

Learning English with CBC Radio – Living in Alberta



Recreation and Leisure Pursuits: Head Smashed in Buffalo Jump

by

Maroro Zinyemba

Project Manager: Justine Light

Integration Enhancement

Topic:	Recreation and Leisure Pursuits
Lesson:	Canadian Rockies
CLB Level:	6
CLB Skills:	Reading, Writing,
Essential Skill(s):	Reading, Writing, Computer Use, Thinking Skills (Finding Information)

CLB Outcomes	
Reading:	Learners will demonstrate the ability to interpret information contained in formatted texts such as graphs and tables. Learners will demonstrate the ability to guess the meaning of unknown terms, phrases or idioms from the context. Learners will demonstrate the ability to identify specific factual details and some implied meanings.
Writing:	Learners will demonstrate the ability to reduce a page of information to an outline or summary.
Language Skills	
Grammar Focus:	Comparatives and Superlatives
Vocabulary:	<i>pleasure, account for, state, resident, figure, region, purpose, overseas, total, approximately</i>
Culture	
Canadian travel and leisure habits	

Websites:

www.learnersdictionary.com

<http://www.prowritingaid.com/collocation.aspx>

www.dictionary.com

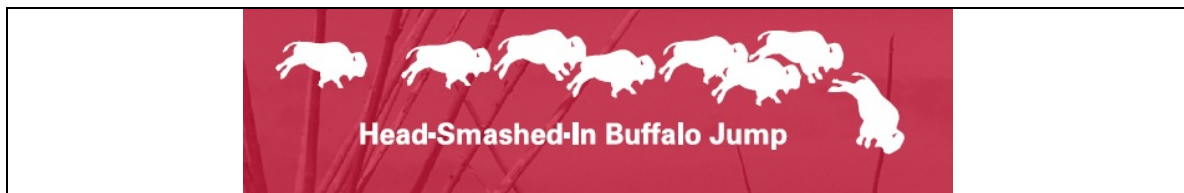
Introduction

Before you read, complete the first two columns of the KWL chart below:

K	W	L
What I know about tourism in Canadian Rockies.	What I want to know about tourism in the Canadian Rockies.	What I learned about tourism in the Canadian Rockies.

Pre-reading

The excerpt below was taken from <http://history.alberta.ca/headsmashedin/>



Food for thought

Do you know the name of the animal shown in the picture?

Based on the picture, what do you think the main reading will be about?

Why do you think historical sites are such popular places for people to visit around the world?

What historical places have you visited in Canada?

Did you have a favourite historical site to visit in your home country?

Main Reading

Title: Head Smashed In Buffalo Jump

Glossary¹

1. Prehistoric means of, relating to, or existing in the time before people could write.
2. Topography means the features (such as mountains and rivers) in an area of land.
3. Pemmican is dried meat pounded into a powder and mixed with hot fat and dried fruits or berries, pressed into a loaf or into small cakes.
4. Heritage means the traditions, achievements, beliefs, etc., that are part of the history of a group or nation.
5. Buffalo also known as bison is a large, hairy wild animal that has a big head and short horns.

As you read the selection, use *context clues* to help you figure out the meaning of the following words that you will come across: *lure, cairns, plunge*

Reading Strategy Tip: Improving Reading Rate

A good reader is able to read at various speeds. How fast you read depends on what you are reading and why you are reading. To increase your reading speed you need to read several words at a time. Look at this sentence taken from the main reading selection "The hunt began with a spiritual ceremony in which medicine women and men would go through detailed rituals to ensure a safe and successful hunt." To read this faster, you should read a group of words in one glance. The same sentence has been marked off into words groups. Read each word group in one glance.

The hunt began /with a spiritual ceremony /in which medicine women /and men /would go through/ detailed rituals /to ensure a safe/ and successful hunt.

Avoid doing the following:

- reading one word at a time
- moving your head as you read
- using your finger to point to each word as you read
- moving your lips when you read silently

The reading comprehension selection in this lesson can be used to check your reading rate. It has 402 words. Use a watch to time yourself. Write down the times that you start and stop reading.

¹ Definitions taken from www.learnersdictionary.com

Reading Comprehension

The reading selection was taken from <http://history.alberta.ca/headsmashedin/>

Head-Smashed-In-Buffalo-Jump

Head-smashed-in buffalo jump is known around the world for its remarkable testimony of prehistoric life. The site bears witness to a custom practiced by native people of the North American plains at HSIBJ for nearly 6,000 years. Thanks to their excellent understanding of topography and of bison behavior, they were able to kill bison by driving them over a precipice. Carcasses were carved up and processed in the butchering camp below.

