community to carry out further conservation campaigns. It also motivated people to develop instruments to preserve and protect unique cultural sites for future generations. This action marked the beginning of the World Heritage Convention.



Fig. 12: The rescue operation of Abu Simbel

The World Heritage Convention

The World Heritage Convention is an international agreement between the member states of the United Nations. The aim of the Convention is "to identify, protect, preserve, present and transmit to future generations cultural and natural heritage of outstanding universal value" (UNESCO World Heritage Convention, Article 4).

Accordingly, the international document defines what is meant by cultural and natural heritage. The Convention describes the criteria and procedures for designating cultural and natural sites as World Heritage Sites. It also explains which bodies are responsible for the nomination. The Convention also defines the rights and obligations of the World Heritage Titles for the so-called Contracting State.

The development process of the World Heritage Convention

With 1,092 protected sites in 167 countries, the Convention is now one of the most important instruments for the protection and conservation of the cultural and natural heritage of humanity.

However, there was a long way to go before these inscriptions came about. The Convention came into force in 1972, after 20 member countries of the international community had signed it. The first World Heritage inscriptions were made as early as 1978. These included the Aachen Cathedral (Germany), the Galapagos Islands (Ecuador) and the historic old town of Krakow (Poland).



Fig. 13: Aachen Cathedral



Fig. 14: Galapagos Islands



Fig. 15: Historic old town of
Krakow

The ratification, i.e. the signing, of the Convention by the individual states of the UN international community progressed rapidly. It took much longer to form committees and commissions. These bodies and commissions are to be empowered and entitled to determine what can and should be World Heritage and what should not.

Finally, an advisory body was set up to provide technical support for the World Heritage application processes. The advisory body consists of members of the International Council of Monuments (ICOMOS), the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

In addition to the committees, the formal criteria for determining what constitutes a World Heritage Site had to be defined. The big challenge here: The criteria for the "outstanding universal value" had to be agreed upon through the process of an international agreement. All signatory states therefore had to agree on certain criteria. They had to achieve this despite their different cultural backgrounds and professional convictions. Finally, they agreed on ten so-called World Heritage Criteria.

The World Heritage Criteria

In order to determine whether a site has significance for all humanity or not, it must have an "outstanding universal value" (OUV). UNESCO thus describes the unique significance of a site. This OUV is defined in the form of ten criteria. All registered World Heritage Sites fulfill at least one of the following OUV criteria:

- (i) Man-made artistic or architectural masterpieces - so-called "masterpieces of human creativity" (example: the Great Wall of China, China);
- (ii) Buildings, monuments or places that have influenced the development of architecture, art or urban planning at a given time (e.g. the old town of Florence, Italy);
- (iii) Remains of buildings or evidence of a tradition or culture that still exists or has disappeared (example: the pyramids of Giza, Egypt);

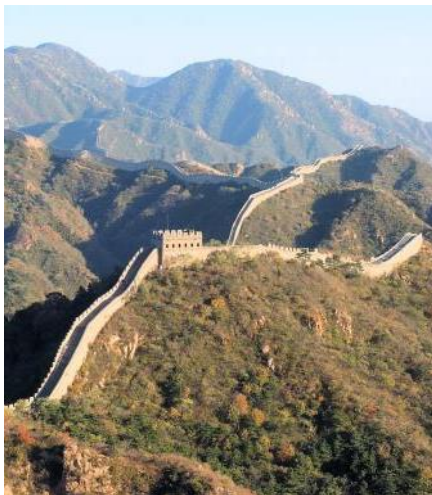


Fig. 16: Great Wall of China



Fig. 17: Old town of Florence



Fig. 18: Pyramids of Giza

- (iv) Special buildings or ensembles of buildings that are typical of a particular period in the history of humanity and that can be used to learn more about the construction and way of life of that period (example: the old town of Bamberg, Germany);
- (v) Places or buildings that tell how people and the environment used to interact and how they used the soil, the landscape or the sea (example: Muskauer Park, Germany and Poland);
- (vi) Places that are directly linked to important historical events, ideas, or valuable artistic or literary works (example: the Peace Monument in Hiroshima, Japan);



