

# 7 Wild places

## 7.1 The natural world

### VOCABULARY Natural features

1 Match the words (1–8) with their definitions (a–h).

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 1 beach     | a land that has very little water and very few plants  |
| 2 canyon    | b a raised part of Earth's surface, larger than a hill |
| 3 desert    | c land that is completely surrounded by water          |
| 4 island    | d a sandy area beside a sea or lake                    |
| 5 lake      | e the water that covers most of Earth's surface        |
| 6 mountain  | f a place where a river falls from a high place        |
| 7 sea       | g a deep valley with steep sides                       |
| 8 waterfall | h an area of water that is surrounded by land          |

2 Choose the correct options to complete the questions.

- A: How *deep* / *wide* is the Grand Canyon?  
B: It's over 1,800 metres from the top to the bottom.
- A: How *high* / *long* is Mount Kilimanjaro?  
B: It's 5,895 metres above sea level.
- A: How *old* / *wide* is Lake Superior in Canada?  
B: It's about 260 metres from one side to the other.
- A: How *high* / *long* is the Great Wall of China?  
B: It's over 8,800 kilometres from one end to the other.
- A: Why is the Mojave Desert so *deep* / *dry*?  
B: It gets very little rain, about 170 millimetres a year.

### LISTENING An amazing place

3  36 Listen. Circle the correct answers.

- What was the speaker's job during her volunteer program?  
a to count the number of whales  
b to measure the size of whales
- What is the problem affecting these whales?  
a there isn't enough food in the ocean  
b they eat rubbish from the ocean
- The speaker describes the Indian Ocean's \_\_\_\_\_.  
a size  
b depth

## COMMUNICATION Talking about places

4 Put the words in **bold** in the correct order to complete the conversation.

A: So where are you going on holiday?

B: To Venice in Italy. **really** / **about it** / **excited** / **I'm**

1 \_\_\_\_\_!

A: Wow! I read that **in the world** / **the most** / **Venice is** / **interesting city**

2 \_\_\_\_\_.

B: **Florence** / **is** / **I** / **hear that** / **the most** / **scenic city**. I might visit there, too.

3 \_\_\_\_\_.

5 Answer the questions in your own words.

1 What's the most interesting place to visit in your country? Why?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2 What is the most scenic city in your country?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# 7.2 It's the highest in the world

## GRAMMAR Comparatives and superlatives

1 Look at the table. Use the prompts to write sentences with comparatives and superlatives.

	Everest	Mont Blanc	Kilimanjaro
high	***	*	**
cold	***	*	**
dangerous	***	**	*

1 Everest / Mont Blanc / high

\_\_\_\_\_

2 Everest / Kilimanjaro / dangerous

\_\_\_\_\_

3 Kilimanjaro / Mont Blanc / cold

\_\_\_\_\_

4 Everest / dangerous

\_\_\_\_\_

5 Kilimanjaro / Mont Blanc / high

\_\_\_\_\_

6 Everest / high

\_\_\_\_\_

2 Make questions from the prompts. Then write sentences to answer the questions. Check your answers on page 103.

1 Atlantic / big / ocean / ? *Is the Atlantic the biggest ocean?*

*No, it isn't. The Pacific is the biggest.*

2 Copper Canyon / deep / the Grand Canyon / ? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3 which / good / time to visit Sydney / ? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4 which / high / mountain / in the world / ? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5 Danube / long / river / in the world / ? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6 where / world's / large / waterfall / ? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**LANGUAGE FOCUS** Making comparisons


**3** Correct the mistakes in the sentences.

- 1 The Pacific Ocean is bigger the Indian Ocean.
- 2 August is the worse month to visit because it's so hot.
- 3 I think Australia's beaches are best than Europe's beaches.


**4**  **37** Listen. Circle the correct answers.

- 1 Which waterfall is higher?
  - a Bridal Veil Falls
  - b Omaru Falls
- 2 Which was the most crowded beach?
  - a Ninety Mile Beach
  - b Hot Water Beach
- 3 The speaker describes New Zealand as the \_\_\_\_\_ place she's visited.
  - a most beautiful
  - b most interesting

**PRONUNCIATION** Reduced speech

**5**  **38** We often make words and phrases shorter when we speak informally. This is called reduced speech. Listen and repeat what you hear.

See you tomorrow! → **Seeya** tomorrow!      Come on, let's go! → **C'mon**, let's go!

