2 Places

Reading and vocabulary Ghost towns

1 SPEAKING Work in pairs. Look at the photos of ghost towns and discuss the questions. Then read the text and compare your ideas.

1 What kind of people lived there? Think about:
■ farmers ■ miners ■ soldiers ■ criminals
■ business people ■ railway workers
2 Why did people go to these towns?
3 Why did they leave? Think about:
■ unemployment ■ pollution ■ natural disasters
■ war ■ famine ■ crime ■ overcrowding ■ poverty

STRATEGY

Identifying paraphrase

Paraphrasing means using different words to express the same idea. To identify paraphrase, look out for:

- synonyms (words with similar meaning) and antonyms (words with opposite meaning).
- sentences that say the same thing, but in a different order.
- ideas that are summarized and not repeated word for word.

2 Read the strategy. Underline sentences in the text that are similar to sentences 1–9. Then match sentences 1–9 to places A–C.

1 There was a lot of pollution.
2 People in the town were religious.
3 People went there to make money.
4 There wasn't any light.
5 People left because they didn't have jobs.
6 Animals live there today.
7 There was a lot of crime.
8 There were farms near the town.
9 People left because of natural and man-made disasters.

A Kowloon Walled City
B Craco
C Kolma skop

3 SPEAKING Work in pairs. Discuss the questions.

1 Which town has the most surprising story?
2 Which place would you like to visit?
3 Does your town have any of the ghost towns' problems?

V insight Antonyms: describing places

4 Find antonyms of these adjectives in the text.

1 deserted (line 5) .....
2 clean (line 5) .....
3 wide (line 7) .....
4 unpopular (line 9) .....
5 safe (line 11) .....
6 quiet (line 36) .....
7 messy (line 47) .....
8 modern (line 48) .....

Ghost towns:

Ghost towns ... why did people live there? Why did they leave? Read about three unloved places from around the world ...



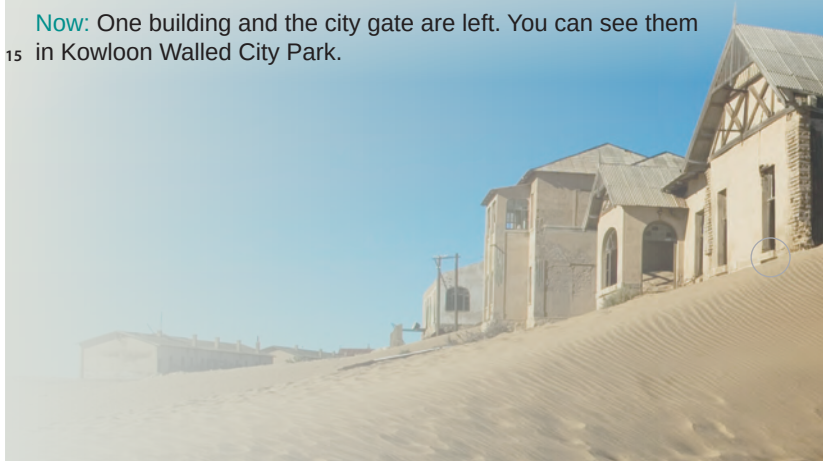
Name: Kowloon Walled City Location: China

Then: Hundreds of years ago, it was a Chinese fort and only soldiers lived there. Then in the early 20th century, the soldiers left and squatters* moved in. By 1980, the 0.03 km² city had 500 buildings inside its walls and 33,000 residents lived there. The city was crowded, dirty and full of rubbish. People called it 'the city of darkness' because the buildings were so high, there was no sunlight in the narrow streets below.

Why did people go there? There were no laws and no police in the city, so it was popular with criminals and people with illegal businesses. The Chinese government didn't do anything about the city because it was dangerous and difficult to control.

Why did people leave? In 1993, the government finally moved people out of the city and destroyed it.

Now: One building and the city gate are left. You can see them in Kowloon Walled City Park.



then and now

Name: Craco Location: Italy



Then: The historic town of Craco is hundreds of years old. In the past, it was an important town with a castle, a church, a market, a university and a prison. Its population was about 2,500.

Why did people go there? The town had strong connections with the church, and farmers grew food on the land around the town.

Why did people leave? Craco lost many people because of a plague* in 1656. Wars and famine* also made people leave. Between 1892 and 1922, about 1,300 left and went to North America. There were earthquakes, too, and many people died. By 1963, no one lived in the town.

Now: Craco is falling apart. If you want to visit, go there soon. The next earthquake may be its last.

Name: Kolmanskop Location: Namibia

Then: In 1910, Kolmanskop was a lively mining town. A thousand people lived there, many of them German miners. The town had a hospital, a theatre, a school, a casino, a furniture factory and a sports centre. It also had the first tramline in Africa and a railway station.

Why did people go there? In 1908, a railway worker found diamonds in the Namib desert. Many people went there because they wanted to make their fortune.

Why did people leave? By 1920, there were no more diamonds left. People started to leave the town because there was no work and no money. In 1954, the last person left, and sand started to cover the pretty gardens and tidy streets.

Now: One or two old buildings are still standing, but sand dunes cover most of the town. The town is deserted; only birds, hyenas and snakes live there now.



* squatters = people who live in a place illegally
* plague = a disease caused by rats
* famine = a time when there is no food

5 **Complete the sentences with words in exercise 4. Sometimes more than one answer is possible.**

1 The city is always ..... during carnival. Thousands of people come and celebrate.
2 The river was ..... There was a lot of pollution from the town's factories.
3 I don't like ..... cities with lots of tall, new buildings. They all look the same.
4 It was late at night, and the shopping centre was ..... There was no one there.
5 That restaurant looks ..... Lots of people are queuing to get in.
6 There are no buses in this part of town because the roads are too .....
7 This road is really ..... There is a lot of traffic and it is difficult to cross.
8 The park was clean and ..... There was no rubbish and no graffiti.

V Places in town

6 **Study the highlighted words in the text. Put them into the correct category A–F. Then add the places below to categories A–F. Can you add two more words to each category?**

cinema ■ football stadium ■ bus station ■ taxi rank ■ library ■ skatepark ■ underground ■ art gallery ■ concert hall ■ leisure centre ■ police station

A Entertainment
B Shopping
C Transport
D Education
E Sports
F Services

7 **In which of the places in exercise 6 can you do these things?**

■ catch a train ■ see a play ■ watch a sport ■ borrow books ■ work for a business ■ win and lose money ■ listen to music ■ do a sport ■ find work

8 **SPEAKING** **Work in groups. Imagine you are designing a new town. Use the ideas below to help you. Prepare your plan and present it to the rest of the class. Decide on the best plan.**

■ the location of your new town
■ why people should live there
■ the four most important places to include
■ four places that you would not include

Vocabulary bank Geographical features page 135