Chapter summary

Chapter 1 (A world of wonders) introduces the idea of ‘wonders’. Of the wonders described by historian Herodotus 2,000 years ago, only one – the Great Pyramid in Egypt – survives. However, Herodotus was only interested in wonders created by people, whereas now we regard many natural events and structures as wonders, too. Examples of both are described in this book.

Chapter 2 (Petra – city of pink stone) describes the ancient city of Petra, some of whose buildings are cut into the pink stone of the local mountains. It was once a prosperous trading place, but when people started using ships rather than camels to transport goods the city lost its importance, and it was uninhabited and forgotten for over a thousand years.

Chapter 3 (The Serengeti migration) describes the annual migration of 1.5 million wildebeest around the Serengeti as they look for food, water and places to breed. Many other animals join them, and predators like lions and crocodiles are waiting for them at many places. The journey is difficult and dangerous, and a quarter of a million wildebeest die every year during the migration.

Chapter 4 (Angkor Wat) is about the most famous temple in Cambodia (which also features on the national flag). Unlike other ancient temples in the region, it has not been submerged by the forest as it is surrounded by canals. It was a Hindu temple, built to resemble the mountain home of the Hindu gods, surrounded by oceans. Later it became a Buddhist temple.

Chapter 5 (The Iguazú Falls) is about the hundreds of waterfalls on the Iguazú river, on the border between Brazil and Argentina. As well as the spectacular falls, there are parks on either side of the river with rare animals, birds and trees. However, this area may be in danger from dams that are being built both above and below the waterfalls.

Chapter 6 (Chichén Itzá) looks at the city built by the Maya over a thousand years ago. We know from the remaining buildings that they were interested in mathematics and astronomy, and that they played ball games in an enormous stone court. They also carried out human sacrifice.

Chapter 7 (The Grand Canyon) is about the canyon which was created as, about 7 million years ago, the Colorado River cut through the land. The result is a gorge over a kilometre deep, showing more than forty layers of differently coloured rocks that have formed over the last two billion years. The earliest of these date back to a time before the continent of North America was created.

Chapter 8 (The Alhambra) describes the building created by the last Muslim kings of Spain. Designed as a defensive fort against the Spanish, who were intent on pushing the Muslims back to North Africa, the Alhambra later became a beautiful palace, with courtyards, fountains and intricately carved stonework.

Chapter 9 (The lights of the aurora) provides information about the Northern and Southern Lights, which are unpredictable and normally seen only towards the earth’s poles. This colourful light display, which may be static or dancing, is caused by streams of particles from the sun which are attracted to the magnetic poles of the earth and collide with particles in earth’s atmosphere.

Chapter 10 (Kyoto) is about the city – once the capital of Japan – which is famous for its temples and gardens. It is a place for contemplation and appreciation of nature. There are gardens with moss and trees, and one famous garden containing only carefully arranged stones.

Chapter 11 (The Great Barrier Reef) explains that the reef is really a group of large living islands, created by millions of corals (tiny sea animals). A quarter of all living things in the sea are found around coral reefs. However, the future of these reefs is uncertain as the sea is getting warmer and more polluted.
Chapter 12 (Qin’s last army) describes the underground army of terracotta soldiers discovered in China in 1974. These were commissioned by Qin Shi Huang Di, the man who first united China, becoming its Emperor over two thousand years ago. Nearly two thousand soldiers, all different, have been excavated so far, but thousands more are still under the ground.

Chapter 13 (Tomorrow’s wonders) mentions some things that have been built recently that may be considered wonders in the future.
Read the clues and fill in the crossword.

ACROSS:
2 A wild animal like a horse with black and white stripes on its body.
4 A long, narrow passage that carries water.
6 A building where people worship a god or gods.
8 Something that is worth a lot of money.
11 Between warm and cold.
12 A large area of land covered with trees.
15 A wall that is built across a river to hold the water back.
16 To travel from place to place looking for food and water.
17 An animal with a long thin body and no legs.

DOWN:
1 A large animal with a long neck that carries people and things in hot, dry places.
3 Power that makes machines work, and can make heat and light.
5 A model of a person, made from stone or metal.
7 Something that people use to fight with (like a knife or gun).
9 The door or opening where you go into a place.
10 Made by nature, not by people.
13 A light red colour.
14 A large place with trees and gardens where people can walk.