**6**  **39** Match the phrases (1–5) with their reduced speech form (a–e). Then listen and check your answers.

- |            |         |
|------------|---------|
| 1 going to | a gotta |
| 2 give me  | b hafta |
| 3 got to   | c gonna |
| 4 want to  | d gimme |
| 5 have to  | e wanna |

**7**  **40** Listen to the sentences. Write the full form of the words you hear.

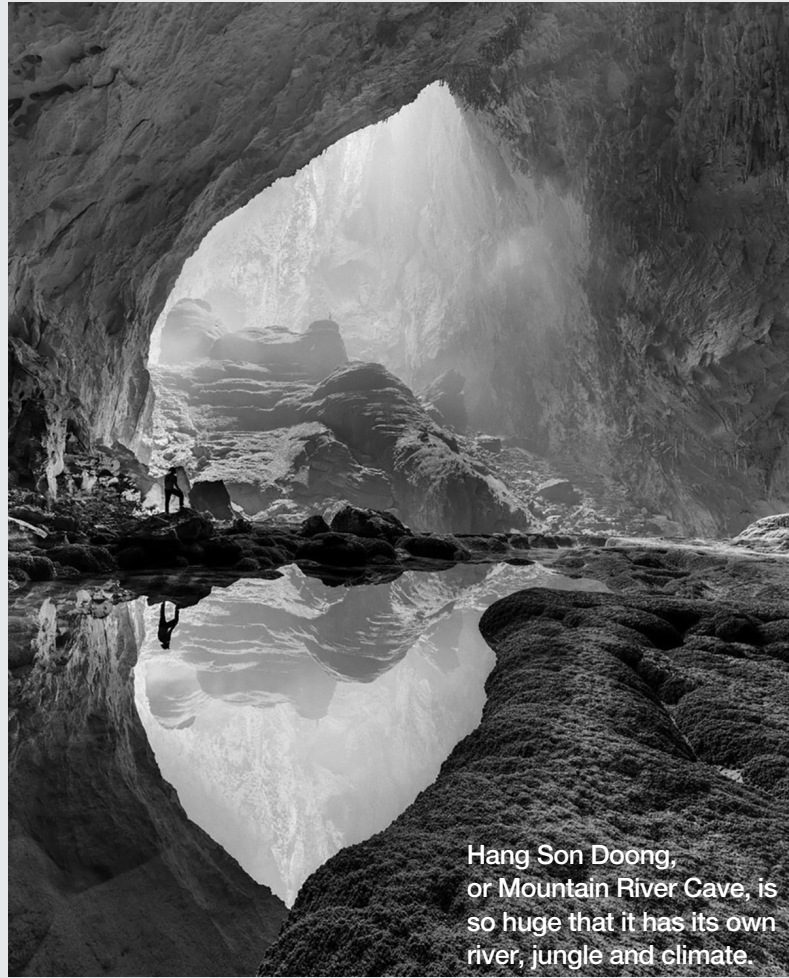
- 1 I'm \_\_\_\_\_ go to Mexico!
- 2 Can you \_\_\_\_\_ a lift to the library?
- 3 I \_\_\_\_\_ explore some caves there.
- 4 You \_\_\_\_\_ see this!
- 5 Bye, I've \_\_\_\_\_ go.

## 7.3 An otherworldly place

### READING

#### Finding a natural wonder

- In 1990, Ho Khanh, a farmer in Vietnam, accidentally discovered the biggest cave in the world – a cave so big it could fit a 747 aeroplane in it. Ho was out collecting wood deep in the jungle when he came across the entrance to an enormous cave. The story of this huge cave spread quickly, but not everyone believed Ho.
- In 2006, several British cave explorers came to Ho's house. They had heard about the cave and wanted him to show it to them. Unfortunately, Ho could not remember where the cave was. Two years later, Ho finally found the giant cave again.
- The explorers came back and the team travelled through the jungle to the cave's location. When they went inside, they were amazed at its size. Measuring 200 metres high, 150 metres wide and over four kilometres long, it was the largest cave they had ever seen. Ho named the cave Hang Son Doong, meaning Mountain River Cave.
- Since then, Ho has been a guide for the team on several other explorations. His new passion is to find other undiscovered caves and show people the hidden natural wonders in the area.




Hang Son Doong, or Mountain River Cave, is so huge that it has its own river, jungle and climate.

- 1 Read the article. What is it mainly about?

