

Practice Test 2

READING

The Giant's Causeway is a popular tourist attraction in Northern Ireland.

Marvelled at by hundreds of thousands of tourists each year, the Giant's Causeway is Northern Ireland's sole UNESCO World Heritage Site, situated on its northern coast. Around 40,000 rocks with almost flawless hexagonal shapes hug the coastline in a honeycomb-like formation. Volcanic activity millions of years ago caused this unique natural phenomenon — or did it?

Legend has it that thousands of years ago an Irish giant named Finn McCool constructed the causeway so he could make his way to Scotland to battle with his rival, Benandonner. When he saw up close how intimidating and huge the other giant was, Finn McCool fled back along the causeway with Benandonner in pursuit. Thinking quickly, Finn's wife dressed him up like a baby to avoid Finn being injured and to confuse Benandonner. Seeing such a large baby made Benandonner think about how frightening its father would be, and so he retreated.

There are several interesting rock formations at the Giant's Causeway that are clues to the legend. The Giant's Boot was supposedly left behind by Finn McCool as he fled from Benandonner. Another to look out for is the Camel. Finn's stone companion rests at the water's edge, another product of the volcanic activity in the area. Said to have travelled with Finn on journeys, the Camel now lives a lonely existence by the Causeway. Another fascinating sight to behold is the Wishing Chair. The structure is nestled among the rocks, providing a pleasant spot to have a rest or even a picnic.

Those who are curious about the legend of Finn McCool or the scientific explanation of how the Giant's Causeway was formed can learn more at the outstanding visitor centre nearby. Here, visitors can immerse themselves in the history of the area and admire the stunning scenery.

1 How many UNESCO World Heritage sites are there in Northern Ireland?



1 mark

2

Around 40,000 rocks with almost flawless hexagonal shapes hug the coastline...

What does the word *hug* suggest about the location of the rocks?

.....

.....

1 mark

3

When he saw up close how intimidating and huge the other giant was...

What does the word *intimidating* mean in the sentence above?

Tick **one** box.

dangerous

frightening

jealous

strong

1 mark

4

Why did Benandonner run away when he saw the 'baby'?

.....

.....

1 mark

5

What might have happened if Finn hadn't dressed like a baby?

.....

1 mark

6

Name **two** sights that are said to be associated with Finn McCool.

1)

2)

1 mark

7

Tick the option which is the most suitable summary of the last two paragraphs of the text.

Tick **one** box.Rock formations at the Giant's Causeway The rivalry between Finn and Benandonner Things to see when you visit the Giant's Causeway The visitor centre at the Giant's Causeway

1 mark

8

Visitors can immerse themselves in the history of the area...
Which of the following is closest in meaning to the word *immerse*?

Tick **one** box.escape learn relive surround

1 mark

9

Compare the scientific explanation of the formation of the Giant's Causeway and the legend of Finn McCool. Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

.....

.....

.....

2 marks

10

Which of these sentences describes a main idea of this text?

Tick **one** box.Legends say that a giant built the Giant's Causeway. Finn McCool was a giant. The visitor centre is excellent. You can have picnics at the Giant's Causeway.

1 mark