Fig. 19: Old town of Bamberg



Fig. 20: Muskauer Park

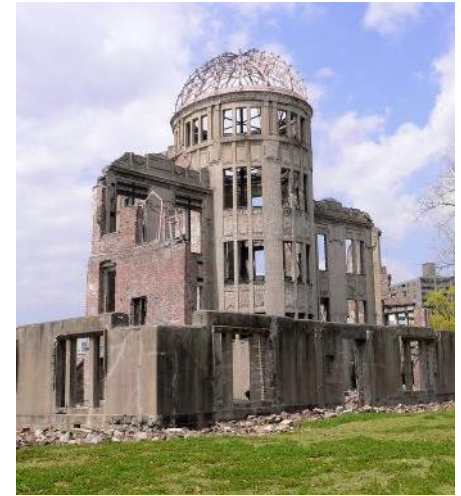


Fig. 21: Hiroshima Peace
Monument

- (vii) exceptionally beautiful landscapes or natural phenomena (example: the Giant's Causeway, Great Britain);
- (viii) Landscapes or places that represent important stages in the history of the earth (example: the archipelago coast - Kvarken Archipelago, Finland);
- (ix) Examples of important ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems as well as plant and animal communities (example: the Galapagos Islands, Ecuador);
- (x) Places, landscapes and habitats that are important for the conservation and study of biological diversity and for the conservation and study of endangered animal and plant species (e.g. the rain forests of Atsinanana, Madagascar).



Fig. 22: Kvarken Archipelago



Fig. 23: Rain forests of Atsinanana

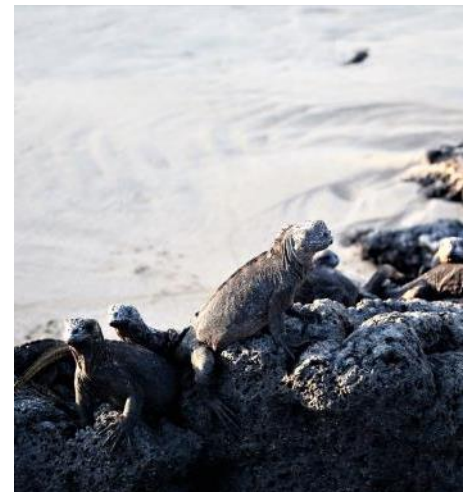


Fig. 24: Galapagos Islands

The road to World Heritage

How does a site become a world heritage site? To become a World Heritage Site, sites must go through a lengthy process.

The selection process starts at the national level. First, each State party to the World Heritage Convention draws up a list of its most important cultural and natural assets. It is important that this list is drawn up in such a way as to ensure that the cultural or natural sites are worth preserving not only for the region; they should have a significance for all people. They must therefore have an "outstanding universal value". In Germany, this process is carried out by the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder in the Federal Republic of Germany (KMK). The last selection made by the KMK took place in 2015 and included the artists' colony Mathildenhöhe Darmstadt and the Old Synagogue and Mikveh in Erfurt as possible World Heritage candidates. The Alpine and pre-alpine meadow and moor landscapes and the built dreams – the castles Neuschwanstein, Linderhof and Herrenchiemsee – of the Bavarian King Ludwig II. are also on Germany's list of nominees.

The selection process then continues at the international level. As a rule, the Parties to the World Heritage Convention select one or two sites annually from their lists of proposals. These are proposed for inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage List. For this purpose, the applicants must submit an application form, the so-called nomination dossier. This contains a description of the site. It also provides a clear explanation of why the site selected is so exceptional. It also includes a comparison with similar sites.