  - a farmer who became a cave explorer
  - the discovery of the world's largest cave
  - cave explorers who find undiscovered caves in Vietnam
- 2 Match each paragraph (1–4) with its main idea (a–d).

1 Paragraph 1	a how the discovery changed Ho's life
2 Paragraph 2	b the discovery of the cave
3 Paragraph 3	c facts about the cave
4 Paragraph 4	d the struggle to find the cave again

### LISTENING

- 3  41 Listen. Choose the best title for the talk.

  - Discovering an ancient city in China
  - The discovery of China's clay army

**4**  **41** Listen again. Circle the correct answers.

- 1 What did the farmers find?
  - a clay statues
  - b a very deep well
- 2 Why was the discovery so amazing?
  - a It is an important clue to discovering China's history.
  - b The statues were created with a lot of detail.
- 3 According to experts, the Terracotta Army was meant to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a protect the first emperor after his death
  - b frighten the emperor's enemies

**5** What do the talk and the article on page 56 have in common?  
Circle the correct answer.

- a They both discuss events that happened in China.
- b They are both about discoveries that made a person famous.
- c They are both about amazing discoveries that were made by farmers.

**WORD FOCUS** *than*

**6** Match the two parts of the sentences.

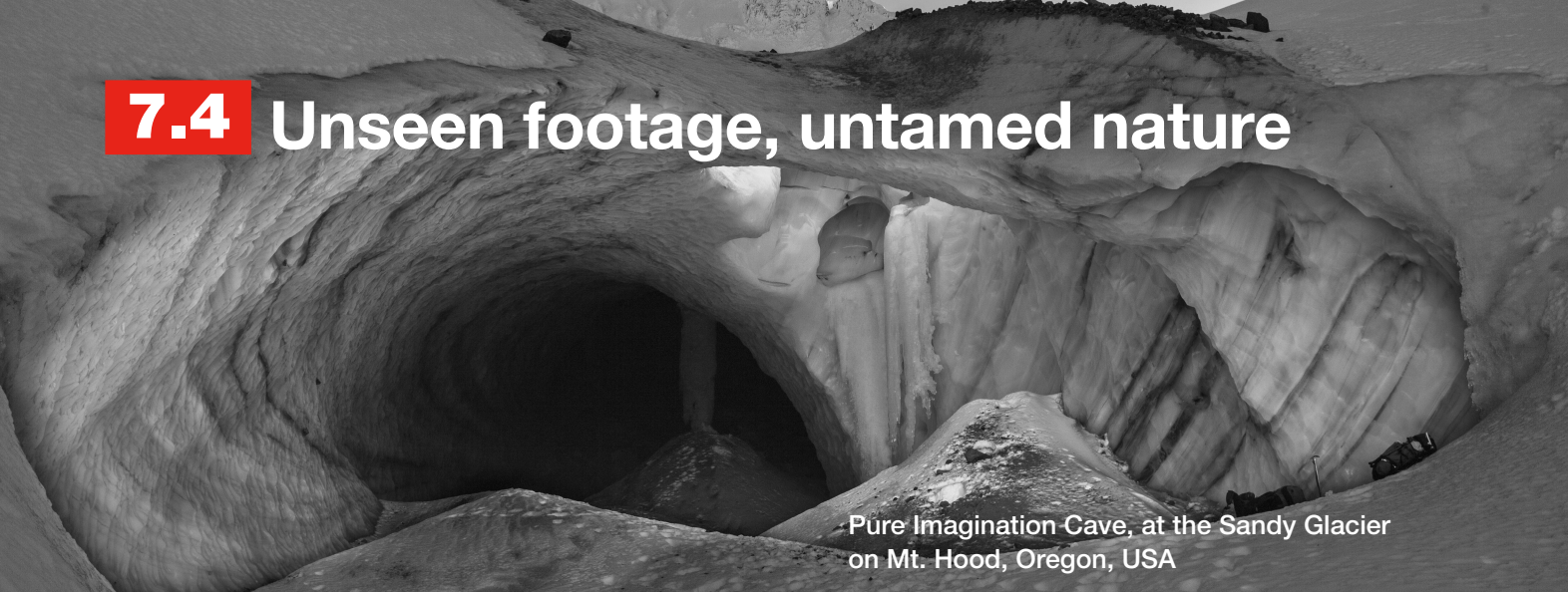
- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 In a desert, conditions are much drier than                 | a many other mountains.                      |
| 2 Mont Blanc is more dangerous than                           | b than three hundred metres below.           |
| 3 It's easier than  | c a few hours on top of Everest.             |
| 4 Most people can't survive more than                         | d usual.                                     |
| 5 The English Lake District is more beautiful                 | e than any other place I know.               |
| 6 From the top of the Grand Canyon you can see the river more | f ever before for tourists to climb Everest. |

