

# Taj Mahal



# Getting to know... The Taj Mahal

## One of the Seven Wonders:

Near the shores of Yamuna River in Agra, India, you'll find the Taj Mahal. Constructed of white marble, this Islamic mausoleum is not only recognized as one of the world's seven wonders, it is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Taj Mahal represents the Mughal architectural style, and its name translates to "crown of palaces."

## The Emperor:

These days, Taj Mahal is a very popular destination for tourists, but its roots date back to the 17th century when Shah Jahan, who was then the Mughal emperor, had the structure built as a burial site for Mumtaz Mahal, his wife, who was a Muslim Persian princess. It is believed that the loss of his wife devastated the emperor so much that within just a few months, his hair and beard became white. When he died, his remains were buried alongside Mumtaz Mahal's, in an area underneath the Taj Mahal.



# Interesting Facts

- Construction of the Taj Mahal lasted for more than 20 years.
- Over 22,000 masons, builders, and other workers built the Taj.
- It is thought that over 1,000 elephants helped in the building process.
- The largest dome that rests upon the Taj Mahal gets its nickname “onion dome” from its unique shape.
- Various kinds of marble make up the Taj Mahal, from China, Sri Lanka, and Tibet, among other places.
- Both inside and outside, the structure’s decor features carvings, calligraphy, and different types of gemstones, including jade and amber.
- Outside, the Taj Mahal was made to be symmetrical. Every side is a mirror image of the other three, including its surrounding gardens and pillars.
- While the marble on this world wonder is white, it seems to change color. At times, it appears gray, blue, pink, white, and even a mix of bronze and orange.
- Lots of people like to visit during during eclipses and full moons.
- In the latter part of the 1800s, British viceroy, Lord Curzon, was responsible for initiating restoration of the Taj. The work was finished in 1908 and included an update of the garden.
- Over time, pollution in the atmosphere has contributed to a yellowing effect on the exterior of the Taj Mahal. From time to time, a special mud mask is packed onto the structure. Once it has had time to dry, the mud is brushed off and the surface is rinsed clean with water.



# Word Search

Y E M P E R O R X F G U  
M Y D T O U R I S M G O  
J U M S Y W Z L M P A N  
Y S G A A M I U C S R I  
A R M H F G E N C P D O  
M Z O D A L R M D D E N  
U P S W O L K A O I N D  
N L Q S J E W E L R A O  
A C U S Y M M E T R Y M  
F A E I D Q R W I F E E  
M G E M S T O N E S J C  
L A N D M A R K B K K D

Mughal  
Agra  
India  
Memory

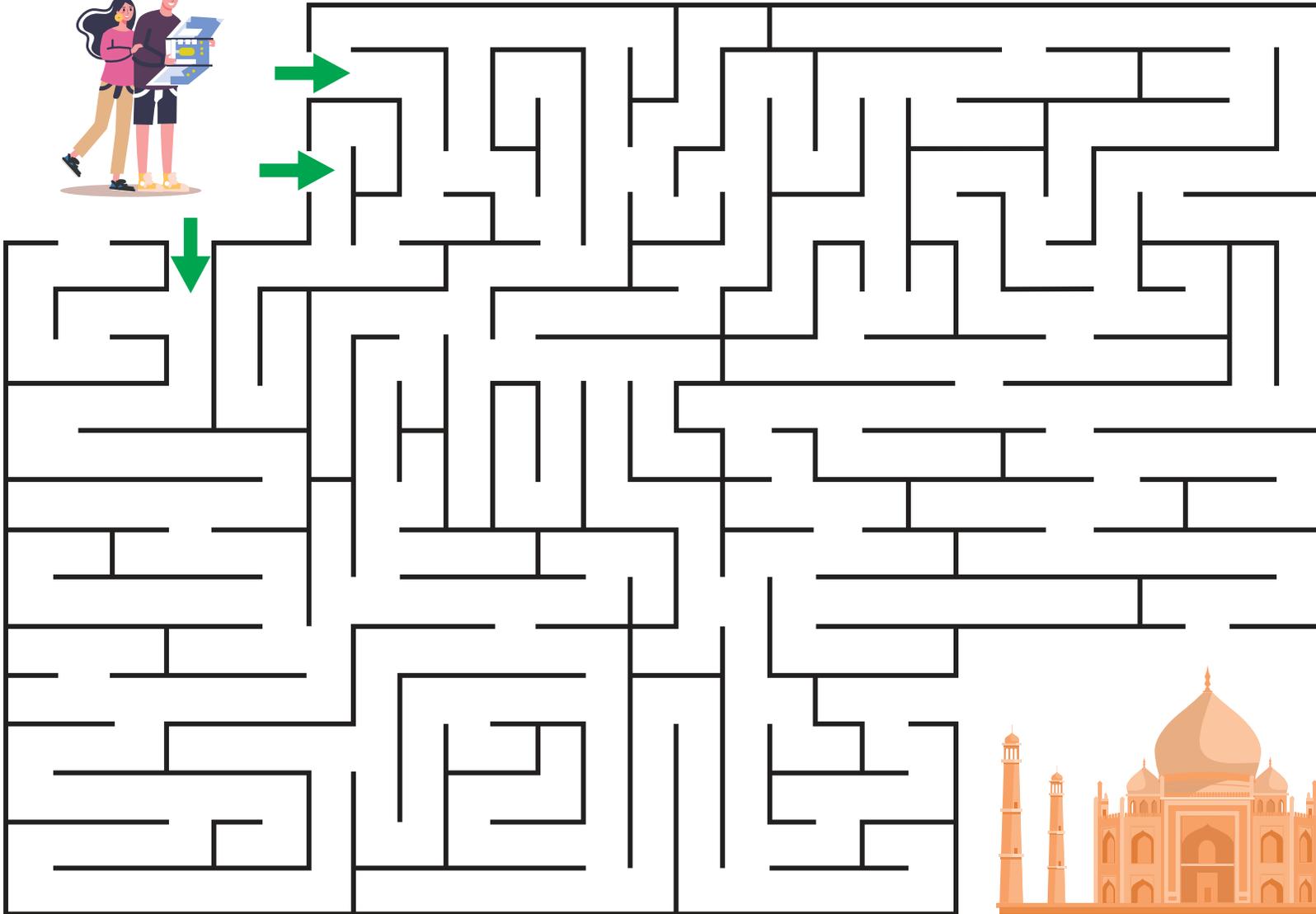
Jewel  
Emperor  
Garden  
Wife

Mausoleum  
Landmark  
Gemstones  
Mosque

Tourism  
Yamuna  
Onion Dome  
Symmetry

# Maze

Help the tourists find their way to the Taj Mahal.



# Solutions