Fig. 25: UNESCO Headquarters in Paris

The application will be sent to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre in Paris. The World Heritage Centre is the secretariat of the World Heritage Committee. It is responsible for the recording, publication and implementation of all decisions taken concerning the World Heritage Site.

Once the nomination dossier has been received by the World Heritage Centre, the experts of the Advisory Bodies will evaluate the application. The involvement of this advisory board is set out in Article 14.2 of the Convention. For the purpose of assessment, the Advisory Board first examines the content of the nomination dossier. The experts verify that the application is complete and that the arguments are consistent. They also confirm whether the site actually has exceptional universal value.

The experts then visit the nominated sites. They inspect to see how well they are still preserved, i.e. their "authenticity". They examine how it is to be ensured that this remains the case. Finally, they look at what strategies the states have developed to preserve and manage the future World Heritage.

Finally, they draw up an assessment report. In this report, they recommend whether or not the site should be designated a World Heritage Site. If the panel makes a positive decision, the applications are submitted to the World Heritage Committee. Alternatively, applicants are encouraged to revise the application dossier.

The final decision is made by the UNESCO World Heritage Committee. The World Heritage Committee is the most important body for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention. The 21 members are elected every two or four years. The shortening of time is decided by lot. The members shall represent all continents and cultures of the world, thereby underscoring the worldwide importance of the Convention.

Angola	China	Zimbabwe
Azerbaijan	Guatemala	Spain
Australia	Indonesia	St. Kitts and Nevis
Bahrain	Cuba	Tanzania
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Kuwait	Tunisia
Brazil	Kyrgyzstan	Uganda
Burkina Faso	Norway	Hungary

Fig.26: Composition of the World Heritage Committee 2018

The Committee meets once a year for the sessions of the World Heritage Committee. At the meeting, the committee discusses, among other things, new additions to the World Heritage list. Decisions can be made in a variety of ways. A site can be recommended for inscription on the World Heritage List and thus be added immediately. The Committee may also request the applicant country to revise the nomination and resubmit it at a later date. It may also decide not to recognize a site as a World Heritage Site.

Rights and Duties of the World Heritage Title

Once designated a World Heritage Site, it is the State Party's duty to "protect, preserve and communicate the value of its sites" (Articles 4 and 5 of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention, 1972). Natural disasters, mass tourism, poor preservation of monuments or wars can destroy World Heritage Sites for the long term. Accordingly, it is the task of states to protect their World Heritage Sites from these influences.

World Heritage Sites are not only valuable historical sites or landscapes. They are also places of learning. As places of learning, they show how people lived, where they dwelled and worked in the past. Communicating their special features to locals and visitors is therefore one of the main tasks of a World Heritage Site (Article 27 of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention, 1972). This happens, for example, in visitor centres, but also through festivals, lectures or publications.

To ensure that the obligations described above are met, World Heritage Sites are subject to periodic reporting requirements. In particular, major development projects, such as construction projects, which could undermine the exceptional universal value of the World Heritage Site, must be coordinated in advance with UNESCO.

World Heritage at Risk

If a site is nevertheless endangered despite all efforts, it can be included on the "List of World Heritage in Danger" also called the Red List of World Heritage. This possibility includes a special protection of the site. At the same time, it demands the responsibility of the international community, which is laid down in Article 11 of the Convention. The Red List also serves to give special attention to sites. At the same time, threatened sites can receive financial support and special advice.

The most famous example are the Buddha statues in the Bamiyan valley. Destroyed by the Taliban in 2001, they were inscribed as World Heritage in 2003 and put on the Red List at the same time. Currently, 54 sites are listed on the Endangered World Heritage listing. If a site is so permanently endangered that it can no longer fulfill the quality criteria as a World Heritage Site, it may also be deprived of its World Heritage title.



Fig. 27: Site of the destroyed Buddha statues in the Bamiyan valley

Challenges of the World Heritage Convention

What challenges do World Heritage Sites face?

