

UNIT 1 : TRAVEL AND WORLD TOURISM

Lesson type: Reading
Source: *Paint the World Green*, by Jessie Kollen September 6, 2016-Adapted(Text)/P.E.

LEARNING CONTEXT

On the occasion of an Exchange Programme for Students in Ghana, your class is going to visit some tourist attractions in Cape Coast. You are given a text to read in order to learn how tourism can help value and preserve nature.

LESSON CONTENT

A- TEXT

Ecotourism: What on Earth Is It?

Ecotourism can simply mean visiting a place where nature - or ecology - is the main attraction. Ecotourism involves travel to natural habitats, places where the land and wildlife are the reason for visiting and may be in need of preservation. Sustainable tourism on the other hand is when tourists make a smaller impact on the place they are visiting. This means respect for the local culture as well choosing businesses that have sustainable practices. Ecotourism and sustainable tourism are ethically similar, and shouldn't be confused with adventure tourism, as tour packages that take visitors to national parks or reserves may not necessarily be operated by companies that are actively preserving or supporting the location.

In countries like Australia, Sweden, Costa Rica and Kenya, ecotourism guidelines have been put in place, but elsewhere the classification is loose and tourism businesses can make use of the term without committing to the environment.

A legitimate ecotourism destination respects and supports the indigenous people of the area. Those of us who dream of an adventure in the Galapagos or taking wildlife photographs in misty jungle locations should look for an eco-tour with a genuine operator so our tourist dollar goes towards the local community and conservation of the surrounding environment.

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B- VOCABULARY

- **Ecotourism** is the business of organizing tours to natural areas, or the activity of visiting a place like these on holiday, being careful not to damage the natural environment.
- Something **sustainable** is able to last long without causing damage to the environment.
- A **package** is a set of ideas or services that are suggested or offered all together as a group.
- A **commitment** is a promise to do something or to behave in a particular way.
- **Genuine** = authentic
- **Involve** = include
- **Similar** is the opposite of different.

C- LANGUAGE FUNCTION

Joining sentences with ***relative words*.** We can use relative words to join sentences.

(who – which – when – where…)

Example:

- Local farmers grow food. / Local farmers supply hotels with their products.

→ Local farmers who grow food supply hotels with their products.

COMMUNICATION ACTIVITY

After your visit to Cape Coast, you decide to write an article in your school English club magazine to inform the members about ecotourism. Write this article in which you:

- say what ecotourism is;
- give the advantages of ecotourism;
- encourage your friends to promote ecotourism.
  (15 lines maximum)

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EXERCISES

Exercise 1 : Complete the paragraph below with appropriate words from the box.

similar – sustainable – packages – ecotourism – commitment – genuine – involves

Tourism has had different forms in the past years. Today, people talk more about **(……1…..).** It is a growing industry which is helping to the protection of natural ressources. It also empowers local communities. Africa has been a leader in the international towards **(……2…..)** tourism. That's why tourists are seeking for tour **(……3…..)** which take into account the preservation of nature. It **(……4…..)** the **(……5…..)** to eat food that is made of local ingredients, to stay in **(……6…..)** accommodation that is environmentally friendly. Therefore, ecotourism and being more responsible for the preservation of nature are **(……7…..)** in order to allow future generations to enjoy wonderful heritage.

Adapted from the definition of ecotourism by Hector Ceballos- Lascurain

Exercise 2 : Answer the following questions about the text.

1- What is ecotourism?
2- Is ecotourism different from sustainable tourism? Justify your answer.
3- Does hiring a tour package guaranty ecotourism? Justify your answer.
4- What does a true ecotourism destination imply?

Exercise 3 : Join each of the following pairs of sentences in a single meaningful one with a relative word.

Example : 1-who

1- Local farmers grow food. / Local farmers supply hotels with their products.
   - Local farmers who grow food supply hotels with their products.
2- The river is full of crocodiles. The river is dying out.
3- It was that day. Tourists came first to our village.
4- It's the house on the hill. Tourists like spending the night there.

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