



**STUDENT EXPLORATION GRADES 7-12**

**DECODING ANGKOR** (*maroon on the map*)

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ប្រាសាទអង្គរវត្ត

Most of the writing that has been found in Angkor is Sanskrit. Sanskrit has influenced today's Khmer language and writing. Copy this Khmer word that means “Welcome to Angkor Wat”. How does the writing look similar to the writing on the white tower in the middle of the room?

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**A VIEW FROM ABOVE** (*pink on the map*)

The display in the middle of the room shows how LIDAR (this is an acronym that stand for “Light detection and ranging”) has helped people unveil how large the city of Angkor really was. What are some of the features of this large city that helped it support its large population and how do they provide support?

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Gods were believed to live among heaven’s mountains and oceans. Temples in Angkor resembled those peaks, and reservoirs symbolized the seas. Our own NHMU building was created with interior space which mimics a canyon valley with mountains reaching up on either side. Sketch a building that reflects aspects of the natural world that are important to you.





**MEET THE KHMER** (*green on the map*)

On the east side of the room (to your left as you come in), behind the artifacts, are photographs of the bas-reliefs of the Bayon temple. Many of these reliefs are about the activities of everyday people during Angkorian times. There is very little known about common people, but by looking closely at these photographs we can assume what many of their everyday activities were. What are some of the activities you notice and how do you feel that these activities contributed to the society.

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**FROM GLORY TO DECLINE** (*purple on the map*)

Explain two reasons archeologists theorize that the population moved away from Angkor.

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**LOSS, RECOVERY, PRESERVATION** (*orange on the map*)

Looting has long been a problem in Angkor, and priceless artifacts were stolen from the sites and are now in private collections and museums all over the world. Looting is often even worse during times of chaos, such as the during the Civil war that started in the 1970's in Cambodia. The Prasat Chen statues used to tell a story from a sacred Hindu text. Some statues have been recovered. Why do you think that is it important for people to return the rest of the looted statues and other stolen artifacts to the Cambodian people?

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**LIFE TODAY** (on the fifth floor, lime green on the map)

Angkor Wat's caretakers are devoted to maintaining it as a living heritage site and a place of active worship. They must also accommodate scholars and tourists. It is not easy to balance different needs while safeguarding the remarkable legacy. Describe a way in which modern Khmer items or ideas are incorporated with ancient Angkorian traditions.



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The Khmer culture is resilient. Angkor was never lost to the people of Cambodia, and although many buildings have fallen, it is still a place of active worship. It is also a highly popular tourist attraction. Watch the video on this floor. In what ways does it show the resiliency of the people? How has Cambodia changed since the decline of Angkor, and in what ways are the people working to maintain traditions?

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