A brief look at the World Heritage List reveals a first challenge of the World Heritage Convention: about 50% of all registered World Heritage Sites are located in Europe. The rest of the world shares the other 50%. The regional imbalance of registered World Heritage Sites was apparent from the outset. Nevertheless, UNESCO only reacted to that development in 1992. It set up various working groups to develop strategies to deal with the imbalance. This led to the so-called "Global Strategy," which was adopted at the 18th meeting of the World Heritage Committee in Thailand in 1994. It provides for a series of measures to restore the balance of the World Heritage List.

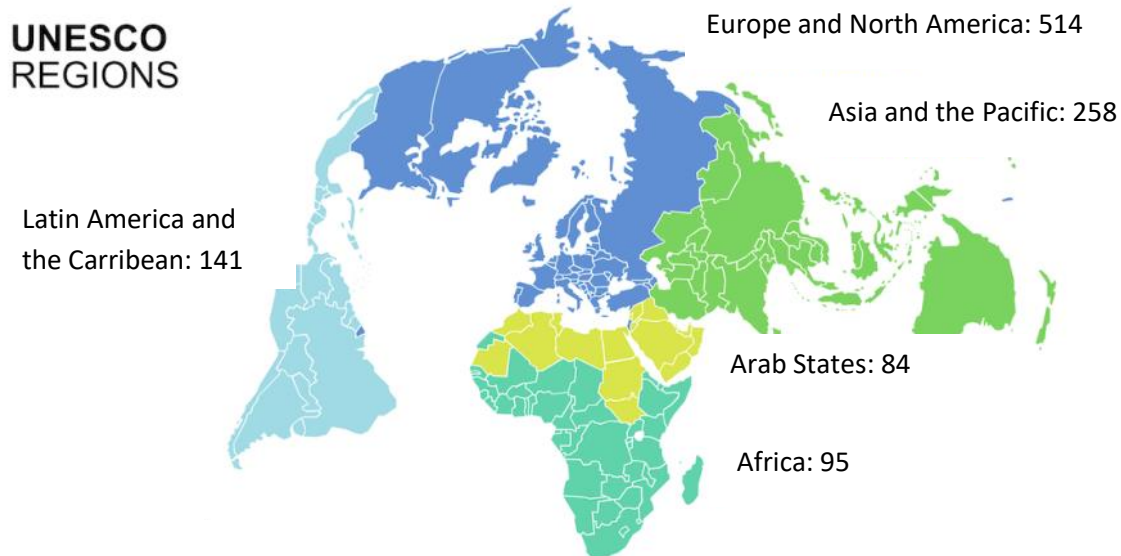


Fig. 28: Regional distribution of World Heritage Sites in 2019

UNESCO cited, as an important cause of the imbalance, the pronounced material understanding of heritage underlying the Convention. The World Heritage title protects built structures, monuments, cities and landscapes. Other expressions of cultural diversity, by contrast, move into the background. However, in order to ensure that both the cultural diversity of the world and that of its objects can be found on the World Heritage List insofar as possible, the definition of cultural heritage has been expanded over the years. While initially monumental and ecclesiastical buildings such as the Cologne Cathedral or the Aachen Cathedral (Germany) or the Taj Mahal (India) were inscribed, later on, industrial buildings such as the Zollverein colliery (Germany) also followed. Cultural landscapes such as Muskauer Park (Germany and Poland) also followed.



Fig. 29 Aachen Cathedral



Fig. 30: Tourists at Taj Mahal



Fig. 31: Zollverein colliery

Mass tourism also poses a particular challenge to understanding the importance of a World Heritage site. In 1972, the Convention aimed to protect humanity's heritage from the pressures of development and the associated impact on valuable objects. In the meantime, the World Heritage status itself may trigger these dangers. Both local authorities and the tourism industry have discovered World Heritage as a brand for their own advantage. With this brand, development and progress can be initiated. Sites are often no longer nominated for the purpose of protection. Rather, the states are pursuing economic interests. In the foreground of many activities are no longer the historical or artistic significance of monuments, squares or cities. Rather touristic uses are becoming increasingly important. The effects are disastrous in some places. World Heritage Sites are transformed into commercial sites precisely because of their attractiveness for tourists.

