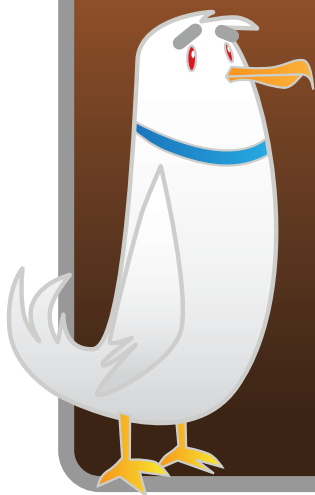


CURIOSITIES



THE PLOT OF THE VIDEOGAME "ROTARIO AND THE ISLAND OF THE THIRD MILLENNIUM" HAS SEVERAL REFERENCES TO ACTUAL PLACES AND STORIES. LET'S FIND OUT THEM AND THEN ENJOY TESTING THE GROWN-UPS.



THE ISLAND OF ROTARIO

(ISLAND FERDINANDEA)



On July 11, 1831, during the night, between Pantelleria and Sciacca, Sicily, an island emerged due to the eruption of an undersea volcano. Britain's interest for the island immediately arose and on August 24 the Union Jack was planted on its ground.

Inhabitants of the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies demonstrated, asking King Ferdinand II to take measures, and the King

claimed the island as a territory of the Bourbon Kingdom.

On September 26, a French team, after thorough analysis, agreed that, since the island had not a solid base, it may have suddenly sunk. Just as British had done before, the French too, without asking to King Ferdinand II of Bourbon, the lawful owner of the island planted their flag.

King Ferdinand II, noticing the international interest aroused by the island ordered to plant the Bourbon flag and name it "Ferdinandea" after himself.

On December 8, the island sank into columns of water which rose and fell. Lava shallows was all that remained of the island!

In 1846 and in 1863, the island emerged again, only to sink back a few days later.



QUESTIONS FOR THE GROWN-UPS

Have you ever heard of Ferdinandea Island?

What do you think about this story?



MISSION PARC GUELL



Parc Guell is in Barcelona. It was built in the years 1900 to 1914 and designed by the architect Antoni Gaudí.

In this work too, as in all works by Gaudí, it is easy to recognize his peculiar style: unique shapes covered in multicoloured mosaic, made of ceramic and pieces of glass. Parc Guell is listed in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites, which includes a variety of places of exceptional cultural or naturalistic interest. (Italy is the country with most of the World Heritage Sites (44 sites), followed by Spain (41 sites) and China (38 sites).

The park is named after the patron who commissioned it from Gaudí: Eusebi Güell. Nowadays it is a municipal garden opened all the year.

QUESTIONS FOR THE GROWN-UPS

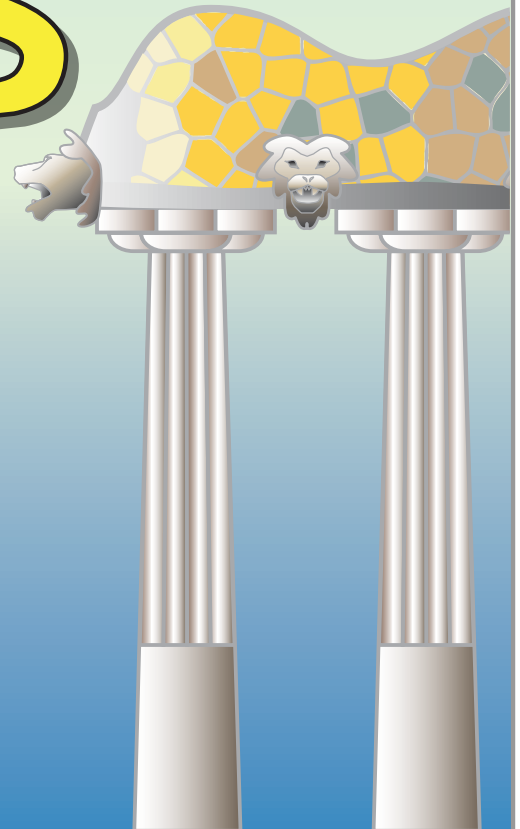
Where is Parc Guell?

Who has built it?

What is it characterized by?

What is a UNESCO World Heritage Site?

