



Taroko Gorge

Reading Worksheet — Level F | tahricteaches.com

Taroko Gorge, located in eastern Taiwan, is widely regarded as one of the most **spectacular** natural landmarks in Asia. Carved over millions of years by the relentless flow of the Liwu River, the canyon's towering marble cliffs rise dramatically on either side, creating a landscape that has captivated travelers, geologists, and artists alike. The gorge sits within Taroko National Park, which spans more than 92,000 hectares of mountainous terrain.

The geological history of the region is remarkable. The marble and granite formations were once layers of sediment on an ancient seabed, gradually transformed by intense heat and pressure deep within the earth. Tectonic activity then **thrust** these metamorphic rocks upward, exposing them to erosion. Today, the swirling patterns visible in the cliff faces serve as a vivid record of these powerful geological forces.

Visitors to Taroko encounter a network of well-maintained trails that wind through tunnels, across suspension bridges, and along narrow ledges overlooking the river. The Shakadang Trail and the Eternal Spring Shrine are particularly popular, though more **adventurous** hikers often pursue the demanding Zhuilu Old Road, which clings precariously to a vertical cliff face hundreds of meters above the valley floor.

The area is also culturally significant. It is the ancestral homeland of the Truku indigenous people, whose traditions, language, and craftsmanship have **endured** despite centuries of external pressure. Cultural centers within the park offer exhibitions and performances that help preserve and share this heritage with both domestic and international audiences.

Despite its beauty, Taroko Gorge faces ongoing environmental challenges. Frequent earthquakes, typhoons, and landslides regularly damage roads and trails, forcing temporary closures. Park authorities have implemented strict **conservation** measures to protect both visitors and the fragile ecosystem, balancing tourism with sustainability. For anyone seeking to understand Taiwan's natural and cultural identity, a visit to Taroko Gorge offers an unforgettable and deeply rewarding experience.

A. Vocabulary

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 1. spectacular ____ | a. willing to take risks or try new and exciting experiences |
| 2. relentless ____ | b. originating naturally in a particular place; native |
| 3. metamorphic ____ | c. easily damaged, broken, or harmed |
| 4. thrust ____ | d. never stopping or weakening; continuous and persistent |
| 5. precariously ____ | e. describing rock changed by heat or pressure deep underground |
| 6. adventurous ____ | f. pushed or forced suddenly and powerfully in a particular direction |
| 7. endured ____ | g. in a way that is unstable, unsafe, or likely to fall |
| 8. indigenous ____ | h. continued to exist or last over a long period of difficulty |
| 9. conservation ____ | i. protection and careful management of nature and the environment |
| 10. fragile ____ | j. extremely impressive, dramatic, or beautiful to look at |

B. True or False

- | | |
|--|---|
| ____ 1. Taroko Gorge is located in western Taiwan. | ____ 2. The Liwu River played a key role in carving the canyon. |
|--|---|

- ___ 3. Taroko National Park covers more than 92,000 hectares.
- ___ 4. The marble in Taroko was originally formed on a mountain peak.
- ___ 5. Tectonic activity pushed the metamorphic rocks upward over time.
- ___ 6. The Zhuilu Old Road is considered an easy trail for beginners.
- ___ 7. The Truku people are indigenous to the Taroko region.
- ___ 8. Cultural centers in the park showcase Truku heritage.
- ___ 9. Taroko Gorge rarely experiences earthquakes or typhoons.
- ___ 10. Park authorities have introduced conservation measures to protect the ecosystem.

C. Fill in the Blanks

Word Bank: spectacular, relentless, precariously, endured, conservation, indigenous, fragile, adventurous

1. The view from the cliff was absolutely _____, with marble walls stretching as far as the eye could see.
2. Despite hundreds of years of change, Truku traditions have _____ in the mountains of eastern Taiwan.
3. Strict _____ rules help protect the park's plants, animals, and rock formations.
4. The narrow Zhuilu Old Road clings _____ to a sheer cliff face high above the river.
5. Only _____ hikers attempt the most challenging trails inside the gorge.



D. Comprehension Questions

1. How were the marble cliffs of Taroko Gorge originally formed, and what processes shaped them into their current state?
2. Why is Taroko Gorge considered culturally significant in addition to being a natural wonder?
3. What environmental challenges does Taroko Gorge face, and how do park authorities respond to them?

E. Discussion Questions

1. Do you think governments should limit the number of tourists allowed in fragile natural areas like Taroko Gorge? Why or why not?
2. How can countries balance promoting tourism in indigenous regions with respecting and preserving the local culture?



Answer Key

Taroko Gorge

Teacher Reference Only | tahricteaches.com

A. Vocabulary: 1-j, 2-d, 3-e, 4-f, 5-g, 6-a, 7-h, 8-b, 9-i, 10-c

B. True/False: 1-F, 2-T, 3-T, 4-F, 5-T, 6-F, 7-T, 8-T, 9-F, 10-T

C. Fill Blanks: 1-spectacular, 2-endured, 3-conservation, 4-precariously, 5-adventurous

D. Comprehension:

1. They began as sediment on an ancient seabed, were transformed into metamorphic rock by heat and pressure, and were then thrust upward by tectonic activity and exposed by erosion.
2. It is the ancestral homeland of the Truku indigenous people, whose traditions and language have endured and are preserved through cultural centers in the park.
3. It faces frequent earthquakes, typhoons, and landslides, and authorities respond with strict conservation measures and temporary trail closures to protect visitors and the ecosystem.