In 1981, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) designated the jump as a World Heritage Site, placing it among other world attractions such as the Egyptian pyramids and the Galapagos Islands.

Buffalo Jumping

- Long before they had the horse, the gun or even the bow, Plains Native Tribes hunted the buffalo, driving herds to their death over the cliffs at Head-Smashed-In Buffalo Jump.
- Buffalo jumping is such a sophisticated hunting technique that modern science is only beginning to understand its workings.
- The hunt began with a spiritual ceremony in which medicine women and men would go through detailed rituals to ensure a safe and successful hunt.
- During the ceremonies, the 'buffalo runners' were sent to locate and herd the animals. These were young men who possessed skill to move the bison herds.
- The buffalo runners, disguised under animal hides, would pass near the herds and try to lure them toward the cliffs, using their intricate knowledge of buffalo behavior.
- Ingenious V-shaped drive lanes were used to channel herds to the most dangerous point on the cliffs. These lanes were edged with rows of stone cairns which are still visible today. The lanes snake their way across the countryside, following ridges, crossing coulees and rising across the tops of high hills.
- Near the cliff area of the drive lanes, people hid behind brush stuck into the cairns and prevented the beasts from straying by shouting and waving buffalo hides. Hunters rushed from behind, panicking the animals into a thundering headlong plunge over the cliff.
- After falling, many buffalo were only stunned or wounded. Hunters waited below the cliff to kill the surviving beasts. The Native People believed that escaping animals would warn other herds of the deadly trap.
- The kill brought a surplus of meat to families and clans participating in the hunt. The people dried the meat, made pemmican, extracted fat from the bones, made tools, and tanned hides. Almost every part of the animal was used.

Reading Comprehension

1. When was the Head-Smashed-In-Buffalo-Jump named a World Heritage Site?
2. Give an example of another World Heritage Site that is mentioned in the main reading selection.
3. "Carcasses were carved up and processed in the butchering camp below." Carcasses in this context refers to
 - a. The remaining parts of an old vehicle
 - b. The dead buffalo
 - c. The body of a dead animal.
4. Complete the sentence below by circling the correct part of speech and the correct definition:

In this context - "...people hid behind brush stuck into the cairns and prevented the beasts from straying by shouting and waving buffalo hides..." - the word straying is a noun/ verb/ adjective, and it means

 - a. going in a direction that is away from a group or from the place where you should be
 - b. to continue to be in the same place or with the same person or group for a period
 - c. to cause someone or something to suddenly become very confused, very dizzy, or unconscious
5. Complete the sentence below by circling the correct part of speech and the correct definition:

In this context - "After falling, many buffalo were only stunned or wounded ..." - the word stunned is a noun/ verb/ adjective, and it means

 - a. going in a direction that is away from a group or from the place where you should be
 - b. to continue to be in the same place or with the same person or group for a period
 - c. to cause someone or something to suddenly become very confused, very dizzy, or unconscious
6. Who hunted the buffalo?
7. Why was buffalo hunted?

8. According to the reading, where is this historic site located?
9. The jump was a hunting technique that had many steps. Read each statement below and put a check mark ✓ next to each action or step that was part of the hunting process described in the main reading. Put an ✗ next to each statement that was not a step or action in the jump.

	Statement	Step in the hunting process
1.	Buffalo jumping was a scientific technique.	
2.	First, there was a spiritual ceremony.	
3.	Buffalo runners were sent to find buffalo and then gather and move them.	
4.	Buffalo runners had to cover themselves with animal hides.	
5.	Buffalo runners knew how bison behaved.	
6.	The cliffs were dangerous.	
7.	There were lanes that followed ridges.	
8.	Buffalo runners made the bison jump over the cliffs.	