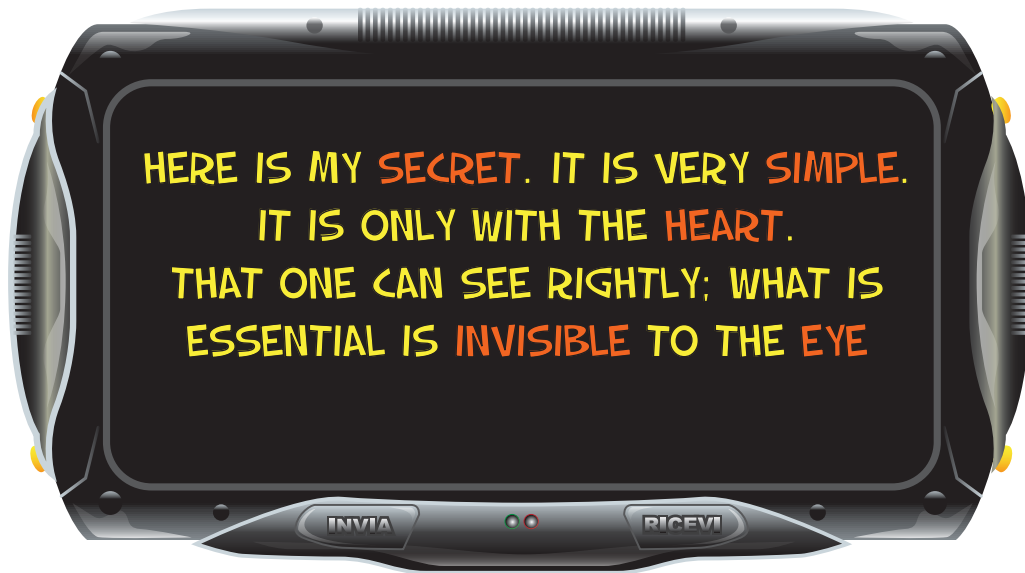
Can you tell me one place, in Italy, which is a World Heritage Site?



LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE SITES IN ITALY

- 1.Rock Drawings in Valcamonica (1979)
- 2.Church and Convent of S. Maria delle Grazie, with "The Last Supper" by L.da Vinci, Milan (1980)
- 3.Historic Centre of Rome, and Basilica of Saint Paul Outside the Walls (1980, 1990)
- 4.Historic Centre of Florence (1982)
- 5.Venice and its lagoon (1987)
- 6.Piazza del Duomo, Pisa (1987, 2007)
- 7.Historic Centre of San Gimignano (1990)
- 8.The Sassi and the Park of the Rupestrian Churches of Matera (1993)
- 9.City of Vicenza and the Palladian Villas of the Veneto (1994, 1996)
- 10.Historic Centre of Siena (1995)
- 11.Historic Centre of Naples (1995)
- 12.Crespi d'Adda (1995)
- 13.Ferrara, City of the Renaissance, and its Po Delta (1995, 1999)
- 14.Castel del Monte, Andria - Bari (1996)
- 15.The Trulli of Alberobello (1996)
- 16.Early Christian Monuments of Ravenna (1996)
- 17.Historic Centre of the City of Pienza (1996)
- 18.Century Royal Palace at Caserta with the Park, the Aqueduct and the San Leucio Complex (1997)
- 19.Residences of the Royal House of Savoy, Turin and its province (1997)
- 20.Botanical Garden (Orto Botanico di Padova), Padua (1997)
- 21.Cathedral, Torre Civica and Piazza Grande, Modena (1997)
- 22.Archaeological Areas of Pompei, Herculaneum and Torre Annunziata (1997)
- 23.Villa Romana del Casale, Piazza Armerina, Sicily (1997)
- 24.Su Nuraxi di Barumini, Sardinia (1997)
- 25.Portovenere, Cinque Terre, and their Islands (Palmaria, Tino and Tinetto) (1997)
- 26.Amalfi Coast (1997)
- 27.Archaeological Area of Agrigento, Sicily (1997)
- 28.Archaeological Area and the Patriarchal Basilica of Aquileia, Friuli-Venezia Giulia (1998)
- 29.Historic Centre of Urbino (1998)
- 30.Cilento and Vallo di Diano National Park with the Arcaeological sites of Pæstum and Velia, and the Certosa di Padula (1998)
- 31.Villa Adriana, Tivoli (1999)
- 32.City of Verona (2000)
- 33.Isole Eolie (Aeolian Islands), Sicily (2000)
- 34.Assisi, the Basilica of San Francesco d'Assisi and other Franciscan Sites (2000)
- 35.Villa d'Este, Tivoli (2001)
- 36.Late Baroque Towns of the Val di Noto; eight towns in South-Eastern Sicily (2002)
- 37.Sacri Monti of Piedmont and Lombardy (2003)
- 38.Etruscan Necropolises of Cerveteri and Tarquinia (2004)
- 39.Val d'Orcia (2004)
- 40.Syracuse and the Rocky Necropolis of Pantalica, Sicily (2005)
- 41.Genoa, Le Strade Nuove and the system of the Palazzi dei Rolli (2006)
- 42.Mantua and Sabbioneta (2008)
- 43.Raetian Railway, shared with Switzerland (2008)
- 44.The Dolomites (2009)





The message you sent to P.H. is an excerpt from the novel "The Little Prince" (chapter 21). "The Little Prince" is a worldwide famous novel (it has been translated in 180 languages), written by Antoine Jean Baptiste Marie Roger de Saint-Exupéry (1900 – 1944), a French writer and aviator. First published in 1943, it is a sobering novel about the meaning of life, love and friendship.

