



مجلس أبوظبي للتعليم  
Abu Dhabi Education Council



# ADEC ENGLISH TEACHING RESOURCE BANK

GRADE 12 | TRIMESTER 2

QASR AL HOSN





**Before you read**

What do you know about the Qasr al Hosn Palace? Complete the chart.

Three things I know	Three things I'm not sure about	Three things I want to know

**Qasr al Hosn**



1) Qasr al Hosn started out as a round watchtower defending the only freshwater well on Abu Dhabi Island, in 1761.

2) The tower was then made into a fort, built on one of the oldest inhabited sites in the U.A.E. Its architecture was influenced by the Portuguese, who were in the region back then. It was constructed during the rule of His Royal Highness Sheikh Shakhboot Bin Zayed Al Nahyan in around 1795. It consists of a square compound with two towers.

3) It served as the residence of the ruling Al Nahyan family. It remained the royal palace (hence the name Qasr al Hosn, meaning palace-fort) and seat of government until 1966.

4) "All we know about Qasr Al Hosn is based on oral history and we are still looking for people with facts about the fort that they learned from their fathers and grandfathers. For this purpose,

we will have a book of records during the Qasr Al Hosn Festival for such people to write down their memories and stories of the Palace," said Faisal Al Sheikh, Qasr Al Hosn Festival Director and Director of Events Bureau at the Abu Dhabi Tourism and Culture Authority (ADTCA).

5) For several years now, teams of researchers have been employed by the authority to substantiate the beliefs, folklore and oral history with actual facts.

6) One such belief is that the location of the fort was geologically chosen. The discovery of groundwater was not pinned to just one spot. The initial watchtower could have been built anywhere around the area. It possibly stands where it does because of the bedrock.

7) "Such a structure could not have been built directly on soft sand. One must remember that in those days, people did not have the means to drill until they reached solid ground to lay foundations below the sand."

8) "The fort was built of gypsum, corals and sea stones. The coral stone was transported by pearl divers' boats from Ras Al Ghurab, an island near Abu Dhabi," explained Mr. Al Sheikh.

9) The fort has been renovated several times and is now being developed into a cultural museum. It is also featured on the Dh.1,000 currency note of the U.A.E.

Courtesy of Khaleej Times



## Reading Comprehension

After you have skim read the text, answer the questions using full sentences. The first one is done as an example.

0) What is the main topic of the text?

*The main topic of the text is the history and development of Qasr al Hosn fort.*

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1) When was the fort constructed?

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2) What was its architecture influenced by? Explain why this was an influence.

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3) Who lived in the fort until 1966?

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4) Are there written records about the fort? Why? Why not?

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5) What is the fort built on? Why was this location chosen?

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6) What was the fort made from? How do these materials compare with what modern buildings are made from?

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7) What is happening to the fort now?

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## Vocabulary

Find synonyms for these words in the text. The first one is done as an example.

0) constructed *built* \_\_\_\_\_

1) dwelling place \_\_\_\_\_

2) stayed \_\_\_\_\_

3) to prove \_\_\_\_\_

4) place \_\_\_\_\_

5) ships \_\_\_\_\_

6) to restore/improve a building \_\_\_\_\_



## Grammar

### Prepositions

Prepositions can help to clarify a time in a sentence, e.g. I was born *in* 1995 or the location of something, e.g. The book is *on* the table. *on, in, at, beside, until, around, in front of, behind, below* and *across* are all prepositions.

**Complete the paragraph with the correct prepositions. The first one is done as an example.**

The fort started out as a watch tower constructed 0) in around 1761. The building was then made into a fort  
1) \_\_\_\_\_ one of the oldest sites in Abu Dhabi. This fort was constructed 2) \_\_\_\_\_ around 1795. 3) \_\_\_\_\_ the center of  
the fort there is a compound and 4) \_\_\_\_\_ the outside there are two towers. The structure could not be built directly  
5) \_\_\_\_\_ soft sand. 6) \_\_\_\_\_ those days people did not have the ability to drill 7) \_\_\_\_\_ they reached hard ground.



## Critical Thinking

**Discuss the following questions.**

- 1) Why did people 'in those days' not have the means to drill until they reached solid ground?
- 2) Why is it important that researchers substantiate the beliefs, folklore and oral history with actual facts?



## Writing

**Choose one of the following topics and write about it in your notebook.**

- 1) Write a leaflet about Qasr al Hosn fort for a tourist who wants to learn about it.
- 2) Design a web page advertising Qasr al Hosn fort.



## Extension

- A) Find out more about Qasr al Hosn fort or another important historical place in the U.A.E.
- B) Prepare a short presentation for your class.