Despite all these challenges, the World Heritage Convention is still a success story. It impressively shows how international, cross-border cooperation can help to protect and communicate the common heritage of humanity.

Literature:

Albert, Marie-Theres, Ringbeck Birgitta (2015): 40 Years World Heritage Convention, Popularizing the protection of cultural and natural heritage (Heritage Studies, Vol. 3). Berlin: De Gruyters.

Albert, Marie-Theres (2018): Die UNESCO und das Erbe: Welterbe, immaterielles Erbe, Dokumentenerbe – Von den Konventionen zu den Heritage Studies. Download: www.heritagestudies.eu/vortraege/

Deutsche UNESCO-Kommission (2019): UNESCO World Heritage. Bonn. Online: <https://www.unesco.de/en/culture-and-nature/world-heritage>

United Nations Educational and Scientific Organisation (1972): Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. Paris. Online: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/conventiontext/>

United Nations Educational and Scientific Organisation (2019). The World Heritage List. Paris. Online: www.whc.unesco.org/en/list/

UNESCO-Welterbestätten Deutschland e.V. (2019). Interactive Map of UNESCO World Heritage Sites in Germany. Bonn. Online: www.welterbedeutschland.de/karte

Figures:

Fig. 1: World Heritage Convention. © Institute Heritage Studies, 2019.

Fig. 2: Cologne Cathedral. © Hannah Röhlen, 2019.

Fig. 3: Statue of Liberty. Celso Flores, www.flickr.com/photos/celso/4067310548/ (CC BY 2.0).

Fig. 4: Hiroshima Peace Monument. Urawa Zero, www.flickr.com/photos/26202414@N08/2453266238/ (CC BY 2.0).

Fig. 5: Mines of Rammelsberg. Abhijeet Rane, www.flickr.com/photos/abhijeetrane/8600196239/ (CC BY 2.0).

Fig. 6: Old town of Florence. Hash Pay, www.flickr.com/photos/150944236@N06/34025821344/ (CC BY 2.0).

Fig. 7: Wadden Sea. Michiel Jelijs, www.flickr.com/photos/thewolf/5014506206/ (CC BY 2.0).

Fig. 8: Great Barrier Reef. NASA, www.flickr.com/photos/48722974@N07/5093723696/ (CC BY 2.0).

Fig. 9: Beech forests in the Carpathians. Govosity.com, www.flickr.com/photos/53113704@N03/35420863790/ (CC BY 2.0).

Fig. 10: Dinosaur Provincial Park. daveynin, www.flickr.com/photos/daveynin/37165443366/ (CC BY 2.0).

Fig. 11: Grand Canyon. lwtt93, www.flickr.com/photos/37195641@N03/12012065085/ (CC BY 2.0).

Fig. 12: The rescue operation of Abu Simbel. © Per-Olow Anderson, sv:Forsning&Framsteg, 1967 issue 3, page 16.

Fig. 13: Aachen Cathedral. FuFu Wolf, www.flickr.com/photos/fufuwolf/7081301505/ (CC BY 2.0).

Fig. 14: Galapagos Islands. Paul Krawczuk, www.flickr.com/photos/krawczuk/9322798505/ (CC BY 2.0).

Fig. 15: Historic old town of Krakow. Paul Arps, www.flickr.com/photos/slapers/14322018954/ (CC BY 2.0).

Fig. 16: Great Wall of China. Keith Roper, www.flickr.com/photos/keithroper/8139631138/ (CC BY 2.0).

Fig. 17: Old town of Florence. Hash Pay, www.flickr.com/photos/150944236@N06/34025821344/ (CC BY 2.0).

