



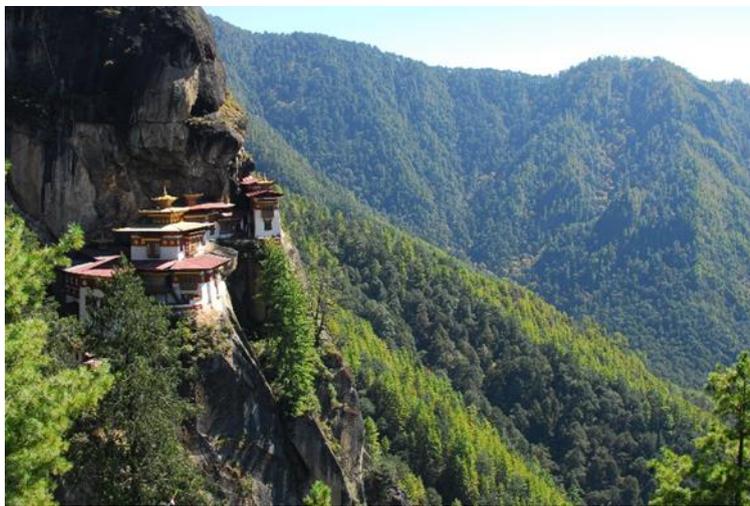
# ENGSKYPE Lessons

## Reading + Speaking lesson

Topic: *Bhutan*

### 1) Warm-up

- 1) Can you find Bhutan on the map?
- 2) What are the neighbouring countries?
- 3) What is this country famous for?
- 4) What is the official religion of Bhutan?



### Pre-reading tasks

### 2) Read 5 facts about Bhutan and discuss them

- 1) Bhutan is called “The Land of Thunder Dragons” because of the violent and large thunderstorms that come from the Himalayas.
- 2) In 1974, the first international tourists were not allowed to travel to Bhutan. Today it is fully open for tourism, but at the high cost of \$250.00 a day per person.
- 3) Bhutan is the first country to switch from the western ideal of Gross National Product to “Gross National Happiness,” which is achieved through four foundations: good governance, natural environment, sustainable growth, and cultural values.
- 4) Smoking is prohibited in Bhutan starting from 2004.
- 5) The capital city, Thimphu, has no traffic lights– just white-gloved traffic officers.

### 3) Key words: fill the gaps in the sentences using the words from the article

**Gross domestic production (GDP), wellbeing, public policy, life expectancy**

- a) \_\_\_\_\_ is the principled guide to action taken by the state
- b) \_\_\_\_\_ is the monetary value of goods and services produced within a country
- c) \_\_\_\_\_ is a statistical measure of the average time a person is expected to live
- d) \_\_\_\_\_ is the state of being comfortable, healthy, or happy

## Reading

### 4) Read the article about Bhutan

#### Bhutan is against world's 'suicidal path'

John Vidal

theguardian



The tiny Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan, aghast at what it calls the world's "suicidal path", suggests to reform the international financial system and the way countries measure progress.

"We need to rethink our entire growth-based economy so that we can use our own resources more effectively in harmony with nature", prime minister of Bhutan Jigmi Thinley says.

Bhutan is sandwiched between China and India with a population about the size of Birmingham. The country has avoided social and economic chaos because it is not supporting materialist trends and because it measures progress by the level of happiness among its citizens and not by gross domestic production.

"Economic growth is mistakenly seen as synonym of wellbeing. The faster we cut down forests and catch all fish out of the ocean, the more GDP grows. Even crime, war, sickness, and natural disasters make GDP grow, simply because they cause money to

be spent", Thinley says.

"The global economic system is collapsing. It is based on the wrong premise of limitless growth on a finite planet. The world is in need of an international agreement for the creation of a new economic paradigm with well-being indicators ", Bhutan says.

Four years Bhutan launched a gross national happiness index to guide all public policy. Its constitution now states that at least 60% of the country remains under forest cover and its aim is to be 100% organic in its agricultural production.

Life expectancy has doubled in two generations, 99% of primary age children are in school. However, it remains one of the "poorest" nations on earth, with 25% of its people living on less than \$1.25 a day, and 70% without electricity.

Until 1974, no tourists were allowed into the Buddhist nation.

"Our measures of progress clearly show that producing and consuming more stuff does not make people happier. On the contrary, when they overwork and go into debt to buy ever more goods and pay the bills, they get more stressed. Working, producing and consuming less is not only good for nature but gives us more time to enjoy each others", says Thinley.

"Humanity is now using up natural resources at a 35% faster rate than nature can regenerate. This ecological destruction is not separate from global economic realities that are dividing rich from poor", Bhutan says.

## 5) Comprehension check

- a) How should the world's "suicidal path" be reformed according to Bhutan?
- b) Where is Bhutan situated?
- c) Why is the world economic system about to collapse?
- d) Why is producing and consuming less is more beneficial than producing more?

## 6) Find in the article and explain the meaning of the following words and expressions:

Aghast at

To launch

To go into debt

To regenerate

## Post reading activities

### 7) Read the following text. Underline unfamiliar words and expression. Discuss the text.

Tens of thousands of citizens of the tiny kingdom of Bhutan came together earlier this month to welcome their newborn prince with Buddhist symbols by planting 108,000 trees.



“In Buddhism, a tree is the provider and nourisher of all life forms, symbolizing longevity, health, beauty and even compassion,” said Tenzin Lekphell, who coordinated the initiative. It was not a coincidence that the Buddha attained enlightenment under a banyan tree, he added. The number of trees planted was exactly 108,000, as “108” is a sacred number in Buddhism

## Keys:

3)

- a) Public Policy
- b) Gross domestic production (GDP)
- c) Life expectancy
- d) Wellbeing

5)

- a) By means of reforming the international financial system, and the way countries measure progress
- b) Bhutan is sandwiched between China and India
- c) It is based on the wrong premise of limitless growth on a finite planet
- d) It is good for nature and gives people more time to enjoy each other

6)

**Aghast at** – filled with horror or shock

**To launch** – to start or set in motion

**To go into debt** – to owe money

**To regenerate** – to regrow, to restore



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