Vocabulary Development

A. Context Clues

Use context clues from the reading to guess the meaning of the following words:
lure, cairns, plunge

B. Definition Matching

The words in italics on the next page are taken from the reading. These words are also found on the *list of the first 2000 most commonly used words of English* and on the *Academic Word List*. Match the words to the correct definition and find the part of speech. The first one has been done for you as an example

Site, processed, ~~carved up~~, designated, technique, sophisticated, channel, snake, cliffs, thundering

	Word	Part of speech	Definition
1.	Carved up	Verb	Divided into small parts
2.			making a loud sound like the sound of thunder
3.			A high, steep surface of rock, earth,
4.			to change (something) from one form into another by preparing, handling, or treating it in a special way
5.			to move like a snake : to follow a twisting path with many turns
6.			to carry and move something in or through a tube, passage, etc.
7.			to call (something or someone) by a particular name or title
8.			a place that is used for a particular activity or a place where something important has happened
9.			highly developed and complex
10.			a way of doing something by using special knowledge or skill

C. Collocations

Words that are used in a certain way together are called collocations. A collocation is a particular combination of words. Take the word “fire”. Collocations of the word “fire” are *truck* and *fighter* – “fire truck” and “fire fighter” for example. Use online reference sites such as www.prowritingaid.com/collocation.aspx or www.thesaurus.com or www.dictionary.com to find the collocations of “Tourism” and “Region”. Complete the table below. The first one has been done for you as an example.

Site	Prehistoric
Prehistoric site	

Reading Strategy

To calculate your reading speed you need to do the following:

1. Subtract your beginning time from your ending time. For example if you started reading at 9:15 and stopped at 9:20 then you say $9:20 - 9:15 = 5$. This means it took you 5 minutes to read the selection.
2. Calculate the length of time it took you to read the selection in seconds. To do this you multiply the minutes it took you to read by 60. For example $5\text{min} \times 60\text{ seconds} = 300$ seconds.
3. Find out how many words you read per second. To do this you need to divide the number of words in the selection by the seconds it took you to read. For example you would say $402\text{ words} \div 300\text{ seconds} = 1.34$. This means that to read the selection you read 1.3 words per second.
4. To find the number of words you read per minute you need to multiply the number of seconds it took you to read the selection by 60. For example $1.34 \times 60 = 80$. This means that you read 80 words per minute.

Grammar Focus / Pragmatic Competence

Passive Voice

The **focus** of a sentence is different in the active voice and the passive voice.

Active voice: Skilled runners lured the buffalo toward the cliffs.

Passive voice: The buffalo were lured toward the cliffs by skilled runners.

To form the passive voice you use a form of be and the past participle of a verb.

Look at the table below. The verbs were taken from the main reading. Complete the table with the correct form of the simple past and the past participle. Use grammar reference books and guides to help you. Some forms are regular and others are irregular. The first one has been done for you as an example.

Verb	Simple Past Form	Past Participle Form
Approve	Approved	Approved
Give	Gave	Given
Disguise		
Follow		
Hunt		
Jump		
Begin		
Hide		
Rush		
Fall		
Make		
Extract		

Read each of the sentences below adapted from the main reading and identify the form of the underlined verb. Say whether the sentence is in the active voice or passive voice. The first one has been done for you as an example.

1. Long before they had the horse, the gun or even the bow, Plains Native Tribes hunted the buffalo. *Active voice*
2. The hunt began with a spiritual ceremony. _____
3. During the ceremonies, the 'buffalo runners' were sent to locate and herd the animals. _____
4. Ingenious V-shaped drive lanes were used to channel herds to the most dangerous point on the cliffs. _____
5. Hunters rushed from behind, panicking the animals into a thundering headlong plunge over the cliff. _____
6. Almost every part of the animal was used. _____

Writing time line sentences

A time line is a chart that gives events in the order in which they happened. In this activity you will read a time line that gives you a quick overview of the history of the Head-Smashed-In-Buffalo-Jump Centre that people can visit. Read the time line and then write complete sentences describing the events and when they took place. All the events happened in the past, so you would need to use past tenses. You will also need to use the passive voice and the active voice. The first one has been done for you as an example.

History

1968 – designated a National Historic Site

1979 – designated a Provincial Historic Resource

1981 – designated a World Heritage Site

1982 – May, Provincial Government approval for Interpretive Centre

1984 – September 28, ground breaking ceremony

1985 – June, start construction

1986 – October, finish construction

1986 – December, building occupancy

1987 – July 23, official opening with HRH Prince Andrew and Princess Sarah Ferguson, the Duke and Duchess of York.

