


IT'S TALLER THAN THE **EIFFEL TOWER!**

76

**The minute hand
of the Mecca clock
is 22 meters long.**

Preview

A  2-28 **Listen.** Complete the sentences using the correct forms of the words in the box.

long interesting tall deep large

1. Arsenalna Station is the _____ metro station in the world.
2. The Seikan Tunnel is the _____ and deepest underground rail tunnel.
3. The Gherkin is one of the _____ buildings in London.
4. The Oasis of the Seas is the _____ cruise ship in the world.
5. The Abraj Al-Bait Towers has the world's _____ clock tower.

B  2-28 **Listen again.** Circle the correct answers.

1. At about (**105** / **205**) meters deep, Arsenalna Station is too deep to reach on a single escalator.
2. Almost half of the Seikan Tunnel runs (**through mountains** / **under the sea**).
3. The 16th floor of The Gherkin is the (**largest** / **most interesting**).
4. The Oasis of the Seas is just as (**long** / **tall**) as its sister ship, the Allure.
5. The Abraj Al-Bait Towers is (**shorter** / **taller**) than Shanghai Tower.

C **Talk with a partner.** What is the most impressive man-made structure in your country? What do you know about it?


There's a new skyscraper downtown that's really tall.

I think it's the tallest in the city.



The Gherkin is
180 meters tall.

Language Focus

A  2-29 **Listen and read.** Then repeat the conversation and replace the words in **blue**.

REAL ENGLISH That's too bad.

B **Practice with a partner.** Replace any words to make your own conversation.

1 So, you've never been to the top of this skyscraper before?
No, I can't wait to **see the view!**
get to the top
see the city from the top

2 This elevator is really **fast**.
I think it's the **fastest** elevator I've ever been in.
small / smallest
noisy / noisiest

3 Aw, you can't see much. It's **too cloudy**.
That's too bad.
too misty
not clear enough

4 Hey, where's Stig?
Come on out! It's not as **scary** as you think!
bad
frightening

 2-30

DESCRIBING AND COMPARING THINGS

You can't get to Arsenalna Station on a single escalator. It's **too deep**.

Celia is **old enough** to drive. She's twenty-one.


The Oasis of the Seas is just **as tall as** the Allure of the Seas.

The Mecca Clock Tower is **taller than** Taipei 101. It's also **newer**.

The Empire State Building was **more expensive than** The Gherkin to build.

The Seikan Tunnel is **the longest** undersea tunnel in the world. It's also **the deepest**.

The Burj Khalifa is **the most famous** skyscraper in Dubai.

C  2-31 **Complete the sentences.** Use the words in the box with *too* or *enough*. Then listen and check your answers.

expensive hungry slow old tall wide

1. I can't afford the ticket price to the observation deck. It's _____.
2. Jay is 15. He isn't _____ to drive yet.
3. Six cars can't drive side by side on that bridge. It's not _____.
4. This train is _____. We'll never get to the movie theater in time.
5. I'm not _____ to reach the shelf. Can you help me?
6. Sorry, but I already ate. I was _____ to wait for you!

D **Complete the sentences.** Use the correct forms of the words in parentheses.

(1) The most memorable (**memorable**) way to see New York City is from one of its many skyscrapers. (2) _____ (**famous**) is surely the Empire State Building. But some visitors who have gone to Top of the Rock at Rockefeller Center say the view from there is just as good as the view from the Empire State Building. Others even claim that the view is actually (3) _____ (**good**) in the whole city. Tickets, however, are just (4) _____ (**expensive**) those at the Empire State Building. But Top of the Rock's lines are shorter and its elevator is (5) _____ (**fast**). So while Top of the Rock is not (6) _____ (**famous**) the Empire State Building, it's attracting more and more tourists.

E **Work in a group.** Pick one structure below and compare it to something else. Add your own ideas. Take turns.