Fig. 18: Pyramids of Giza. Francisco Anzola, www.flickr.com/photos/fran001/2347135561/ (CC BY 2.0).

Fig. 19: Old town of Bamberg. © Hannah Röhlen, 2016.

Fig. 20: Muskauer Park. eastpics, <https://www.flickr.com/photos/eastpics/2261268990/> (CC BY 2.0).

Fig. 21: Hiroshima Peace Monument. Urawa Zero, www.flickr.com/photos/26202414@N08/2453266238/ (CC BY 2.0).

Fig. 22: Kvarken Archipelago. © Hannah Röhlen, 2016.

Fig. 23: Rain forests of Atsinanana. Frank Vassen

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Lowland_rainforest,_Masoala_National_Park,_Madagascar.jpg (CC BY 2.0).

Fig. 24: Galapagos Islands. Anne and David www.flickr.com/photos/annedavid2012/32208838067/ (Public Domain).

Fig. 25: UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. Fred Romero www.flickr.com/photos/129231073@N06/29986221081/ (CC BY 2.0).

Fig.26: Composition of the World Heritage Committee 2018. © Institute Heritage Studies, 2019.

Fig. 27: Site of the destroyed Buddha statues in the Bamiyan valley. DVIDSHUB, www.flickr.com/photos/dvids/7408738172/ (CC BY 2.0).

Fig. 28: Regional distribution of World Heritage Sites in 2019. © Institute Heritage Studies, 2019.

Fig. 29: Aachen Cathedral. FuFu Wolf, www.flickr.com/photos/fufuwolf/7081301505/ (CC BY 2.0).

Fig. 30: Tourists at Taj Mahal. bjoern, www.flickr.com/photos/bjoern/5576139060/ (CC BY 2.0).

Fig. 31: Zollverein colliery. b3tarev3, www.flickr.com/photos/b3tarev3/18822979223/ (Public Domain).

3. Teaching materials – The World Heritage Quiz for Pupils

The UNESCO World Heritage

What is the connection between the Pyramids of Giza and the Statue of Liberty in New York? What connects the Auschwitz Birkenau Memorial with the Wadden Sea, or the Cologne Cathedral with the Rammelsberg Mine in the Harz Mountains? They are all UNESCO World Heritage Sites.

UNESCO World Heritage Sites are valuable material traces, objects, buildings, or landscapes of humankind and the earth. The history of human beings and the planet can be experienced at these sites. Accordingly they belong to the heritage of all peoples and should thus be protected through our common efforts. The definition of what is to be protected as a World Heritage site can be found in the World Heritage Convention adopted by UNESCO in 1972. With 1,092 currently protected sites in 167 countries the World Heritage Convention is one of the most important instruments for the protection and conservation of the cultural and natural heritage of humankind.

But what exactly is UNESCO World Heritage today? What makes these sites special? Test your knowledge with the World Heritage Quiz!

