



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



World  
Heritage  
Convention



# UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE EDUCATION PROGRAMME



## WHAT IS THE WORLD HERITAGE CONVENTION?

To date, 190 countries have signed the *Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage*, making it the most widely adopted international instrument for the conservation of cultural and natural heritage.

The *World Heritage Convention* responds to increasing threats to heritage preservation due to many factors among which are: poverty, neglect or ill-considered economic growth and development. It encourages countries to identify, protect, preserve and present cultural and natural heritage for future generations in the spirit of international co-operation.

The World Heritage Convention was adopted by UNESCO in 1972. To date nearly one thousand natural and cultural sites have been inscribed on the World Heritage List.

## WHAT IS THE UNESCO ASSOCIATED SCHOOLS PROJECT NETWORK?

The UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet), created by UNESCO in 1953, is an international network of 9566 schools in 180 countries (as of September 2013). ASPnet conducts pilot projects that aim to better prepare young people and teachers to meet present and future challenges as well as promote education for a culture of peace and international understanding.

Successful ASPnet flagship projects, such as the World Heritage Education Programme, are designed to have a multiplier effect whereby innovations are incorporated into mainstream of education and thereby enable all schools to benefit.

## WHAT IS THE WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE?

The World Heritage Centre is the focal point and co-ordinator within UNESCO for all matters related to World Heritage. It ensures the day-to-day management of the Convention, organizes the annual sessions of the World Heritage Committee, assists States Parties in the preparation of site nominations, organizes international assistance and reporting on the conditions of the sites, organizes technical seminars and workshops, develops educational activities and materials to raise awareness among young people of the need for heritage preservation and keeps the public informed of World Heritage issues. The World Heritage Centre forms part of the UNESCO Culture Sector.

### PARTNERS:

- ◆ National Commissions for UNESCO
- ◆ International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS)
- ◆ International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- ◆ International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and the Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM)
- ◆ Organization of World Heritage Cities (OWHC)
- ◆ International Council of Museums (ICOM)
- ◆ Ministries of Education, Culture and Environment in UNESCO Member States
- ◆ United Nations Volunteers (UNV)
- ◆ International and regional youth organizations and networks

# WORLD HERITAGE IN YOUNG HANDS KIT

Developed in 1998, the World Heritage in Young Hands Educational Resource Kit for secondary school teachers is one of the main tools of the World Heritage Education Programme. It aims to sensitize young people to the importance of preserving their local, national and world heritage.

The Kit was developed based on an interactive and interdisciplinary approach. It offers adoptable ideas for teaching World Heritage and seeks to incorporate World Heritage values into the curriculum as a way of delivering core subjects and transverse themes both in the classroom and through extra-curricular activities.

## Contents of the Kit

The World Heritage in Young Hands Kit presently exists in 37 national language versions. In order to enhance the use of the World Heritage in Young Hands Kit and encourage mainstreaming of World Heritage Education in school curricula, UNESCO supports **teacher-training seminars** at national, regional and international levels.

Different versions of the Kit are gradually being made available online (free of charge) on the World Heritage Centre website:

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/educationkit>

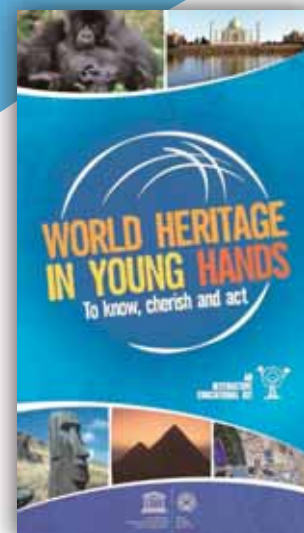
In addition, two interactive DVD versions of the Kit, in English and French, have been produced.

The Kit includes six chapters supplemented with resource materials:

- ◆ Educational approaches to World Heritage
- ◆ The World Heritage Convention
- ◆ World Heritage and identity
- ◆ World Heritage and tourism
- ◆ World Heritage and environment
- ◆ World Heritage and a culture of peace
- ◆ Resource Materials

In addition to the content already available in the printed version, the interactive DVD version of the Kit also includes:

- ◆ The World Heritage Convention text
- ◆ Brief descriptions of World Heritage sites
- ◆ World Heritage map
- ◆ Photo and video gallery
- ◆ Patrimono's World Heritage cartoon series, and more...



## SKILLS-DEVELOPMENT TRAINING COURSES

At skills-development training courses, young people are actively involved in the preservation of World Heritage while acquiring new skills that contribute to a better understanding of the importance of both their tangible (monuments, historical centres, natural reserves, etc.) and intangible heritage (traditional know-how, music, literature, etc.).