Sentences

1. Head-Smashed-In-Buffalo-Jump was designated a National Historic Site in 1968.

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

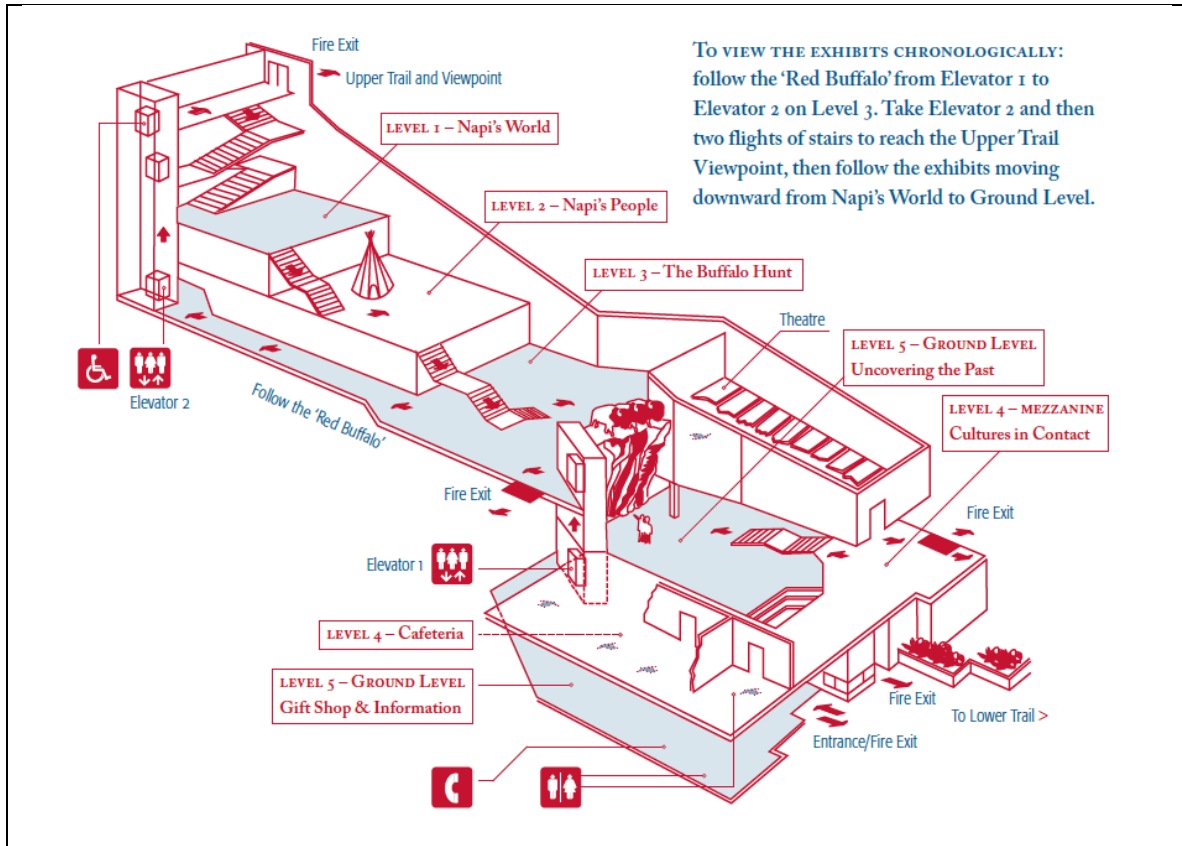
7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

