

Task 3 Texts | Countryside is GREAT**Text A: Loch Ness**

Loch Ness is a deep, freshwater loch (Scottish Gaelic for 'lake') in the remote highlands of Scotland. It is a very popular tourist destination in the UK and there are plenty of outdoor activities to do in the area, including golf, fishing and hiking, and (for the very fit!) there is an annual marathon. Nearby are charming towns and villages and the city of Inverness. In terms of its volume, Loch Ness is Scotland's largest lake. It is approximately 37 kilometres long and 2.7 kilometres wide and has a depth of over 700 metres at its deepest point. The thing that Loch Ness is arguably most famous for is the legend of the monster which supposedly lurks in the water. If you visit, you could take a boat cruise and, if you're lucky, you might catch a glimpse of the world famous 'Nessie'.

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Text B: Giant's Causeway

Giant's Causeway is a place of natural beauty on the north coast of Northern Ireland. It is composed of approximately 40,000 hexagonal columns of basalt rock, which were formed as a result of volcanic activity between 50 and 60 million years ago. It is named after an alternative story of its creation: an Irish giant created a bridge to cross the Irish Sea in order to face his Scottish rival giant. It was declared as Ireland's first World Heritage Site by UNESCO in 1986 and is now owned and run by The National Trust. It is one of the country's top tourist attractions, and visitors can walk around the rocks for free, or take a guided tour with storytellers. Birdwatchers will also find much to entertain them here: the cliffs and rocks are home to a wide variety of sea birds.

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Text C: Powis Castle

Powis Castle in central Wales – near the English border - was built in the 13th century by a Welsh prince, Gruffudd ap Gwenwynwyn. From the 1570s, the castle was occupied by the Herbert family, who collected paintings, sculpture, furniture and tapestries from around the world. Today the castle is cared for by the National Trust, and visitors can enjoy viewing the collection throughout the house and in the museum. The rooms are filled with valuable and unique items – including a Roman statue of a cat! The castle stands on a rock above its world-famous garden with spectacular views over the River Severn and the border countryside. The garden has formal terraces, gardens with ancient trees and a peaceful woodland area. If you're lucky, you might see deer, foxes or badgers. The castle and gardens receive nearly 200,000 visitors each year.

Task 3 Texts | Countryside is GREAT**Text D: Stonehenge**

Stonehenge is a breathtaking prehistoric monument in the rural county of Wiltshire in the south of England. It is composed of enormous standing stones which are set into the ground to form a circular shape, and archaeologists believe it dates back to anywhere from approximately 3000 BCE to approximately 2000 BCE. In 1986, UNESCO added the site and its surroundings to its list of World Heritage Sites. The Crown owns Stonehenge and it is managed by English Heritage, however the surrounding land is owned by the National Trust. Although many years and a lot of money have been spent on researching the site, the reason behind the construction of Stonehenge remains a mystery. Each year, at the time of the summer solstice, the monument is in alignment with the sun. This attracts many visitors, including those who view this as having religious significance.