

Practice

A. Learn the words.

Key Vocabulary

ruins	the pieces that are left from very old buildings or cities
pottery	objects made of baked clay
mine	a hole in the earth for collecting valuable materials

TOEFL Vocabulary

consist	to be made of
archaeologist	someone who studies items from long ago
conclusion	a decision
trade	buying and selling or exchanging goods
resource	something we can use; something that helps us

B. Read the passage and underline the key information.

Great Zimbabwe Ruins

There is a country in Africa called Zimbabwe. It has many large, old buildings. Some of these buildings are called the *Great Zimbabwe Ruins*. Sometimes, they are called *The Houses of Stone*. They consist of hundreds of stone ruins.

The ruins were found by Portuguese people in 1531. Nobody had lived in the buildings for many years. It is not known why people left this place.

Archaeologists studied the ruins in the 1800s. They wanted to learn more about them. They found many Arabian coins. They also found a lot of Chinese pottery. The coins and pottery were found near the ruins. They came to the conclusion that the people who had lived there traded with other nations.

There are many gold mines near the ruins. Archaeologists think the Arabian and Chinese people wanted the gold. That is why they traded with the people in Zimbabwe. The gold was a very good trading resource.