Link to Essential Skills

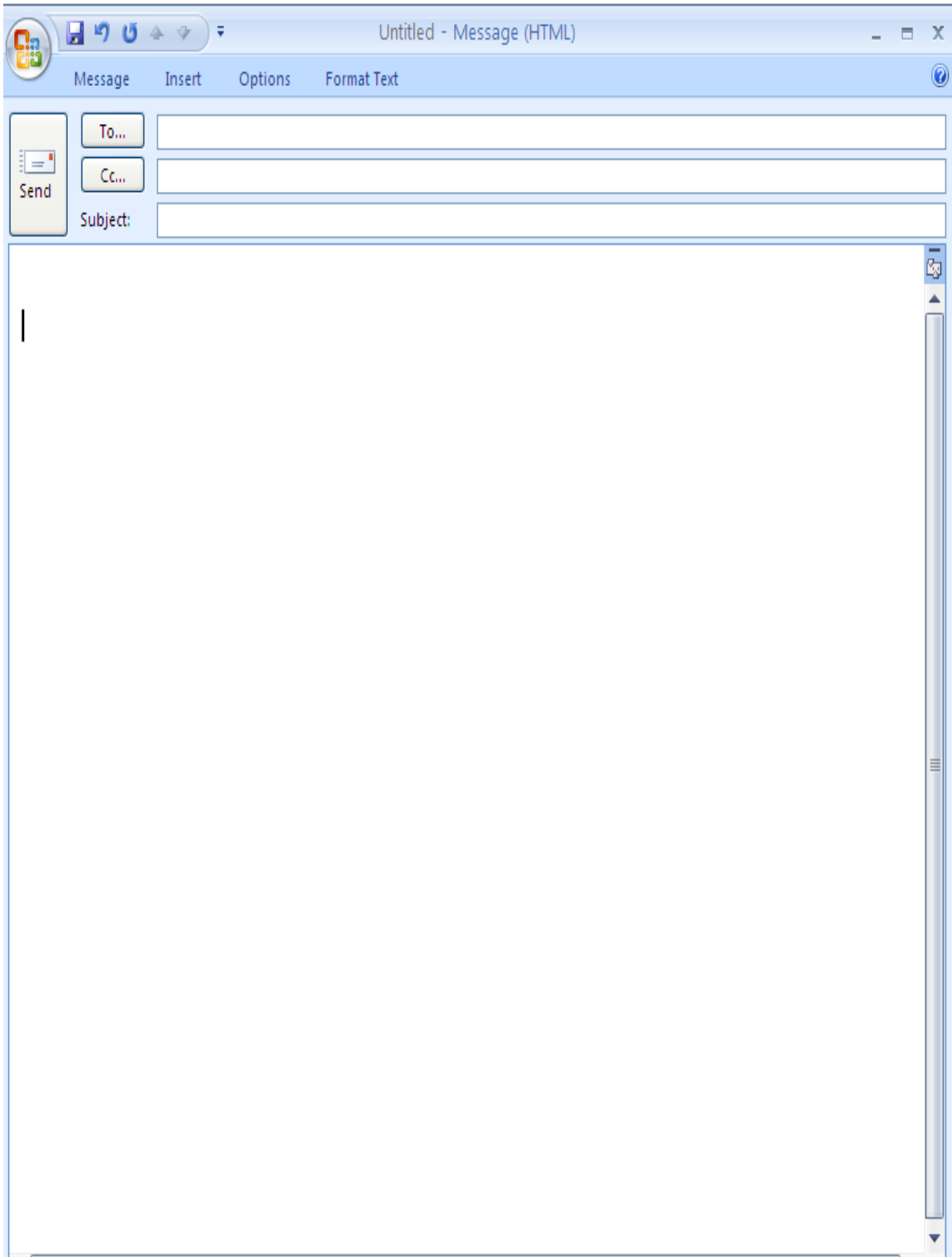
Essential skills are the skills needed for work, learning, and life (www.hrsdc.gc.ca). They are enabling skills that help you perform daily tasks as well as tasks required on the job. Reading a diagram is an important essential skill. In this activity, you will read a diagram and write information about it. Study the diagram below.



Look at the diagram that shows you where the different exhibits are located at the Head-Smashed-In-Buffalo-Jump Centre. Use the information in the diagram to write an email to your friend, Samina (samina@hotmail.com), describing where the different exhibits are located. In your email to Samina, make sure you include information on the following:

- the number of levels at the centre
- the number of exhibits
- elevators
- what is located on each level

Write your email in the space below.



The image shows a screenshot of an email composition window. The window title is "Untitled - Message (HTML)". The menu bar includes "Message", "Insert", "Options", and "Format Text". On the left side, there is a "Send" button with an envelope icon. To the right of the "Send" button are three input fields: "To...", "Cc...", and "Subject:". The main body of the window is a large, empty text area with a vertical scrollbar on the right side. A cursor is visible at the top left of the text area.

Answer Keys

Reading Comprehension

- 1981
- The Egyptian pyramids or Galapagos islands
- “Carcasses were carved up and processed in the butchering camp below.” Carcasses in this context refers to
 - The remaining parts of an old vehicle
 - The dead buffalo
 - The body of a dead animal.
- Complete the sentence below by circling the correct part of speech and the correct definition:
In this context - “...people hid behind brush stuck into the cairns and prevented the beasts from straying by shouting and waving buffalo hides...”- the word straying is a noun/ verb/ adjective, and it means
 - going in a direction that is away from a group or from the place where you should be
- Complete the sentence below by circling the correct part of speech and the correct definition:
In this context – “After falling, many buffalo were only stunned or wounded ...”- the word stunned is a noun/ verb/ adjective, and it means
to cause someone or something to suddenly become very confused, very dizzy, or unconscious
- Plains Native tribes.
- Buffalo was hunted for food, for the fat, to make tools, for the hides
- North America
-