**7** Complete the sentences with these phrases.

a few hours	ever before	more than
any other place	many other	than usual

- 1 My new job is hard work so I'm more tired \_\_\_\_\_.
- 2 When I spend more than \_\_\_\_\_ gaming, I get wrist problems.
- 3 That new restaurant is always busier than \_\_\_\_\_ I know.
- 4 It's more difficult than \_\_\_\_\_ to get a good job.
- 5 It's \_\_\_\_\_ one hundred kilometres to the nearest mountains.
- 6 Crete is more popular than \_\_\_\_\_ islands because it's easy to get there.

## 7.4 Unseen footage, untamed nature



Pure Imagination Cave, at the Sandy Glacier on Mt. Hood, Oregon, USA

### ▶ Francesco Sauro: Deep under the Earth's surface, discovering beauty and science

Francesco Sauro travels deep underground to explore caves. He talks about exploring a mountain cave in South America. It's a dangerous place, as a fall or a rush of water could hurt him. However, it's also fascinating, with Sauro finding new minerals and insects unlike any others in the world.

### ▶ Eddy Cartaya: My glacier cave discoveries

Eddy Cartaya talks about being the first person to explore caves deep inside a glacier of frozen water. Cartaya made maps of three ice caves inside the Sandy Glacier in Oregon. He talks about the magical colours of the caves, the weird bacteria that live in them and the fantastic ice shapes he saw.

### ▶ David Gallo: Life in the deep oceans

David Gallo explores the deep oceans with submarines, taking videos of the incredible life and landscapes he finds there. Gallo tells us about 64,000-kilometre-long mountain ranges under the sea and glowing jellyfish that grow up to 46 metres long. Gallo's talk reminds us that the deep ocean is a mysterious world that we barely know.

## TED TALKS

1 Read the descriptions of three TED Talks above. In your opinion, which is the best title for this playlist, a, b or c?

- a Exploring new places                      b Exploring the oceans                      c Discovering glaciers

2 Read the TED playlist again. Circle the correct answers.

1 Which speaker films sea creatures?

- a Francesco Sauro                      b Eddy Cartaya                      c David Gallo

2 Which speaker studies rocks and insects?

- a Francesco Sauro                      b Eddy Cartaya                      c David Gallo

3 Which speaker goes into ice caves?

- a Francesco Sauro                      b Eddy Cartaya                      c David Gallo

3 Match the words from the TED playlist (1–3) with their definitions (a–c).

- |              |  |
|--------------|--|
| 1 glacier    | a unknown                                    |
| 2 submarine  | b a huge mass of ice which moves very slowly |
| 3 mysterious | c a type of ship that can move underwater    |

4 Which talk would you most like to see? Why? Watch the talk at TED.com.

## 7.5 Our natural wonders

### WRITING Making a recommendation

#### 1 Read about an interesting place. Why is it special?

Write three paragraphs. In the first paragraph, say what the place is, where it is and when the best time to visit is and why.

In the second paragraph, say why you recommend visiting and what you recommend doing there.

I recommend visiting Angel Falls in the Canaima National Park in Venezuela. The best time to go is from June to December, when there is lots of water. During the dry season, the river has less water and it's less impressive.

It's special because it's the world's highest waterfall – 979 metres from top to bottom. It looks really beautiful. I recommend taking lots of photos and going hiking up the mountains in the area.

It's perfect for anyone who loves incredible landscapes and natural wonders.

Remember to use comparatives or superlatives.

Use some new words from this unit.

In the last paragraph, say who would enjoy it.

#### 2 Write about a place you recommend visiting. Answer the questions to plan your paragraphs.

1 What is the name of the place? Where is it?

2 When is the best time to visit it? Why?

3 Why do you recommend visiting it?

4 What do you recommend doing there?

5 Who would enjoy it?

#### 3 Write your recommendation. Then complete the checklist.

Did you use correct spelling and punctuation?

Did you use some new words from this unit?

Did you use comparatives or superlatives?

Did you say why you recommend the place?