

(A part of lesson 1 plan will probably be postponed to lesson 2)

Let's open the school year by exploring some abandoned towns, on land and under water!

The text comes from a different book – *Oxford Discover Futures 3, Unit 2* – I've just made the grammar and vocabulary in the texts slightly easier. I can also show you the pictures in the book.

Let's explore... TIME CAPSULE TOWNS

August 24th in the year AD 79 started like a normal summer day in Pompeii. People were getting up and having breakfast. Some were walking to work along the cool, **shady** streets. Then, suddenly, there was a **massive explosion**.

The explosion came from **Mount Vesuvius**, a volcano near the city. **24 hours later, Pompeii was destroyed**.

Pompeii was covered by ash and rocks from the volcano. The people who didn't leave in time died. For many years, Pompeii was hidden under the ground. Today, we can visit the city and see houses, shops, streets and other things from Roman times. It is like a time capsule that shows us what life was like almost 2,000 years ago.

Pompeii is not the only town that people have left behind. Throughout history, people have **abandoned** many towns and cities. Sometimes a natural disaster was the reason. But sometimes there were other reasons, too.

Let's find out about some more "time-capsule towns"!

Vocabulary help:

massive	very big or very large	<i>obrovský</i>
abandon	to leave a place and not return	<i>opustit</i>
shady	protected from the sun by trees or buildings	<i>stinný</i>
natural disaster	a very dangerous event caused by nature, such as an earthquake, flood or volcano eruption	<i>přírodní katastrofa</i>

1. When did the eruption of Mount Vesuvius happen?
2. What were people in Pompeii doing before the explosion?
3. Where did the massive explosion come from?
4. What happened to Pompeii 24 hours later?
5. Why did some people die?

Shi Cheng, China

Shi Cheng or “Lion City” used to be a busy town in a **valley** in China. The city **was founded** 1,300 years ago, and by the 20th century, it was home to 290,000 people. Shi Cheng was a beautiful place. You could walk down its wide streets, through beautiful stone **arches**, and past temples decorated with carefully **carved** lions and dragons.

Unfortunately, the valley where the town was located was **flooded in** 1959. The area needed electricity, so an **artificial** lake was created and a huge power station was built. Everyone in Shi Cheng **was forced to** move and “Lion City” disappeared beneath Qiandao Lake. The town was forgotten for many years.

Today Lion City is a famous monument. Divers often visit to see its stone temples and take photos of the dragons and lions. The stone lions once protected the city, but they could not protect it from progress.

Vocabulary help:

stone arch	a curved structure made of stone, often over a door	<i>kamenný oblouk</i>
carved	made by cutting a shape into stone, wood, etc.	<i>Zde: tesaný, u dřeva: vyřezávaný</i>
artificial lake	a lake made by people	<i>umělé jezero</i>
The valley was flooded	The valley was filled with water	<i>Údolí bylo zatopeno.</i>
power station	a place where electricity is produced	<i>elektrárna</i>
be forced to move	to have to leave your home because you have no choice	<i>být nucen..</i>
progress	change	<i>pokrok</i>
inhabitants	People living in a certain place	<i>obyvatelé</i>

1. How many inhabitants did Shi Cheng have by the 20th century?
2. Why was the valley flooded in 1959?
3. What happened to the inhabitants of Shi Cheng?

Bodie, U.S.

In the 1800s, many new towns were created across the American West as people **rushed to mine for gold**. One of these, Bodie in California, grew from 20 people in 1861 to 10,000 people 25 years later. During that time, its mines produced a huge amount of gold.

By the 1880s, Bodie had two banks, a school, a post office, and a **jail**. Miners from all over the world went there to get rich. There were also gunfighters, robbers, and other criminals, so it was a dangerous place to live and there were often fights. Every morning people would ask, "Did anyone get killed last night?"

But eventually the gold **ran out** and the mines closed down. Then two great fires destroyed large parts of the town.

By 1939, the school and the post office were closed and only a handful of people still lived there. The last mine closed in 1942.

A lot of tourists visit Bodie today. There are no more miners and robbers, but perhaps a few ghost remain!

miner	A person who mines for coal etc.	<i>horník</i>
mine for gold		<i>těžít zlato</i>
rush to do sth	to hurry to do sth	<i>spěchat něco udělat</i>
run out	If there is no more of something, it runs out. <i>vyčerpat se</i>	<i>dojít,</i>
gunfighter	Someone who fights with a gun.	<i>pistolník</i>

1. Why did Bodie become a busy and successful town?
2. What was life like in Bodie when many people lived there?
3. Why did Bodie become a ghost town?

Pripyat, Ukraine

Pripyat was a model city. It was built in 1970 and was modern, clean, and well managed. It had schools, a hospital, stores, parks, 40 movie theaters, factories, and almost no **unemployment** or crime.

Over 50,000 people lived and worked in the town and at the Chernobyl **nuclear power plant** nearby. Then in 1986, **disaster struck**. An explosion at the nuclear power plant allowed dangerous radiation to escape. Within two days, the town was empty – people left quickly, leaving their personal **belongings** in their homes or on the streets.

