

**Before you watch****1 SPEAKING** Work in pairs. Answer the questions.

- 1 What is the most beautiful place in your country?
- 2 What is special about it?
- 3 What do you know about the Grand Canyon?

**Comprehension check****2**  Watch the DVD clip. Choose the correct answers.

- 1 Where in the USA is the Grand Canyon?  
a in the south-east    b in the north-west    c in the south-west
- 2 What is at the bottom of the canyon?  
a a desert    b a river    c a path
- 3 How long ago did people live at the Tusayan Ruins?  
a about 80 years ago    b about 300 years ago    c over 800 years ago

**3**  Watch again. Complete the sentences with the correct form of the adjectives below. There is one extra adjective.

big    deep    important    incredible    modern    natural    orange    popular

- 1 The Grand Canyon is one of the seven \_\_\_\_\_ wonders of the world.
- 2 The canyon walls are \_\_\_\_\_ and brown.
- 3 There are \_\_\_\_\_ views of the mountains.
- 4 It's one of the \_\_\_\_\_ canyons in the world.
- 5 The canyon is over one kilometre \_\_\_\_\_.
- 6 The Grand Canyon visitor centre is a \_\_\_\_\_ building.
- 7 The Tusayan Ruins is a very \_\_\_\_\_ archaeological site.

**4**  Watch again. Match the numbers (1–6) with the phrases (a–f).

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| 1 434        | a the number of visitors last year                          |
| 2 17 million | b the length in kilometres of the canyon                    |
| 3 11,000     | c the year it became a national park                        |
| 4 1919       | d the number of years ago people lived at the Tusayan Ruins |
| 5 4 million  | e the age of the canyon in years                            |
| 6 800        | f the number of years ago the first humans arrived here     |

**Round up****5 SPEAKING** Work in groups. Answer the questions.

Would you like to visit the Grand Canyon? What would you like to do there?

## Vocabulary

### 6 RECYCLE Choose the correct words.

- 1 You need to get up early to see the **sunset** / **sunrise**.
- 2 We usually climb the **flowers** / **trees** when we go to the forest.
- 3 Look at those dark **clouds** / **skies**. I think it's going to rain.
- 4 In the winter, we often go skiing in the **sand** / **mountains**.
- 5 It got dark after **sunset** / **sunrise**.
- 6 There are so many stars in the **sky** / **cloud** at night.

### 7 Complete the text with the words below.

desert settlements sights tribe view

## Uluru (Ayers Rock)

Uluru is a very large rock in the middle of the <sup>1</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ in the centre of Australia. It is 348 metres high and is one of the most popular tourist attractions in the country. You get the most spectacular <sup>2</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ of Uluru at sunset when the rock turns red. Uluru is the home to a <sup>3</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ of people called the Anangu. It is a very important place for them. There are a number of very old <sup>4</sup>\_\_\_\_\_ near Uluru where people lived thousands of years ago. Today, visitors can camp in the desert or stay in the luxury hotels at the Ayers Rock resort while they visit all the local <sup>5</sup>\_\_\_\_\_.

## Extension

### 8 Work in pairs. Find some photos of one of your favourite natural places in your country. Describe the photos and talk about the place. Think about the following:

- where it is
- what you like about it
- what you can do there
- when the best time to visit is

### 9 Present your place to the class. Use the key phrases for describing a photo.

#### Describing a photo

In the background / the foreground, ...

In the distance, ...

On the left / the right, ...

At the bottom / the top, ...

## DVD clip summary

This DVD clip is about the Grand Canyon National Park, in Arizona, USA.

## Background

Although not the largest canyon in the world, the Grand Canyon, in the south-west of the USA, is one of the most famous and most impressive to see. The canyon was formed by the Colorado River, which is believed to have begun to establish its course there around 17 million years ago, slowly eroding the canyon walls and cutting through many layers of rock, a process that is still ongoing today.

Not only is the canyon incredibly beautiful, but it is also hugely important for geologists as the erosion has revealed the sequence of ancient rocks that helped form the North American continent. As well as being important to geologists, it has been home to a number of Native American tribes for thousands of years. The Pueblo people considered the canyon to be sacred and made many pilgrimages to it, and today there are a number of ancient ruins along its edges.