The Eiffel Tower

The Great Wall of China

Machu Picchu

The Great Pyramid

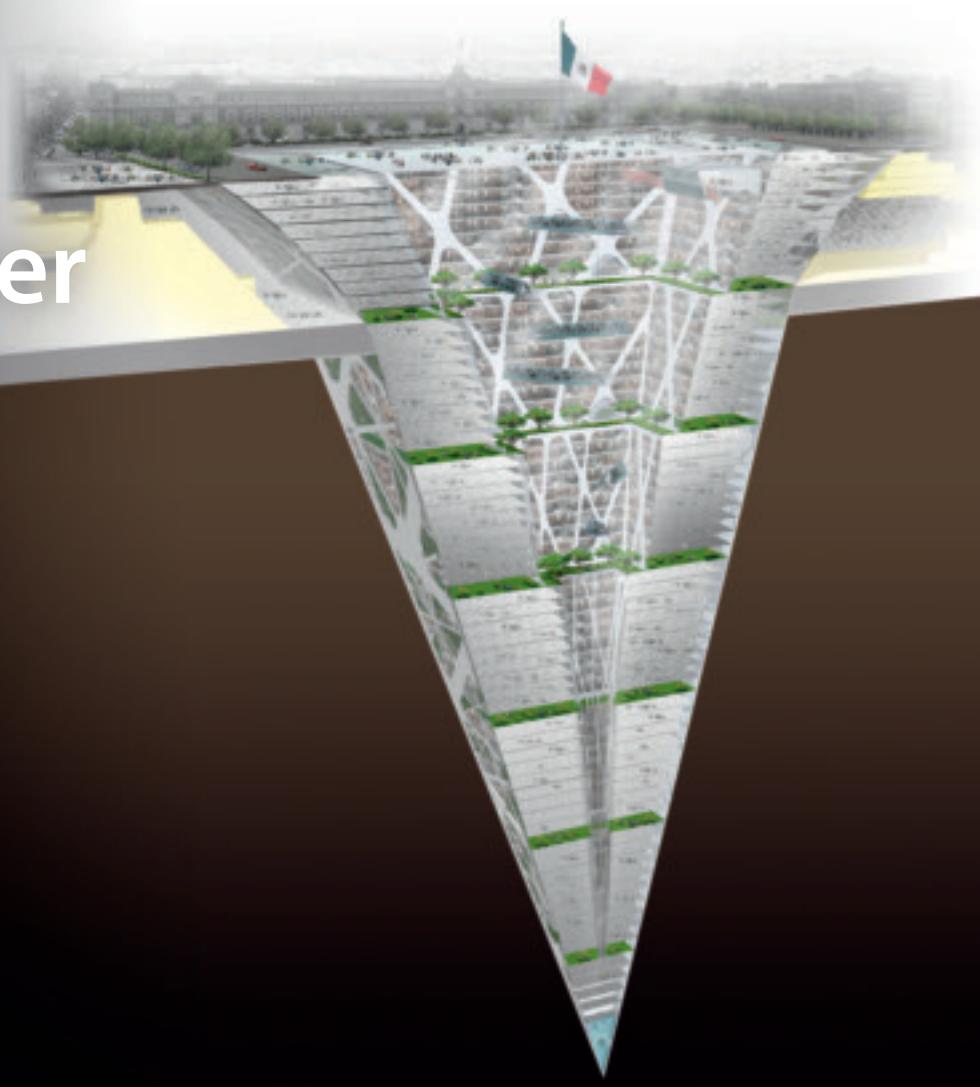
The Leaning Tower of Pisa

The White House

The Great Pyramid is the largest pyramid in Egypt. I think it's a more interesting place to visit than the Eiffel Tower because . . .



Earthscraper



As cities get bigger and bigger, the traditional solution has been to build skyscrapers. But architects in Mexico City—one of the world’s largest cities—have another idea. Instead of building up, they want to build down. If this building gets built, it will be the world’s first earthscraper.

A 2-32 **Listen.** Complete the chart with information about Earthscraper.

	Number of stories	
	Depth	
	Reason for building	
	Location in city	

B 2-32 **Listen again.** Circle **T** for True or **F** for False.

1. Earthscraper will be taller than the Eiffel Tower. **T** **F**
2. Earthscraper has a glass top to allow sunlight in. **T** **F**
3. The museum will showcase cultures around the world. **T** **F**
4. Earth lobbies will help to make the air in the building better. **T** **F**

CRITICAL THINKING Do you think Earthscraper will be built someday? Would you like to live in a building like this?

Pronunciation

Emphatic stress

A 2-33 Listen and repeat.

1. The new plane is **much** faster than the previous model.
2. The Twister roller coaster is **way** too scary for me!
3. The new bridge is **just** as long as the old one.

B 2-34 Listen. Underline the stressed words.

1. The view from here is a lot better than I thought.
2. The price of the high-speed train is way too expensive.
3. The new stadium is a little easier to get to.
4. I told you this bridge is just as long as the City Bridge.
5. The car we rented was not nearly big enough for all of us.
6. The seats on the new ferry are so much more comfortable.

C Work with a partner. Take turns to read the sentences in B.

DO YOU KNOW?



The first building in the world to have more than 100 floors was _____.

