



Name: _____

Date: _____

A Model Tourist Town

Mamallapuram is a small town located on the southeast coast of India. The town was first built in the 7th century and contains many ancient stone temples and other buildings. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and attracts many tourists from both inside India and abroad. Although the town has a population of only 15,000, it is visited every day by around 20,000 people. These tourists bring many economic benefits to the town, but they also cause many environmental problems.

One of the biggest problems is the amount of food waste tourists produce. The town has more than 3,000 restaurants. Customers at these restaurants produce about three metric tons of food waste every day. Until recently, this has been thrown away in garbage dumps, leading to both air and water pollution. The tourist industry also produces a lot of other waste, including plastic and metal garbage. In 2008, an NGO called Hand in Hand came up with a plan for the waste to be recycled in an environmentally friendly way. Since then, the organization has been working with the town council to carry out this plan.

First, a center was built that can turn food waste into a type of fuel called biogas. The center can process up to 800 kilograms of waste every day. The biogas is then used to make electricity for the town. The remaining food waste is turned into fertilizer for use in growing crops. This process not only means that harmful food waste is turned into something safe, but it also allows the town to cut down on the fossil fuels needed to make electricity.

In 2011, the town banned the use of plastic. Plastic bags, cups and other items have been replaced by ones made of cloth and paper. These cause less harm to the environment when they are thrown away. The project also employs people to recycle other kinds of waste, such as glass and metal. According to Hand in Hand, the plan has not only solved some of the environmental problems caused by the tourist industry, but it has also resulted in more local people being employed. The NGO hopes that similar plans will be adopted by other towns soon.



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1. What is true about the town of Mamallapuram?
 - a. It is much older than experts originally thought it was.
 - b. Few people from outside India have heard of its ancient temples.
 - c. Many of its ancient buildings have been destroyed by tourists.
 - d. More people visit it each day than actually live in the town.

2. What is one problem that tourists cause in Mamallapuram?
 - a. They pay large amounts of money to buy food which causes the prices to increase.
 - b. They are causing pollution by failing to participate in the city's recycling program.
 - c. The cars and other vehicles they drive cause air pollution in the area.
 - d. The large amount of food they throw away can damage the environment.

3. Part of Hand in Hand's plan was to
 - a. begin growing new crops that people were more likely to want to eat
 - b. use some of Mamallapuram's garbage to create fuel for making electricity.
 - c. send 800 kilograms of Mamallapuram's garbage to nearby cities to be burned.
 - d. increase the amount of fossil fuels being used to cut down on harmful food waste.

4. What is one result of Hand in Hand's plan?
 - a. It has provided jobs to more people living in Mamallapuram.
 - b. It has reduced the amount of glass and metal that people are using.
 - c. It has helped more people learn to make products from cloth and paper.
 - d. It has increased the amount of money the tourist industry brings to Mamallapuram.

5. Which of the following statements is true?
 - a. Some of the food waste in Mamallapuram is made into fertilizer.
 - b. Mamallapuram was the capital of India in the 7th century.
 - c. People in Mamallapuram had not used plastic until 2011.
 - d. People stopped building new restaurants in Mamallapuram in 2008.