I suggest you to read it!



QUESTIONS FOR THE GROWN-UPS

- Which is the book from which this passage has been taken?
- Who wrote this book?
- What is it about?
- Do you agree with Little Prince's thought?
- How do you feel after reading the passage?



MISSION LASCAUX

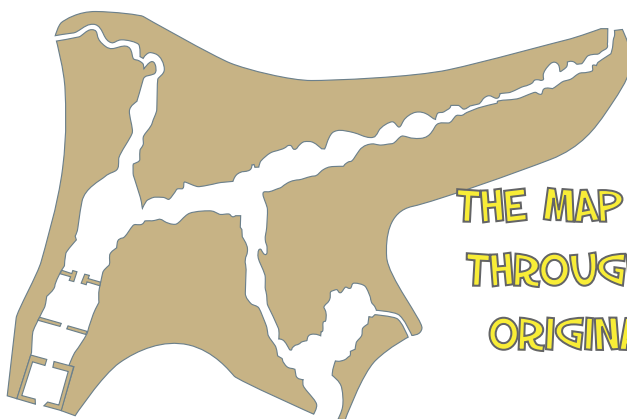


Lascaux is the setting of a complex of caves in southwestern France. It has been added to the UNESCO World Heritage Sites list.

The complex is famous for its cave paintings which represent hunting scenes with humans and animals, dated back to the Upper Paleolithic (between 13000 and 15000 years B.C.).

The cave was discovered on September 12, 1940 by four French teenagers. After the Second World War the cave complex was opened to the public, but in 1955 the carbon dioxide produced by 1,200 visitors per day had visibly damaged the paintings.

The cave was closed to the public, in 1963 and the paintings were restored to their original state. Nowadays they are monitored on a daily basis, in order to prevent their deterioration.



THE MAP WITH WHICH YOU MOVED THROUGH THE CAVE IS THE VERY ORIGINAL MAP OF THE CAVE IN LASCAUX.

QUESTIONS FOR THE GROWN-UPS

What is graffiti?

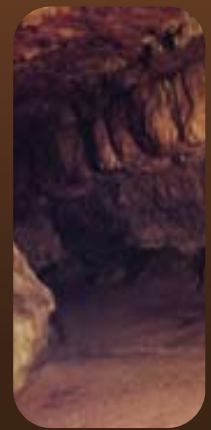
Where is the cave complex of Lascaux?

What are the subjects of the cave paintings?





The green algae you removed from the wall, at the end of the game, were a reference to the fungus which beset the cave, caused by black mould which leaves dark green patches on the paintings.



MISSION

HOUSE OF WISDOM



The Bayt al-Hikma (that is the House of Wisdom) was the greatest library of the Islamic World.

It was founded in 749, in Baghdad, as a private library, its book collection was of about half a million volumes and included texts written in Greek, Syriac, Hebraic, Coptic, Persian and Sanskrit.

The peculiarity of the Bayt al-Hikma was that of being a public University and to run a Hospital to which patients of both sexes and of all statuses had free access.

It had also an astronomical observatory in which there were the astronomical tables of Sindh and Hind used, at the end of the 15th Century, by Christopher Columbus for the ocean navigation.

For centuries, the Bayt al-Hikma has been one of the most important institutions of the Islamic World, but did not survive to several fires, civil wars and, above all, to the devastating Mongol invasion.





QUESTIONS FOR THE GROWN-UPS

The House of Wisdom was:

Library



in 749



Hotel



in 1540



University



in 1820



Theatre



Astronomical Observatory



Factory



Hospital



Where was it established?

Bagdad



5.000 (five thousand)



Tunis



50.000 (fifty thousand)



Istanbul



500.000 (five hundred thousand)



How many books were contained in it?



MISSION OLYMPIC FLAME

The Ancient Olympic Games was an athletic and religious celebration held in Olympia, Greece, every four years, in the years 776 B.C. to 393 A.D..



During the Games wars were suspended. The first Olympic Games of the Modern Era were held in 1896.

SYMBOL

The Olympic flag has five interlaced rings in the centre of a white background. The colors are those that appear on all the national flags of the world, thus the mix represent all the Nations, while the interweaving of the rings represents the universality of Olympism.

The five rings represent the five inhabited continents of the world: the red one, Europe, the black one, Africa, the yellow one, Asia, the green one, America, the blue one, Oceania.

The Olympic flame is lit in Olympia and then taken out of Greece, carried by an alternation of torch-bearers, to the city in which the games are held. The Olympic flame is left to burn in the brazier throughout the Games and it is extinguished during the Closing Ceremony.

Athletes and teams which rank first, second and third place gain a medal. Gold medal goes to the first one, silver medal to the second one, and bronze medal to the third.



QUESTIONS FOR THE GROWN-UPS

Where did the Olympic Games come from?
What was it to be suspended during the Olympic Games?
Why are they called "Olympic" Games?
Which are the symbols of the Olympic Games?
Who are the torch-bearers?