Today the canyon is a national park, and is managed by the government in co-operation with Hualapai Tribal Nation, the Havasupai people and the Navajo Nation – three different groups of Native Americans who have lived here for many hundreds of years.

## Before you watch

### Exercise 1

- Read the questions with the class and elicit answers from individual students. Encourage the students to guess the answers they do not already know and use their suggestions to start a class discussion.
- **Answers:** Students' own answers

## Comprehension check

### Exercise 2

- **Pre-watching:** Go through the questions with the students.
-  Play the whole DVD clip. The students choose the correct answers. Check their answers.
- **Answers:** 1 c 2 b 3 c

### Exercise 3

- **Pre-watching:** Ask the students to try and complete the sentences before they watch the DVD clip again. Remind them that they might have to change the form of the adjectives.
- **Weaker classes:** Check that students understand the meaning of the adjectives. Play the DVD clip first and pause after each answer.
-  Play the DVD clip to check the answers.
- **Answers:** 1 natural 2 orange 3 incredible 4 biggest 5 deep 6 modern 7 important

### Exercise 4

- **Pre-watching:** Ask the students to try and match the numbers with the phrases before they watch the DVD clip again.
- **Weaker classes:** Check that students know how to say all of the numbers. Play the DVD clip first and pause after each answer.
-  Play the DVD clip to check the answers.
- **Answers:** 1 b 2 e 3 f 4 c 5 a 6 d

## Round up

### Exercise 5

- Put the students in groups. Give them a few minutes to discuss the questions.
- **Answers:** Students' own answers

## Vocabulary

### Exercise 6

- Ask the students to read through the sentences first, then choose the correct answers. With a **weaker class**, you could go through the sentences together and elicit the meanings of the words.
- **Answers:** 1 sunrise 2 trees 3 clouds 4 mountains 5 sunset 6 sky

### Exercise 7

- Ask the students to read through the text first, then complete the sentences. With a **weaker class**, you could elicit the meanings of the words first.
- **Answers:** 1 desert 2 view 3 tribe 4 settlements 5 sights

## Extension

### Exercises 8 and 9

- **Materials needed:** Access to the internet or to photos of your country
- **Preparation:** Put the students in pairs. Give them a few minutes to find some photos of natural landscapes in your country.
- **Language:** Encourage them to use the key phrases for describing a photo and as many adjectives as they can.
- **Activity:** Give the students 3–4 minutes to describe their photos, talk about all the points and make notes. Then ask them to present their ideas to the class. Set a time limit for each presentation of 2–3 minutes.
- **Extension:** Ask the students to write a short tourist guide to one of the places.

## The Grand Canyon

This is the Grand Canyon, one of the seven natural wonders of the world. It's a huge national park in Arizona in the south-west of the United States. It's incredibly beautiful. Red sand covers the ground for miles, and it looks like nowhere else on the planet. The views of the mountains, the sky and the clouds are incredible. It's a fantastic place to watch the sunset or the sunrise.

The Grand Canyon is one of the biggest canyons in the world. It follows the path of the Colorado River. It's 434 kilometres long and the widest point is more than thirty kilometres across. In some places, the canyon's walls are over a kilometre deep.

Experts say the canyon is around 17 million years old. It's mostly a desert, but the water from the river means there is life. There are trees and flowers and the first humans arrived more than 11,000 years ago. For centuries, several local Native American tribes lived and hunted here. In 1919, the US government named the area a national park so it had special protection and people couldn't build here.

Today, it's one of the most popular tourist attractions in the world. Last year, over four million people visited the park. They enjoyed the views over the canyon and visited the local sights.

This is the Desert View Watchtower. This seventy-foot watchtower is over eighty years old and some of the best views of the desert are from here.

These are the Tusayan Ruins, just three miles west of Desert View. It's one of the most important archaeological sites in the country. Experts believe people lived here over eight hundred years ago and it's one of the oldest settlements in the area.

The Grand Canyon is an ancient place. Very few people live here now, but millions still come to enjoy the spectacular views.