

# UNREAL WORLD OF NATURE

Should untouched places in the world be left untouched?



Svk, A. (2021). Sơn Đòong Cave, Vietnam. Unsplash.

## Lesson Goals

### Problems

- expand their knowledge of breathtaking sceneries that may seem unreal in the world
- understand the advantages and disadvantages of exploring nature and leaving it untouched

### Language Competence

- acquire new vocabulary related to nature
- effectively use and apply gerund phrases as noun phrases
- develop critical thinking, speaking, and debating skills

## 1 ENGAGE

**A**  Look at the pictures. Which places do you think may not be real in the world? Explain why.



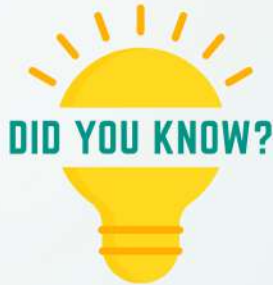
**B**  Watch the video. In groups, discuss the questions below.

1. How do you feel when you see these places?
2. What do you think makes these places look unreal?  
Is it the color, the shape, the size, or something else?
3. Which place impresses you the most?



## C Let's discuss!

1. Do you believe there are unexplored places on Earth?
2. What are some reasons why some places remain untouched by humans?



According to PADI® (Professional Association of Diving Instructors®) - the world's largest ocean exploration and diver organization, Despite humans being around for almost 200,000 years, we have only scratched the surface of underwater exploration. Despite covering 71% of the planet, only 5% of the ocean has been explored.



## 2 EXPLORE

- A** In groups, read the assigned paragraph and choose the correct name from the box for the place.

Pamukkale

Fly Geyser

Dean's Blue Hole

Australia's Pink Lake

Denmark Strait Cataract



**1** Imagine a lake that looks like a giant pool of cotton candy. This natural wonder is located in the Goldfields-Esperance region of Western Australia, and is one of the country's most **eye-catching** attractions. The lake gets its pink hue from a combination of high **salinity**, algae, and bacteria that thrive in the water. Depending on the season, the time of day, and the weather conditions, the lake can change from pale pink to bright flamingo or even red. The best way to see the lake is from the air, where you can appreciate its contrast with the surrounding landscape

This is a place in Nevada, USA. It is a small geyser that shoots hot water into the air. A **geyser** is a hole in the ground that has water and steam coming out of it. It's visually striking with vibrant colors like green, red, and yellow, attributed to **algae** and **minerals** in the water. The colors are from algae and minerals in the water. Algae are tiny plants that live in water. Minerals are natural substances that make rocks. It is on a private land, so not many people can see it. It was made by accident in 1964, when a company drilled a well to find hot water for energy.

# 2

**3** If you're looking for a deep dive into nature, you might want to visit this place in the Bahamas. This is one of the deepest known blue holes in the world, **plunging** to a depth of 202 meters in a bay west of Clarence Town on Long Island. The water is crystal clear and the color changes from **turquoise** to dark blue as you **descend**. The blue hole was first explored by a British expedition in 1884, and has since been the site of several world records for free-diving.

The name of this place means "cotton castle", located in Turkey. It has white **terraces** made of a mineral called 'travertine'. The terraces are formed by hot spring water that flows down the hill. The water is very hot and has many minerals in it. People have been using the water for bathing and healing for a long time. There is also an ancient city called Hierapolis on top of the terraces. It was built by the Greeks and the Romans. It is a very beautiful and special place. It is a World Heritage Site by UNESCO.

4

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Waterfalls are amazing, but have you ever seen an underwater waterfall? That's the kind of **surreal** sight that you can only imagine in your wildest dreams. But it exists in reality, under the sea between Iceland and Greenland. It is the largest waterfall in the world. The water falls from a high place to a low place, just like a normal waterfall. But it does not fall because of gravity. It falls because it is colder and heavier than the water around it. The cold water comes from the frozen Arctic Ocean, and it meets the warmer water from the Atlantic Ocean. Scientists found the underwater waterfall in 1997. They used special tools and a submarine to see it.

**B** Read the texts again. Explain their meanings of the underlined words to your friends.

**C** Check your understanding by answering these True or False questions below. Write T or F in the box.

- A geyser is a natural phenomenon where hot water and steam come out of the ground.
- Algae are animals that live in water and have different colors.
- Minerals are natural substances that make rocks and have different properties.
- Terraces are *flat areas that are cut into a slope or hillside*.