The answers are these words:

natural, temple, migrate, zebra, dam, canal, treasure, park, camel, entrance, forest, weapon, snake, electricity, pink, statue, cool.

To the teacher
Aim: To introduce some of the key vocabulary.
Time: 15–20 minutes
Organization: Give one copy of the worksheet to each student or group of students. Ask students to complete the crossword. To make the activity easier, give them the words listed at the bottom of the page; to make it more difficult, omit these words. When the students have finished, go through the answers and ask students to discuss how each word might relate to world wonders.
Key: 1 camel, 2 zebra, 3 electricity, 4 canal, 5 statue, 6 temple, 7 weapon, 8 treasure, 9 entrance, 10 natural, 11 cool, 12 forest, 13 pink, 14 park, 15 dam, 16 migrate, 17 snake.
Read these summaries. There are twelve mistakes in the text. Find them and correct them. The first one is corrected for you.

**PETRA**
Most people come to Petra by car, or perhaps on a camel. The entrance to Petra is called the *Siq*. The walls on both sides of the road are hundreds of metres high. When you come to the end of the *Siq*, you see the Monastery. It is a tall, beautiful building, and it is made of white stone.

**ANGKOR WAT**
Angkor Wat is the most famous building in Japan. Angkor Wat is a school. It was built to look like a mountain. There are other buildings in Angkor, but the forest destroyed many of them. Angkor Wat was not destroyed, because it had roads around it, on all four sides.

**CHICHÉN ITZÁ**
The city of Chichén Itzá was built by the Maya people of Brazil over a thousand years ago. On four special days every year, thousands of people come to see a ‘snake’ made of sunlight and shadows. They also visit the Great Ball Court, where the Maya people played a game like tennis.

**THE GRAND CANYON**
When you look down into the Grand Canyon, you see a road at the bottom. The walls of the canyon are made of layers of stone. There are nearly fourteen different layers, and they are many different colours. The oldest layer is at the bottom, and it is about two million years old.

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**To the teacher**

Where: At the end of Chapter 7 (*The Grand Canyon*).
Aim: To revise and consolidate some of the key facts and vocabulary so far.
Time: 15–20 minutes
Organization: Give each student, or pair of students, a copy of the summary, and ask them to find and correct the mistakes. There are three in each summary. Go through the answers with the class, and see how many other related details students can remember. You could also ask students to write or talk about the other chapters not covered above (particularly *The Serengeti migration* and *The Iguazu Falls*).

World Wonders

After reading activity

Matching sentences and places

Which places do these sentences describe? Match the sentences with the places.

1. This temple was built for the Hindu god Vishnu.
2. Alaska, Iceland and Siberia are good places to see this.
3. Rare animals, like jaguars, live here.
4. Chinese workers found this when they were looking for water.
5. Two big earthquakes destroyed many buildings here.
6. This is in the south of Spain.
7. This starts in April every year.
8. This was made by a river which slowly cut into the rocks.
9. The most famous garden in this city is made of stones.
10. Thousands of kinds of fish and sea animals live here.
11. The name of this place means ‘red fort’.
12. This journey is very dangerous, and thousands of animals die.
13. This was made for the first Emperor of China.
14. This is a very large living thing, and it is growing all the time.
15. You can see a picture of this on a country’s flag.
16. This is also called the Northern Lights.
17. You can see the Devil’s Throat here.
18. People cut buildings into the mountains here.
19. For more than a thousand years, this city was the capital city of Japan.
20. This is about 1.2 kilometres deep.

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<th>Petra</th>
<th>5, __</th>
<th>The Serengeti migration</th>
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To the teacher

Aim: To revise some of the main facts about the world wonders described in the book.

Time: 10–15 minutes

Organization: Give each student, or pair of students, a copy of the worksheet. You can also do this as a whole class activity with the worksheet on an OHP and ask students to discuss in pairs and give the answers to you to write on the OHP. Go through the answers with the whole class, asking students what other related details they can remember about the places in the book.

Key: Petra – 5, 18; The Serengeti migration – 7, 12; Angkor Wat – 1, 15; The Iguazú Falls – 3, 17; The Grand Canyon – 8, 20; The Alhambra – 6, 11; The aurora borealis – 2, 16; Kyoto – 9, 19; The Great Barrier Reef – 10, 14; The Terracotta Army – 4, 13.