<p>Question 1 – Our World Heritage At World Heritage Sites, one can experience the history of mankind and the planet. World Heritage Sites include monuments, groups of buildings and cultural and natural landscapes that –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> have a meaning for Germany and must therefore be protected by Germans; reflect an important historical epoch in Europe and must therefore be protected by Europeans; have a value for all of us in the whole world and therefore must be protected by all human beings. 	<p>Question 2 – The World Heritage Convention What is understood as a World Heritage Site is laid out in the UNESCO World Heritage Convention. Since its initial adoption, 193 states have signed the treaty. This makes it one of the most important conventions for the protection and conservation –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> of the cultural and natural heritage of humanity; of the cultural heritage of humanity; of the natural heritage of humanity. 	<p>Question 3 – The World Heritage Convention It is no coincidence that the UNESCO World Heritage Convention was adopted in 1972. What historical event gave rise to the adoption of the Convention?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The Italian flood of 1966, which destroyed large parts of the lagoon city of Venice; the Vietnam War, which from 1955 to 1975 destroyed valuable Asian temples; the construction of the Aswan Dam, which in 1963 threatened to flood the Egyptian temple Abu Simbel.
<p>Answer 1 – Our World Heritage Answer c) is correct. World Heritage Sites are not only important for the local people. Rather, they represent the heritage of all mankind. They should therefore be protected by all of us.</p>	<p>Answer 2 – The World Heritage Convention Answer a) is correct. The Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, in short, the World Heritage Convention, has set itself the task of protecting unique monuments such as the Cologne Cathedral, groups of buildings like the Historic Centre of Florence, and sites such as Palmyra in Syria – so-called cultural heritage. In addition, natural landscapes and geological phenomena such as the tidal flats of the Wadden Sea – this is called natural heritage – are to be preserved for humanity.</p>	<p>Answer 3 – The World Heritage Convention Answer c) is correct. In 1963 the construction of the Egyptian Aswan Dam threatened to destroy the temple of Abu Simbel. To save the temple, it had to be dismantled and reassembled further inland. It was impossible for Egypt to accomplish this task alone. In an unprecedented international relief campaign, UNESCO succeeded in attracting more than 3,000 experts from all over the world and donations of 80 million dollars. Thus the temple could be saved. This marked the beginning of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention.</p>

<p>Question 4 – Our world heritage World heritage means cultural heritage (monuments, groups of buildings, sites) and natural heritage (including landscapes and geological structures). Which of the following are cultural World Heritage Sites?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Aachen Cathedral; b) Muskauer Park; c) Town of Bamberg; a) the Wadden Sea. 	<p>Question 5 – Our world heritage World heritage means cultural heritage (monuments, groups of buildings, sites) and natural heritage (including landscapes and geological structures). Which of the following are natural World Heritage Sites?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Statue of Liberty in New York; b) the Dinosaur Provincial Park in America; c) the Messel Pit Fossil Site; b) d) the Wadden Sea. 	<p>Question 6 – The World Heritage List World Heritage Sites should be protected and preserved for a long time. Why is it important to protect the heritage of the past?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Because today heritage sites give us important knowledge about the epochs and cultures of the past; b) because heritage is an important economic factor; c) because heritage can create a sense of belonging to different cultures, even to the whole world.
<p>Answer 4 – Our world heritage Answers a), b), and c) are correct. Aachen Cathedral was entered on the UNESCO World Heritage List as Germany's first cultural site. The Town of Bamberg is also a cultural heritage site; to this day it reveals the medieval plan and development of a central European town. Muskauer Park is a man-made cultural landscape and is therefore part of the cultural heritage. The Wadden Sea, on the other hand, is part of humanity's natural heritage.</p>	<p>Answer 5 – Our world heritage Answers b), c), and d) are correct. The Messel Pit Fossil Site was the first natural heritage site in Germany to be inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List. The Dinosaur Provincial Park was also awarded the title in 1979. To this day, it is one of the most important dinosaur discovery sites in the world. Of course, the Wadden Sea is also a natural heritage site. The Statue of Liberty is a UNESCO cultural heritage site.</p>	<p>Answer 6 – The World Heritage List Answers a) and c) are correct. World Heritage Sites convey how people lived, dwelled and worked in the past. They also show how the earth developed. Thanks to many World Heritage Sites, we know a lot about our past today. At the same time, cultural and natural sites create an understanding of the different cultures of the world. In this way, they create cohesion among peoples. It is therefore important to protect them from destruction. Tourists, on the other hand, and the resulting economic growth, are positive side effects of World Heritage status.</p>
<p>Question 7 – The World Heritage List A total of 1092 sites are listed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites in 2019. Of these, 44 are located in Germany and 514 in Europe and North America. Why is that so?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Because Europe is simply home to the most beautiful landscapes and monuments in the world; b) because Europe is a very rich continent and can afford to apply for the World Heritage title better than many other countries; d) because many countries in the world must set priorities other than achieving World Heritage status. 	<p>Question 8 – The World Heritage List The World Heritage list not only includes particularly old objects. The Peace Monument in Hiroshima, Japan, and the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp are also listed as World Heritage. Why?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Because these places are connected with an important historical event and therefore need to be protected; b) because culture as defined by the World Heritage Convention includes not only beautiful buildings and works of art, but also commemoration of dark times in human history. 	<p>Question 9 – Rights and obligations What conditions are associated with the World Heritage title?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) All income received by a site through the World Heritage title must be returned to the World Heritage Centre in Paris; b) World Heritage titles do not entail any further obligations; c) World Heritage Sites must communicate their importance and need for protection to the public and visitors; d) World Heritage Sites are subject to a regular reporting obligation.
<p>Answer 7 – The World Heritage List Answers b) and c) are correct. The application process for the title is very costly. Not every country can afford to make an application. Due to many economic and social challenges, developing countries often set priorities other than World Heritage status. Nevertheless, it has recently become apparent that many continents have a great interest in protecting the special places of their homeland with the help of the World Heritage listing.</p>	<p>Answer 8 – The World Heritage List Both answers are correct. According to the World Heritage Convention, places that are directly related to an important historical event can be designated as World Heritage Sites. The Peace Memorial in Hiroshima commemorates the dropping of the first atomic bomb in 1945, while the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp commemorates the Nazi era. Culture does not always and only refer to the beautiful; culture here is understood to refer to historically significant places.</p>	<p>Answer 9 – Rights and obligations Answers c) and d) are correct. The World Heritage title entails numerous obligations. These include, in particular, that the places awarded the title must protect and communicate their heritage. To ensure that this is done, World Heritage Sites must report regularly to UNESCO. In particular, major development projects, such as construction projects, which could undermine the exceptional universal value of the World Heritage site, must be coordinated in advance with UNESCO.</p>