- a. the John Hancock Center
- b. the Empire State Building
- c. Taipei 101

Communication

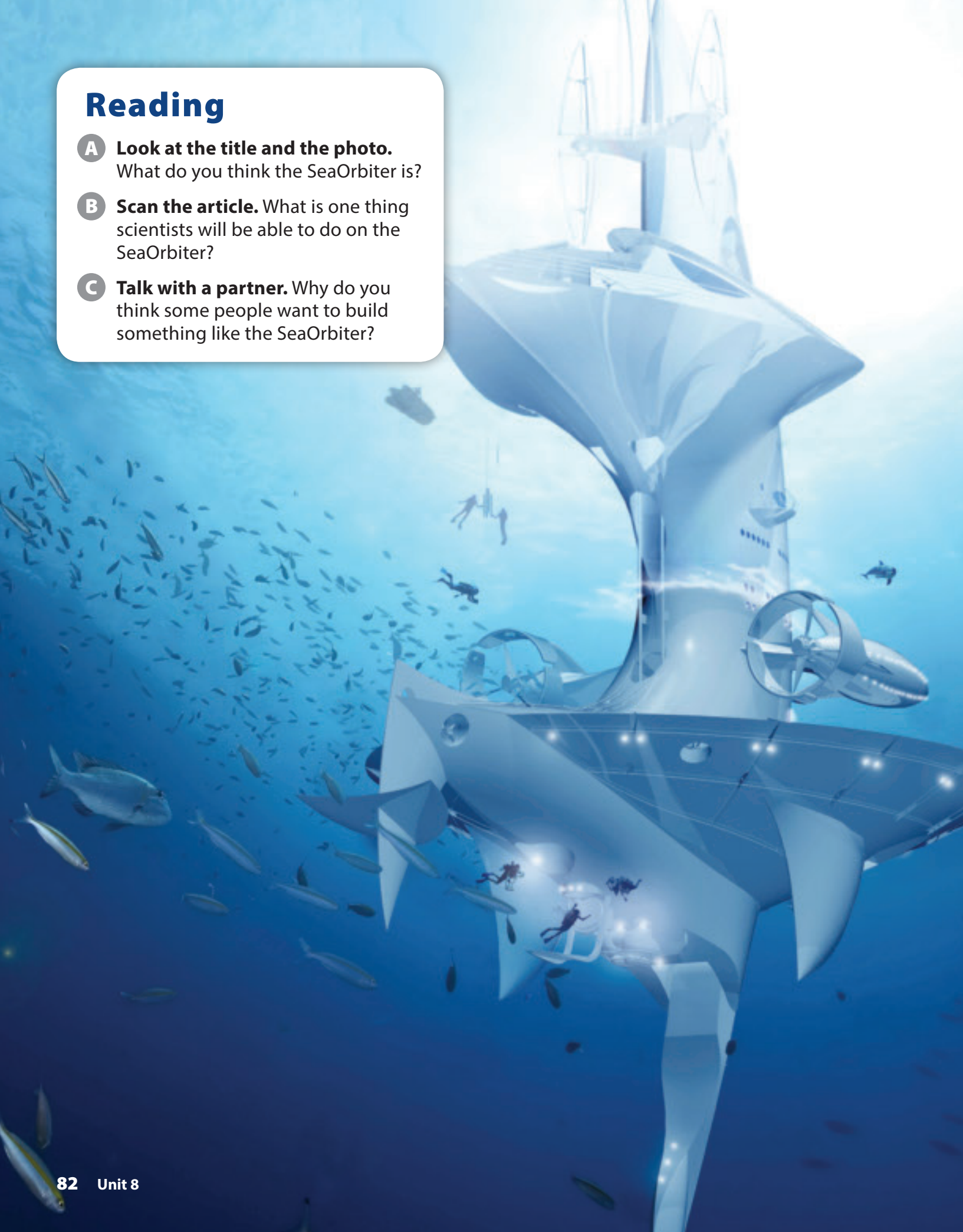
Create a quiz. Work with a partner. Complete the sentences to create a true/false quiz. Then test your quiz on another pair.

1. _____ is the biggest _____ in the world.
2. _____ is much higher than _____.
3. _____ is not as long as _____.
4. _____ is faster than _____.
5. _____ is farther north than _____.
6. _____ has a smaller population than _____.
7. _____ is the oldest _____.
8. The _____ is too _____ to _____.
9. The most _____ country in the world is _____.
10. _____.

Châtelet–Les Halles station in Paris is the biggest underground train station in the world. True or false?

Reading

- A** Look at the title and the photo. What do you think the SeaOrbiter is?
- B** Scan the article. What is one thing scientists will be able to do on the SeaOrbiter?
- C** Talk with a partner. Why do you think some people want to build something like the SeaOrbiter?



SEAORBITER 2-35

Staring out of your bedroom window, you watch as a great white shark swims by. Soon an octopus comes into view, followed by a jellyfish. You're on the SeaOrbiter, one of the most high-tech vessels ever created for ocean exploration.

