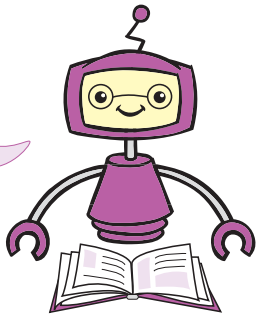
You must remember this

Do you remember the special mementos that Peter and Anna saw? Sometimes, when we travel, we collect special mementos called souvenirs to remind us of the places we've seen, the people we've met, or the things we've done. Let's find out more about souvenirs ...



LINKS TO:
Stage 3, Module 16
Learning Object 3: *Farewell game*

PRIOR LEARNING:

Stage 2
Module 16, Work Sheet 2: *Tales of a bygone era*
Module 17, Work Sheet 1: *Sightseeing in Sekarsari*

1 A suitable souvenir

A souvenir is an object that you purchase or collect while travelling, to remind you of the places you visited and the experiences you had.

Sometimes, souvenirs are produced to celebrate and commemorate particular events, especially those to which people travel from around the world, such as the Olympic Games, or a royal wedding.

Souvenirs rarely have very much inherent value, or meaning. Their value comes from their connection to the time and place they were purchased, and their owner's memories.

The production of souvenirs is a big part of the tourism industry. In Australia, as in other countries, you will often find whole shops full of souvenirs, such as koala soft toys, Australian flags, Akubra hats and various T-shirts, mugs, postcards, coasters, and so on.

Mass-produced souvenirs, which can be quite kitsch, often focus on the most visible, exotic, comic or internationally recognisable aspects of a culture. In Australia, this often means souvenirs feature our native animals, such as kangaroos, emus and koalas; our famous architectural landmarks, such as the Sydney Opera House or the Sydney Harbour Bridge; iconic parts of our landscape, such as Uluru or the Great Barrier Reef, and Indigenous artworks, particularly traditional forms of Indigenous art such as dot paintings.

A personal memento

Sometimes, travellers prefer to collect more personal mementos of their travels; objects that are not mass-produced, which are unique, or which offer an insight into the culture where they were produced.

In early 19th-century Australia, for example, many European explorers collected Indigenous artefacts and artworks, as well as photographs showing Indigenous people. People also created books and artworks with illustrations of Australian birds and flowers. These objects and images were powerful reminders of the people and places that the early visitors saw as wild, strange and unfamiliar.

These days, many of these objects and images are housed in museums and art galleries in Australia and overseas.

Sometimes, collecting souvenirs can be a culturally fraught practice. Visitors are restricted or no longer allowed at some famous historic sites throughout the world because their desire to possess an authentic, unique souvenir has meant they have stolen small items, damaged areas, or taken photographs of sites that their custodians considered sacred or of special cultural or historical significance.

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Exercises

The following text is a short description of a souvenir and the memories it evokes for its owner.

Read the text, using all the reading strategies you have learned.

After you have read the text, you will be asked to complete two kinds of reading exercises: comprehension questions, and critical-thinking questions.

Cenderamata favoritku

oleh E R Frith

Kupikir kelihatannya tidak begitu berharga, dan sulit sekali sekarang ini mendapatkan sebuah alat pemutar kaset untuk mendengarkan musiknya, tapi ini jelas merupakan cenderamata favoritku.

Aku membeli kaset ini ketika aku mengunjungi Lhasa, Tibet, pada tahun 1985. Sepagian kami lewatkan untuk menjelajah jalan-jalan yang dipenuhi oleh rumah-rumah yang dicat putih di sekitar kuil Jokhang. Ada beberapa kios yang menjual bermacam-macam barang di dekat Istana Potala.

Tidak satu pun sampul kaset yang dijual oleh pemilik kios itu bisa kubaca. Semua kaset dikumpulkan dalam sebuah kotak, labelnya dalam bahasa Tibet atau Cina. Dan yang ini adalah salah satu yang kelihatannya agak usang, walaupun sebenarnya masih baru. Tapi aku mau yang ini. Aku ingin sesuatu yang bisa mengingatkanku pada hal-hal yang aku lihat, dan pada orang-orang yang aku temui.

Setiap kali aku mendengarkan kaset itu, aku melihat sekali lagi para pengembara Amdo dengan yak mereka, dataran yang disapu angin, orang-orang desa yang merah pipinya dan yang kehidupannya belum berubah selama berabad-abad.

Aku selalu berkelana di pasar setiap kali aku bepergian. Mencari cenderamata yang sebenarnya bukan cenderamata. Barang-barang yang akan benar-benar mengingatkanku akan tempat itu. Karya-karya musik. Aku punya sepasang sepatu dari Guatemala, dan sekotak korek api dari Helsinki. Aku tidak tertarik pada barang-barang yang umum. Aku tidak pernah membeli patung Menara Eiffel di Paris, tapi aku masih punya bon pembayaran makan pagi yang kami santap di Café de Flore, dengan noda bulat yang berasal dari dasar cangkir kopinya.

Kalau aku bepergian, hal-hal biasalah yang membuatku terpesona. Bagaimana orang melakukan kehidupannya sehari-hari. Itulah yang ingin kuingat. Itulah yang ingin aku genggam. Rasa bahwa aku menjadi bagian dari dunia yang lebih besar, lebih aneh, lebih rumit dari yang dulu kupercayai. Sebuah tempat di mana semuanya biasa-biasa saja; sebuah tempat di mana semuanya aneh.

Exercise 1

Reading comprehension

First, let's find out how well you have understood the meaning of the text.

1.1 What are the main ideas in the text? Summarise, in English, the main ideas in each paragraph of the text.

Paragraph one

Paragraph two

Paragraph three

Paragraph four

(continued on following page)

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Paragraph five

Paragraph six

1.2 Were there particular words or phrases you found difficult to understand? What strategies did you use to understand these words or phrases, or to understand the text as a whole despite not being sure what they meant?

1.3 Why do you think the cassette is the author's favourite souvenir?

1.4 What sort of souvenir can you imagine the author taking home from Australia? What about from Indonesia? Give reasons for your answer.

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1.5 Do you think that the author of this piece has done much travelling? Give reasons for your answer, including quotations from the text.

Exercise 2

Critical thinking

2.1 Why do you think so many mass-produced souvenirs are 'kitsch'? What values, attitudes and beliefs influence the design and production of these items?

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2.2 **Do you own any souvenirs? Write a description of at least one souvenir you own. If you do not have any travel souvenirs, write a description of a different type of memento. Can you imagine a time in the future when your souvenirs might become valuable evidence of the culture of another time and place?**

Write your answer in Indonesian.

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