

TASK 1
STREET ART

ANSWER BOX

EXTRACT	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
TITLE	F	C	H	K	A	E	D	J	G

DISTRACTORS: B AND I

TRANSCRIPT

F. IT'S NEARLY EVERYWHERE

0. Street art can be found on buildings, sidewalks, street signs, and even trash cans from Tokyo to Paris to New York City.

C. DIFFERENT OPINIONS ABOUT STREET ART

1. It is not easy to provide an exact history of the street art movement. This kind of art has developed in many kinds of ways in places all over the world. Some think street art is a crime and destroys property, but others see this art as a rich form of non-traditional cultural expression.

H. LEAVING A SIGNATURE

2. Many experts say the movement began in New York City in the nineteen sixties. Young adults would use paint in special cans to spray their tag on walls and train cars around the city. This tag was a name they created to identify themselves and their artwork. This colourful style of writing is also called graffiti. It is visually exciting and energetic. Some graffiti paintings were signs marking the territories of city gangs or illegal crime groups.

K. WHAT STREET ART MEANS

3. Graffiti also became a separate movement expressing the street culture of young people living in big cities. Graffiti art represented social and political rebellion. This art rejected the accepted rules of culture and power.

A. A BATTLE WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT

4. These artists could travel around areas of the city making creative paintings for everyone to see. The artists could become famous without being officially recognized. Sometimes this street art created a dispute between artists and city officials. Graffiti artists created their images and city officials quickly painted over them.

E. FROM THE STREETS TO THE GALLERIES

5. During the nineteen eighties, two New York painters who began as street artists became very famous. Keith Haring and Jean-Michel Basquiat started creating their paintings on the streets. But soon they began showing their work in art galleries and museums. This is when street art started to become part of the popular culture.

D. DON'T PUT IT IN A MUSEUM!

6. Some artists do not approve of the profit-making business of galleries and museums. They think that these organizations disconnect art from everyday life. They also like the fact that street art stays part of the city environment.

J. USING TECHNOLOGY TO SHARE ART

7. The Internet has had a big influence on street art. Street artists can show their work to people all over the world. Also, artists and fans can communicate with each other and exchange ideas.

G. IT'S NOT THE SAME ONLINE

8. However, people say the Internet is not a replacement for the experience of seeing street art live. To really understand this art, you have to see it in its environment. The street art movement depends on the energy and life of the city. And like cities, this imaginative and exciting art will continue to change and grow.

([manythings.org/voa/things/7034.html](https://www.manythings.org/voa/things/7034.html), 4:27 minutes)

TASK 2 THE TAJ MAHAL

ANSWER BOX

QUESTION	0	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
ANSWER	B	C	A	B	B	A	B	A	A

TRANSCRIPT

Renowned worldwide for its beauty and symmetry, **the Taj Mahal is the most famous landmark in India (0)**. Located near the city of Agra, the Taj Mahal attracts millions of visitors each year who come to see its beauty and remember the romantic story of its origins. The Taj Mahal, its name is Persian for crown of palaces, is an elaborate mausoleum, or tomb. It was built more than 350 years ago by Emperor Shah Jahan of India as a memorial for his beloved wife, Mumtaz Mahal, who had died. **Shah Jahan met his future wife when he was 15 years old (9)**, and she was 14, although they were not married until 5 years later in 1612. Their marriage was a happy one, as the two loved each other and were good friends as well. Shah Jahan gave his wife **the title Mumtaz Mahal, which means "chosen one of the palace" (10)**, and together they had 14 children. It was while giving birth to her final child in 1631 that Mumtaz Mahal died. **Shah Jahan was heartbroken and decided to build a memorial for his beloved wife (11)** in Agra, on the banks of the Yamuna River. Construction of the Taj Mahal began in 1632. It was an immense project. More than 20,000 workers were involved, and materials were transported by more than a thousand elephants. **The style of the buildings was inspired by Persian, Islamic, and Indian architecture (12)**, and the tomb was finished with huge slabs of white marble and decorated with many precious and semi-precious stones. Elaborate patterns of tile and even poems written on the walls in careful calligraphy decorated nearly every surface. The tomb took about 12 years to build, but the work was not over yet. **The tomb itself is only part of a much larger complex and is surrounded by elaborate gardens (13)** with pathways and pools of water that are positioned to catch beautiful reflections. There are also minarets, a mosque, and a gateway. Construction of the rest of the complex took an additional 10 years, **meaning that the entire project took 22 years to build (14)**. The cost is estimated to have been 32 million Indian rupees, an equivalent of about 827 million US dollars today. It is said that Shah Jahan planned to build a second Taj Mahal across the river from the first, made completely of black marble, as his own tomb. But when his son overthrew him and rose to power the plans were discarded. Whether this is true or not, it is probably true that Shah Jahan did not plan to be buried in the Taj Mahal with his wife, but that is where his son buried him when he died. A slightly larger tomb for Shah Jahan was added next to Mumtaz Mahal's, marking the only place in the tomb that the symmetry is broken. Shah Jahan and his queen are not actually buried in the tombs that are on display. Those are empty. Instead, **their bodies are buried beneath the Taj Mahal (15)**. Through the centuries the Taj Mahal has survived. It has been described as poetry in stone, and a teardrop on the cheek of time, and has been designated a World Heritage Site for being the jewel of Muslim art in India, and a universally admired masterpiece. **Today it is a symbol of India, and one of the most famous landmarks in the world, as well as an enduring symbol of a love (16)** that was meant to last forever.