	Statement	Step in the hunting process
1.	Buffalo jumping was a scientific technique.	x
2.	First, there was a spiritual ceremony.	✓
3.	Buffalo runners were sent to find buffalo and then gather and move them.	✓
4.	Buffalo runners had to cover themselves with animal hides.	✓
5.	Buffalo runners knew how bison behaved.	x
6.	The cliffs were dangerous.	x
7.	There were lanes that followed ridges.	x
8.	Buffalo runners made the bison jump over the cliffs.	✓

Vocabulary Development

A. Context Clues

Lure means to cause or persuade (a person or an animal) to go somewhere or to do something by offering some pleasure or gain

A *cairn* is a pile of stones that marks a place (such as the place where someone is buried or a battle took place) or that shows the direction of a trail

Plunge means to fall or jump suddenly from a high place

Precipice means a very steep side of a mountain or cliff

B. Definition Matching

	Word	Part of speech	Definition
1.	Carved up	Verb	Divided into small parts
2.	Thundering	Verb	making a loud sound like the sound of thunder
3.	Cliff	Noun	A high, steep surface of rock, earth,
4.	Process	Verb	to change (something) from one form into another by preparing, handling, or treating it in a special way
5.	Snake	Verb	to move like a snake : to follow a twisting path with many turns
6.	Channel	Verb	to carry and move something in or through a tube, passage, etc.
7.	Designated	Verb	to call (something or someone) by a particular name or title
8.	Site	Noun	a place that is used for a particular activity or a place where something important has happened
9.	Sophisticated	Adjective	highly developed and complex
10.	Technique	Noun	a way of doing something by using special knowledge or skill

C. Collocations * Answers will vary**

Site	Prehistoric
Prehistoric site	Prehistoric culture
Networking site	Prehistoric animals
Archeological site	Prehistoric ideas
Web site	Prehistoric time
Wound site	Prehistoric man

D. Definition Matching

	Word	Part of speech	Definition
1.	Carved up	Verb	Divided into small parts
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5.	Snake	Verb	to move like a snake : to follow a twisting path with many

			turns
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E. Collocations * Answers will vary**

Site	Prehistoric
Prehistoric site	Prehistoric culture
Networking site	Prehistoric animals
Archeological site	Prehistoric ideas
Web site	Prehistoric time
Wound site	Prehistoric man

Reading Strategy

Answers will vary

Grammar Focus / Pragmatic Competence

Verb	Simple Past Form	Past Participle Form
Approve	Approved	Approved
Give	Gave	Given
Disguise	Disguised	Disguised
Follow	Followed	Followed
Hunt	Hunted	Hunted
Jump	Jumped	Jumped
Begin	Began	Begun
Hide	Hid	Hidden
Rush	Rushed	Rushed
Make	Made	Made
Extract	Extracted	Extracted

Read each of the sentences below adapted from the main reading and identify the form of the underlined verb. Say whether the sentence is in the active voice or passive voice. The first one has been done for you as an example.

1. Long before they had the horse, the gun or even the bow, Plains Native Tribes

hunted the buffalo. *Active voice*

2. Active voice
3. Passive voice
4. Passive voice
5. Active voice
6. Passive voice

History

1. Head-Smashed-In-Buffalo-Jump was designated a National Historic Site in 1968.
2. It was designated a Provincial Historic Resource in 1979
3. In 1981 it was designated a World heritage Site.
4. In May 1982, Provincial Government gave approval for an Interpretive Centre
5. There was a ground breaking ceremony on September 28, 1984.
6. Construction started in June 1985.
7. Construction finished in October 1986.
8. Building occupancy was in December 1986.
9. The official opening with HRH Prince Andrew and Princess Sarah Ferguson, the Duke and Duchess of York was on July 23, 1987

Reading –Writing Link

*Paragraphs will vary**

Link to Essential Skills

Answers will vary.

Sample below:

Head-Smashed-In-Buffalo-Jump is a World Heritage Site where you can learn about this famous hunting technique used by the Plains Native Tribes thousands of years ago. There is an interpretive center at the site. This center has five floor levels and a number of exhibits. The names of the exhibits are: Napi's World, Napi's People, The Buffalo Hunt, Uncovering the Past, and Cultures in Contact. You can view these exhibits in chronological order by following the "Red Buffalo" which guides you around the center. There are elevators and stairs to take you to the different levels. There is also a gift shop and a cafeteria.