<p>Question 10 – Rights and obligations Who is responsible for funding a World Heritage site?</p> <p>a) a) UNESCO pays each World Heritage site a fixed annual amount for the conservation and management of the site;</p> <p>b) the countries in which the World Heritage site is located remain responsible for funding.</p>	<p>Question 11 – Rights and obligations Under what circumstances is it possible to revoke the title of a World Heritage site?</p> <p>a) If newly built houses don't look good enough;</p> <p>b) If the exceptional universal value, i.e. the unique significance for which the site was awarded, has been violated.</p>	<p>Question 12 – Rights and obligations The World Heritage Convention has now been in existence for almost 50 years. Which of the following statements has anything to do with the original idea of the convention?</p> <p>a) The World Heritage title can make a significant contribution to the protection of a site, especially in countries where there are few protection mechanisms.</p> <p>b) The World Heritage title has great economic potential.</p> <p>c) Inclusion in the World Heritage List makes a site part of a large international network.</p>
<p>Answer 10 – Rights and obligations Answer b) is correct. In principle, if a site is designated as a UNESCO World Heritage site, this does not change the responsibilities. For example, there is no financial support from UNESCO for German World Heritage Sites. Municipalities, associations or the federal state continue to be responsible for financing, administration and the preservation of historical monuments. However, in Germany, special federal funding programs can help to finance the costs of preservation.</p>	<p>Answer 11 – Rights and obligations Answer b) is correct. Once declared a World Heritage site, there are rules that a site must follow. This applies in particular to the protection and communication of the heritage. If these rules are violated, the World Heritage title can be revoked as a final measure. So far, this has only happened twice in the history of the World Heritage Convention: in Oman (natural heritage) in 2007 and in Germany (cultural heritage) in 2009.</p>	<p>Answer 12 – Rights and obligations Answers a) and c) are correct. It is true that neither the economic upswing nor the growing degree of awareness associated with the World Heritage title should be underestimated. Nevertheless, these positive effects are not originally the main motivations for the application. The World Heritage Convention is and remains a protective instrument of international cooperation.</p>