([youtube.com/watch?v=I6i8cLXPGQE&t=21s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I6i8cLXPGQE&t=21s), 3:47 minutes)

TASK 3
CHARLES DICKENS MUSEUM

ANSWER BOX

GAP	WORD
0.	great-great-great grandson
17.	around an hour
18.	the attic
19.	months
20.	three years
21.	largest collection
22.	five floors
23.	morning room
24.	study
25.	bedroom

TRANSCRIPT

Welcome to 48 Doughty Street, home of one of the world's greatest and best-loved writers, Charles Dickens. My name is Olly Dickens, and I'm Charles Dickens's **great-great-great grandson (0)**, so it's a particularly special pleasure for me to be your guide today.

Charles Dickens lived at 48 Doughty Street, but the house next door, number 49, is also part of the museum. It houses the main entrance where you came in, special exhibition rooms, the café and the museum shop in which you are now standing.

The tour will last **around an hour (17)** and will take you on a circuitous route from number 49 into Dickens's house next door, and then at the top of the house back through to number 49 and down the stairs to the exit.

There is lift access to all floors except **the attic (18)**. If you would like to use the lift, please let a member of staff know and they will be happy to assist you. As you enter each room, we will direct you in a clockwise direction around it, always leaving from the same door that you came in by.

Dickens and his wife Catherine moved to 48 Doughty Street a few **months (19)** before Queen Victoria began her reign in 1837. The couple raised the eldest three of their ten children in the house. They also hosted many of the period's leading figures with dinners and parties.

Dickens lived here for nearly **three years (20)**, a period that was to change his life profoundly. During that time, he finished the Pickwick Papers and Oliver Twist, wrote Nicholas Nickleby and several shorter books including Sketches of Young Gentlemen.

The museum holds the world's **largest collection (21)** relating to Dickens, although in the confines of this Georgian townhouse we can highlight only a few key aspects of his colourful life at any one time. Many of the rooms in the museum show the house as Dickens would have known it.

The museum is comprised of **five floors (22)**, including a basement and an attic, with each floor covering a different aspect of the author's life. The basement houses the kitchen and the wash house where we'll encounter the day-to-day domestic side of the household. On the ground floor, where you are now, are the dining room and the **morning room (23)** which along with the first-floor drawing room reveal the social life of Dickens and his wife Catherine. Also on the first floor is the author's **study (24)** which explores many aspects of his work.

The second-floor bedrooms address Dickens' personal life and events surrounding his death. Finally, the attic, which has the nursery and the servant's **bedroom (25)**, discloses one or two facts about the man that, in life, he kept as closely guarded secrets.

(vocaleyes.co.uk/audio-clip/charles-dickens-museum-audio-described-guide/#player=14506&track=1, 2:54 minutes)