Skills development training courses are also being integrated, whenever possible, into the agenda of youth forums, teacher-training seminars, workshops and volunteer action camps.



## WORLD HERITAGE YOUTH FORUMS

One of the major activities of the Programme is to foster intercultural learning and exchange by bringing students and teachers from different parts of the world together at UNESCO World Heritage Youth Forums. Since the first World Heritage Youth Forum in 1995, in Bergen, Norway, more than 30 Youth Forums have been held around the world.

These forums provide an opportunity for exchange of experiences and ideas. For students, it is a chance to meet young people from other countries, learn about their heritage, discuss common concerns and discover new roles for themselves in heritage conservation. For teachers, it is an opportunity to debate new educational approaches, contribute to the World Heritage educational resource Kit "World Heritage in Young Hands", and establish a network for future development of World Heritage Education activities.

These forums serve as a catalyst and spark inspiration to develop World Heritage educational and participatory activities on a regional, as well as on an international level.

World Heritage Youth Forums are now also organized and held in close collaboration with World Heritage Committee meetings, hosted annually by a State Party to the World Heritage Convention. One of the exciting highlights of such forums is meeting members of the World Heritage Committee and its Advisory Bodies to discuss the Convention and its implementation. A youth delegation also presents the results of the Youth Forum to the Committee.

For more information: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/youth-forum/>

## WORLD HERITAGE VOLUNTEERS

The World Heritage Volunteers (WHV) initiative was launched in 2008 to mobilize and involve young people and youth organizations in World Heritage preservation and promotion.

The World Heritage Volunteers initiative consists of youth action camps, which are organized by local youth organizations or NGOs. The action camps generally last between two or four weeks, where young volunteers carry out concrete actions, comprising both hands-on preventive conservation activities and information sessions on issues related to World Heritage, as well as activities carried out together with local communities. Each action camp accommodates some ten to thirty national and international volunteer participants.

## PATRIMONITO'S WORLD HERITAGE ADVENTURES CARTOON SERIES

Launched in 2002, the project invites young people to convey the message of World Heritage preservation to their peers by creating storyboards where they introduce a World Heritage site, present the threats it is facing and offers solutions to preserve it. Selected storyboards are developed and professionally produced as an episode of the *Patrimonito's World Heritage Adventures* cartoon series. While engaging in a creative activity, young people at the same time raise their awareness of World Heritage sites and of sustainable development issues.

The activity also encourages young people to envisage and propose solutions for the preservation of these sites, making them aware of the importance of their role in preserving them. Following Storyboard Competitions held on a national, regional, or international level, more than ten episodes have to date been produced and globally distributed to UNESCO Associated Schools and at World Heritage events.

For more information, and to watch *Patrimonito's World Heritage Adventures*: <http://whc.unesco.org/en/patrimonito>



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# WHAT IS THE UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE EDUCATION PROGRAMME?

The **WORLD HERITAGE EDUCATION PROGRAMME** gives young people a chance to voice their concerns and to become involved in the protection of our common cultural and natural heritage.

## How does THE PROGRAMME WORK?

The Programme is led by the **UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE** in coordination with the **UNESCO ASSOCIATED SCHOOLS PROJECT NETWORK (ASPnet)** and in close co-operation with UNESCO Field Offices, National Commissions for UNESCO and partner stakeholders.

The World Heritage Education Programme features concrete activities:

- ◆ World Heritage Youth Forums
- ◆ World Heritage in Young Hands Kit for secondary school teachers (printed version and interactive DVD format)
- ◆ Patrimoinito's World Heritage Adventures cartoon series
- ◆ Training seminars for educators on the use of the Kit
- ◆ On-site skills-development courses for young people, workshops & conferences
- ◆ World Heritage Volunteers initiative

Launched as a Special Project in 1994 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and officially called 'Young People's Participation in World Heritage Preservation and Promotion', this programme seeks to encourage and enable tomorrow's decision-makers to participate in heritage conservation and to respond to the continuing threats facing our World Heritage.

Young people learn about World Heritage sites, about the history and traditions of their own and other cultures, about ecology and the importance of protecting biodiversity. They become aware of the threats facing the sites and learn how the international community works together to save our common heritage. Most importantly, they discover how they can contribute to heritage conservation and make themselves heard.

## What are THE OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME?

**TO PROMOTE AWARENESS AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE** of the importance of our common World Heritage and of the UNESCO 1972 World Heritage Convention;

**TO ENCOURAGE YOUNG PEOPLE TO BECOME INVOLVED IN HERITAGE CONSERVATION** on a local as well as on a global level;

**TO DEVELOP EFFECTIVE EDUCATIONAL APPROACHES AND MATERIALS** by working in synergy with educators and heritage conservation experts to introduce World Heritage Education into the curricula of secondary schools around the world.





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