**D** Read the texts again and write the words in bold next to the definitions below.

- ..... (n) a blue-green colour
- ..... (a) very strange; more like a dream than reality, with ideas and images mixed together in a strange way
- ..... (v) to come or go down from a higher to a lower level
- ..... (v) to fall or dive quickly and steeply
- ..... (a) immediately likely to attract attention because it is particularly interesting, bright or attractive
- ..... (n) the amount of salt contained in something

### 3 EXPLAIN

**A** Read the questions and choose A or B.

**1. Is the underlined phrase a noun or a verb?**

*Swimming in the summer is my favorite activity of the year.*

- A. Verb                      B. Noun

**2. 'Swimming' is a gerund. 'Swimming in the summer' is a gerund phrase. How do we form a gerund?**

- A. Add -ing to the end of the verb and use it as a noun in the sentence.  
 B. Add -ing to the end of the verb and move it to the beginning of the sentence.

Grammar: Gerund Phrase		
A <b>gerund phrase</b> starts with a gerund, which is a verb ending in -ing that acts as a noun. A gerund phrase can function as a subject, an object, a complement, or an object of a preposition in a sentence.		
Subject	<b>Swimming</b> is fun.	<b>Swimming</b> in the morning is something difficult to me.
Object	She likes <b>singing</b> .	The video records her <b>singing</b> on the Christmas eve last year.
Object of a preposition	In terms of <b>researching</b> , I prefer using diverse sources like books, journals, and reliable websites.	Are you interested in <b>researching</b> by exploring various topics?
Subject complement	My favorite pastime is <b>reading</b> .	One of my leisure activities is <b>reading</b> books to my sister.

**B** Read the sentences below. Underline the gerund phrase in each sentence and write its function in the blanks.

*Example:*

subject complement

*His dream is traveling around the world.*

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 .....  
 .....  
 .....

1. She is afraid of flying.
2. Studying hard is the key to success.
3. He apologized for breaking the vase.
4. Her goal is climbing the highest mountain.
5. They finished painting the house within 2 hours.

**C** Read the question. Write two sentences using gerund phrases, each illustrating an aspect of the question.



**Should people explore natural wonders or leave them untouched?**



*Example:* Exploring natural wonders can enrich our knowledge and appreciation of nature.

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 .....  
 .....



*Example:* I prefer leaving natural wonders untouched to preserve their beauty and biodiversity.

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 .....  
 .....

## 4 ELABORATE

**A**  Read the question in 3C again. Be in your group (For or Against), brainstorm the ideas for your group's position using the prompt questions below.

### For:

1. What are the benefits of exploring natural wonders for science, education, tourism, and culture?
2. How can exploring natural wonders inspire people to appreciate and protect the nature?
3. What are some examples of natural wonders that have been explored responsibly and sustainably?
4. How does exploring natural wonders help people find new plants, animals, things we can use, or interesting things we don't understand yet?
5. How can exploring natural wonders foster cooperation and understanding among different countries or communities?

### Against:

1. What are the risks of exploring natural wonders for the environment, wildlife, and indigenous people?
2. How can leaving natural wonders untouched preserve their natural beauty and integrity?
3. What are some examples of natural wonders that have been damaged or destroyed by human exploration or exploitation?
4. How can leaving natural wonders untouched respect the rights and beliefs of the people who live near them or consider them sacred?
5. How can leaving natural wonders untouched prevent conflicts or disputes over their ownership or access?

**B**  Display your group's ideas on a poster and decorate it.

**C**  Use your group's poster and debate:



**Should people explore natural wonders or leave them untouched?**

**A** For

**B** Against

### Useful language:

#### Expressing Agreement:

I support the notion that...  
I am in favor of...  
You can say that again.

#### Expressing Disagreement:

I understand the opposing viewpoint, but I think that...  
I find it hard to agree with the idea that...  
I'm sorry, but I can't agree with you.

# 5 EVALUATE

**A** What have you learned today? Check the list.



- Name** and describe at least three breathtaking sceneries that may seem unreal in the world.
- Use** at least five new vocabulary words related to nature in sentences.
- Explain** what gerund phrases are and how to use them as noun phrases.
- Express** and support my position on a topic using critical thinking, speaking, and debating skills.
- Understand** the advantages and disadvantages of exploring nature and leaving it untouched.
- .....

**B** Write a 70-word paragraph to answer the opening question, detailing your thoughts about nature scenes and commitment to how you contribute to protecting our nature.



Should untouched places in the world be left untouched?

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