- 5 The 60-meter-tall vessel, which is being built with support from the National Geographic Society, has an unusual design. The top half is above the ocean's surface, while the bottom is underwater. Unlike a ship, the SeaOrbiter is so energy-efficient that it can stay in the water for long periods without returning to land to refuel. "Scientists can observe the
- 10 oceans for months or even years on end," SeaOrbiter operations director Bill Todd says.

While other vessels make a lot of noise as they move through water, the SeaOrbiter will be quiet. Although the vessel won't make much noise, it will pick up plenty. Super-sensitive underwater recorders will capture

15 sounds from marine life, such as whales that are too far below the vessel to be seen. Check out some of the SeaOrbiter's coolest features:

The Lab An egg-shaped space with three levels, the above-water marine lab will have several aquariums. These will contain small marine animals that scientists can view up close. They can also use the high-tech lab

20 equipment to test pollution levels in seawater.

Power Sources With more than 280 square meters of solar panels on its sides and the wind turbine near the top, the SeaOrbiter will mostly run on solar and wind energy. Its motors will only be turned on when necessary, such as when entering a port. "The vessel is very eco-friendly," Todd says.

25 "Our goal is to study the ocean without changing it."

Divers Delight The diving equipment room is located seven meters above the ocean. After putting on scuba gear, scientists will be able to take an outdoor elevator and go 12 meters below the water's surface.

Remotely Operated Vehicles Below the surface are Remotely Operated

30 Vehicles, devices that let scientists explore underwater mountains, canyons, and even shipwrecks without leaving the vessel. These vehicles can travel deep into the ocean while sending live video back to the SeaOrbiter.

Life Onboard With room for 22 people, the living area on the SeaOrbiter will be of top quality. Bedrooms will come with TVs, computers, and large

35 underwater windows acting as personal aquariums. There will be several classrooms and even a fitness center.

When the SeaOrbiter is launched, it will sail to remote parts of oceans. It will move with the currents while scientists conduct research. This incredible vessel, says Todd, "will help us uncover the secrets of the sea."

Comprehension

IDIOM

When something is “smooth sailing,” it’s _____.

- a. moving fast
- b. difficult to do
- c. progressing well

A Answer the questions about *SeaOrbiter*.

1. **Main Idea** The SeaOrbiter is mainly going to be used as a _____.
 - a. research vessel
 - b. five-star hotel
 - c. high-tech weather station
2. **Detail** What is not mentioned as an advantage the SeaOrbiter has over a regular ship?
 - a. It’s quieter.
 - b. It’s more efficient.
 - c. It can move more quickly.
3. **Detail** The SeaOrbiter gets most of its energy from _____.
 - a. the sun and wind
 - b. seawater
 - c. wind and ocean currents
4. **Vocabulary** A “port” is a place where _____. (line 24)
 - a. scientists do research
 - b. many marine animals live
 - c. ships stop to load or unload
5. **Inference** Scientists on the SeaOrbiter can probably study an animal 3,000 meters below the vessel by sending _____.
 - a. a team of divers with a video camera
 - b. a remotely controlled vehicle
 - c. a submarine with a diver inside

B Mark where these places are located on the *SeaOrbiter*. Are they above the sea (A) or below the sea (B)?

- _____ sound recorders _____ the lab _____ the wind turbine
_____ dive equipment room _____ remote controlled vehicles _____ bedrooms

C **CRITICAL THINKING** Talk with a partner. Do you think it’s important to explore the oceans? What might be challenging about life aboard the *SeaOrbiter*?

Writing

Create a poster of an interesting man-made structure. Include details about its location, who created it, when it was created, why it’s impressive, and how it compares to similar structures.



The Sheraton Huzhou Hot Springs Resort is a hotel in Huzhou, China. It has an interesting shape—it’s shaped like a horseshoe. The

hotel has nicknames like “horseshoe hotel” and “donut hotel.” It was designed by an architect named Ma Yansong . . .

Green Museum

ABOUT THE VIDEO

The California Academy of Sciences has a unique museum.

BEFORE YOU WATCH

Talk with a partner. Check (✓) the things you think you can find in the green museum in California.

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a rain forest | <input type="checkbox"/> an aquarium | <input type="checkbox"/> a garden |
| <input type="checkbox"/> a coral reef | <input type="checkbox"/> a research center | <input type="checkbox"/> a flower market |

WHILE YOU WATCH

A Check your answers to the Before You Watch question.

B Watch the video again. Circle the correct answers.

1. The California Academy of Sciences has the (**biggest** / **oldest**) green museum in the world.
2. The climate in the dome is (**cool and dry** / **hot and humid**).
3. The water in the aquarium comes from (**a river** / **the ocean**).
4. The aquarium has the (**deepest** / **widest**) tank for a coral reef in the world.

Visitors in the museum

AFTER YOU WATCH

Talk with a partner. Would you like to visit this museum? What do you think is the most interesting thing about the museum?