Today Pripyat has become a time capsule. No one can live there, but brave tourists can visit. However, wild animals around the city are doing well. There are more deer, **wild boar**, and wolves than ever before.

Vocabulary help

unemployment – a situation when people do not have jobs *nezaměstnanost*

nuclear power plant – a place where nuclear energy is used to produce electricity *atomová elektrárna*

a disaster struck – a disaster happened suddenly and caused serious problems *zasáhla (ho) katastrofa*

wild boar – a large wild pig that lives in forests and other natural areas *divoké prase*

personal belongings – things that people have *osobní majetek*

1. What was life like in Pripyat before the disaster?
2. What happened after the disaster?
3. How has the place changed?

Look at the city profiles – what type of information is missing? Scan the article and fill in the missing information.

Name: **Shi Cheng**

Founded:

Population:

When did people leave?

Why?

Name: **Bodie**

Founded:

Population:

When did people leave?

Why?

Name: **Pripyat**

Founded:

Population:

When did people leave?

Why?

Answer the questions about Shi Cheng, Bodie and Pripyat.

1. What was life like there?
2. What kind of people do you think lived there?
3. Can you visit the city today? How?

Discuss the questions:

1. Which town do you think has the most interesting story? Why?
2. Why might people want to visit abandoned places?
3. Should abandoned places be left as they are or **restored**? Why? *restored = repaired*

Grammar: Talking about past events.

We use Past Simple to describe a sequence of events.

We **got off** the bus and **walked** around the market.

Complete each sentence with the **past simple** form of the two verbs in brackets. Pay attention to the **order of events** and the meaning of the sentence.

1. We in the old town and around the empty streets. (**arrive, look**)
2. She the entrance and the door carefully. (**find, open**)
3. They through the village and several abandoned buildings. (**walk, see**)
4. We the hill and photos of the town below. (**climb, take**)
5. He an empty shop and some old newspapers inside. (**enter, find**)
6. We the old bridge and the abandoned part of the town. (**cross, reach**)
7. They the train and the quiet streets. (**get off, explore**)
8. I a strange noise and near an old building. (**hear, stop**)
9. She the old railway station and about it in her notebook. (**visit, write**)
10. We the main road and a narrow path into the abandoned village. (**leave, follow**)

We use Past Continuous to give a background description. You can combine more actions with *and*.

It **was raining** and a lot of people **were buying** umbrellas.

Complete each sentence with the **past continuous** form of the two verbs in brackets. The sentences describe what was happening in a town or city at a particular moment. Pay attention to **was/were**.

1. It heavily, and people in the entrances of underground stations or in bus shelters. (**rain, hide**)
2. A group of tourists the old town while a guide them about its history. (**explore, tell**)
3. Several workers an abandoned building while a photographer pictures nearby. (**inspect, take**)
4. No pedestrians along the pavements, and only a few cars through the town. (**walk, pass**)
5. She at an old railway station while her friends the surrounding area. (**wait, explore**)
6. The sun behind the hills, and the last visitors the abandoned village. (**disappear, leave**)
7. We through the narrow streets while people outside the cafés. (**walk, sit**)
8. An old man past the empty houses while two children a ruined wall. (**walk, examine**)
9. The town slowly darker, and the streetlights to come on. (**get, start**)
10. They a map of the city while their guide the best route to the old castle. (**study, explain**)

FOLD HERE: -----

Key to the Past Simple exercise:

1. arrived, looked 2. found, opened 3. walked, saw 4. climbed, took 5. entered, found 6. crossed, reached 7. got off, explored 8. heard, stopped 9. visited, wrote 10. left, followed

Key to the Past Continuous exercise:

1. was raining, were hiding 2. were exploring, was telling 3. were inspecting, was taking 4. were walking, were passing 5. was waiting, were exploring 6. was disappearing, were leaving 7. were walking, were sitting 8. was walking, were examining 9. was getting, were coming 10. were studying, was explaining

We also use the **past continuous** to talk about a longer action interrupted by a shorter action:

I **dropped** my bag when I **was running** for the bus.

(shorter action) (longer action)

Complete the sentences

Complete each sentence with the **past simple** or **past continuous** form of the verbs in brackets.

Use the **past simple** for the shorter action that interrupted the longer action.

1. We around the old fishing village when we an abandoned boat. (**walk, see**)
2. She through the quiet suburb when it to rain. (**cycle, start**)
3. They the old factory when a window suddenly. (**explore, break**)
4. I along the beach in the seaside resort when I an old photograph. (**walk, find**)
5. We through the industrial city when we a huge old building. (**drive, notice**)
6. He the narrow streets of the old neighbourhood when he his phone. (**explore, drop**)
7. While we around the abandoned town, we a strange noise. (**look, hear**)
8. She past some empty houses when a door in the wind. (**walk, slam**)
9. They through the suburb when they a small park with a broken fountain. (**walk, discover**)
10. I the old railway station when someone my name. (**photograph, call**)

FOLD HERE: -----

Key to the Past Simple vs Past Continuous exercise:

1. walked, saw 2. was cycling, started 3. were exploring, broke 4. was walking, found 5. were driving, noticed 6. was exploring, dropped 7. were looking, heard 8. was walking, slammed 9. were walking, discovered 10. was photographing, called