



Schools Handout # 6

Temples in Cambodia



ANGKOR WAT

- Angkor Wat is the most famous temple in Cambodia
- It was located in Angkor, which was the capital city of the Khmer empire
- It was built in the early 12th century
- The height from the ground to the top of the central tower is 213 metres
- It was dedicated to the Hindu God, Vishnu
- During the 15th century almost all of Angkor city was abandoned, except Angkor Wat,

which had been converted into a Buddhist temple. It is suggested that Angkor city was abandoned due to flood and war

- Today two million people visit Angkor Wat each year, and restoration work is constantly being undertaken on this famous temple

BEANTEAY KDEI

- This temple was built in the mid-12th to early 13th centuries
- It's name means 'A Citadel of Chambers'
- It is located across from Sranh Srang, which was the royal bathing pool
- After the Khmer empire ended, this temple remained neglected for many years and was rediscovered around 1920



KOH KER

- Koh Ker is located 120km from Siem Reap, home of Angkor Wat
- In the 10th century it was briefly the capital of the Khmer empire, with at least 10,000 inhabitants living there
- Many hand-chiselled statues were looted and remain in museums and private collections today

PREAH VIHEAR

- This temple is located on top of a 525 metre cliff on the Cambodia/Thai border
- For many years there were arguments between Thailand and Cambodia over who owned the temple, with violence and deaths resulting
- In 2013 the International Court of Justice (ICJ) ruled that the temple and land belonged to Cambodia, and that Thai soldiers had to leave
- Preah Vihear was the last place in Cambodia to fall to the Khmer Rouge in 1975
- Nowadays it is a popular destination in Cambodia. If foreigners want to visit they must show their passports



THOMMANON

- This is one of a pair of temples and was built in the 12th century
- It is dedicated to the Shiva and Vishnu, Hindu Gods
- There are many carvings of females, known as devatas
- Its 'sister' is located opposite where Thommanon lies, and is called Chau Say Tevoda
- In the 1960's Thommanon underwent a full restoration

PHNOM BOK

- This is a hill with a temple on top of it
- You have to climb 635 stairs to get to the top
- Frangipani trees grow from the top of two temples
- It was built sometime between the 9th and 10th centuries by King Yasovarman I
- It has two 'sisters', Phnom Bakheng and Phnom Kroam

