

Traveling to Thailand



Try to think of some countries you know in Asia. Thailand might be one of them! It is a popular destination for tourists around the world.

Thailand is located in between Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia and Malaysia. It has beautiful beaches, bustling cities, and even exciting hiking trails in big forests! What more could you want?

Thailand has a long, complicated history. Archaeologists (scientists who study people from the past) have found remains from civilizations that lived 20,000 years ago in the area where Thailand is now. That's a really long time ago! Since then, many kings have ruled, and many kingdoms have fought against each other to rule the people who live in Thailand (who are called "Thai").

It's interesting to know where this name came from. There was a group of people who used to call themselves the "Tai." They lived in China. They slowly moved to central Thailand over the course of hundreds of years, a long, long time ago. However, there were already people living in Thailand. When a Tai leader started to create his own kingdom in the area, the native people of Thailand wanted to show that they weren't a part of his kingdom. Therefore, they called themselves "Thai," which means "free" in their language. This name still remains today. It reminds us that the people of Thailand have always been free from foreign power.

But let's come back to today's Thailand. Bangkok is the capital, a very busy city. Buildings stand high above the horizon, food carts line the loud streets, and people rush from place to place. Like New York City, Bangkok has many taxis that cover the streets. However, instead of being yellow, they're all different colors! The most popular ones are yellow and green, but there are some that are blue and red, green or pink. Bangkok has very colorful streets!

The food of Thailand is very delicious. One of the most famous dishes is called Pad Thai. It is made of skinny noodles mixed with fried eggs, fish sauce, red chili pepper, bean sprouts, and can include chicken, shrimp or tofu. It is very popular all over the world since many people love its flavors! Thai food uses a lot of seafood, since the country is located on the water. That's why fishing is so popular. Many parents who live along the Gulf are fishermen who provide food for their families.

But Thailand isn't only known for Bangkok. There are beautiful, lush forests in the North and relaxing, sandy beaches in the South. Chiang Mai is the most famous city in the North, known for the highest mountains in the country. Phuket is one of the more popular beaches in the South, where many tourists go to scuba dive, snorkel, and enjoy all the beach has to offer.

Therefore, Thailand is very diverse. Even though it's very modern now, you can still see what is left of its long history. Ancient temples and old buildings can still be found around the country. There are many different types of environments in Thailand—and they are all special in their own way!

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What is Thailand?

- A Thailand is a busy city with lots of taxis.
- B Thailand is a famous dish made with fried eggs.
- C Thailand is a country in Asia.
- D Thailand is a group of people from China.

2. What does this passage describe?

- A This passage describes the history of Myanmar, Laos, and Cambodia.
- B This passage describes a trip the author took to Chiang Mai.
- C This passage describes the reasons why the "Tai" people left China.
- D This passage describes the history, food, and cities of Thailand.

3. Thailand is a diverse place with many different environments.

What evidence from the passage supports this statement?

- A "The food of Thailand is very delicious."
- B "Thai food uses a lot of seafood, since the country is located on the water."
- C "There are beautiful, lush forests in the North and relaxing, sandy beaches in the South."
- D "Phuket is one of the more popular beaches in the South, where many tourists go to scuba dive, snorkel, and enjoy all the beach has to offer."

4. What might be one reason that people from around the world visit Thailand?

- A Thailand has an interesting history that can still be seen in ancient temples and old buildings.
- B Many people living along the Gulf in Thailand are fishermen who provide food for their families.
- C When a Tai leader started to create his own kingdom, the native people called themselves "Thai."
- D Scientists who study people from the past are known as archaeologists.

5. What is this passage mainly about?

- A archaeology
- B Malaysia
- C Pad Thai
- D Thailand

6. Read the following sentences: "One of the most famous dishes is called Pad Thai. It is made of skinny noodles mixed with fried eggs, fish sauce, red chili pepper, bean sprouts, and can include chicken, shrimp or tofu. It is very **popular** all over the world since many people love its flavors!"

What does the word **popular** mean?

- A liked by a lot of people
- B feared by a lot of people
- C living in one place for a long time
- D hard to find

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

There is a lot to see in Thailand, _____ old temples and beautiful beaches.

- A in conclusion
- B including
- C second
- D instead

8. Describe the food of Thailand.

9. Why do tourists go to Phuket?

10. Based on the passage, why is Thailand a place that many people like to visit? Give at least two reasons.

Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 1270

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8. Describe the food of Thailand.

Suggested answer: Answers may vary, as long as they come from the passage. Students may describe the food qualitatively, as "delicious" and "popular all over the world." They may also describe what it consists of—seafood, noodles, etc.

9. Why do tourists go to Phuket?

Suggested answer: Tourists go to Phuket to scuba dive, snorkel, and enjoy all the beach has to offer.

10. Based on the passage, why is Thailand a place that many people like to visit? Give at least two reasons.

Suggested answer: Answers may vary, as long as they are supported by the passage. Students may cite the interesting history of Thailand that can still be seen in the form of ancient temples and old buildings. They may cite the "delicious" Thai food that has become popular all over the world. Then again, they may cite the country's diverse environments, which offer visitors beaches, cities, mountains, hiking trails, and more.