

[Read the following text:](#)

A Favorite Vacation Spot

Thailand is one of the Israelis' favorite vacation spots. It is famous for its amazing beaches, friendly people and big, beautiful temples. But there are some things that most foreign tourists don't know. Here are a few of them.

Thailand used to be called Siam. Its name was changed to Thailand in 1939, but was changed back to Siam between 1946 and 1948. In 1948 the name was changed to Thailand once again. There are more than 40,000 temples in Thailand. About 30,000 of them are still used as they play an important role for the Tai people.

Now that you know that Thailand's old name was Siam, it may not surprise you that Siamese cats come from Thailand. There used to be as many as 23 different kinds of Siamese cats; however, today there are only six kinds left. In Thailand, you give a couple of Siamese cats as a gift to a bride on her wedding day. It's believed that they will bring her good luck.

Did you ever wonder why Siamese twins are called "Siamese" twins? The term "Siamese twins" came from conjoined brothers Chang and Eng Bunker. They were born in 1811 in Siam. When they grew up, they moved to England and joined the circus there. In the circus, they were known as the "Siamese Twins."

Writing in Thai is pretty complicated, and the Thai Alphabet has 76 letters. That's three times the number of Hebrew letters! In addition, in the Thai language, a word's tone has meaning. There are a lot of words that sound a lot alike but have a totally different meaning.

In Thailand, you can find the world's smallest mammal — Craseonycteris Thonglongyai. It is a very small bat that is about three centimeters long. It only weighs about two grams! Apart from the smallest mammal, you can also find the biggest fish — the whale shark! It can grow to be as big as a bus!

Trips to Thailand are fun because you can see amazing wildlife and even ride on elephants. Don't forget to take a selfie with your giant ride.

Reading Comprehension

Answer the following questions about the text:

1. The people of Thailand are described as _____.
 - a. amazing
 - b. famous
 - c. beautiful
 - d. friendly

2. Thailand is also called Siam.
 - a. True
 - b. False

3. How many temples are there in Thailand?
 - a. More than four thousand.
 - b. More than fourteen hundred.
 - c. More than forty thousand.
 - d. It is not mentioned in the text.

4. How many kinds of Siamese cats are there nowadays?
 - a. Twenty-tree
 - b. Thirty-two
 - c. Seven
 - d. None of the above

5. Chang and Eng Bunker were born in the circus.
 - a. True
 - b. False

6. Why is the Thai language complicated?
 - a. Many words sound like other words.
 - b. There are too many words in the language.
 - c. The Alphabet contains many letters.
 - d. Answer a and c.

7. What is the smallest mammal in the world?
 - a. A shark
 - b. A bat
 - c. A Siamese cat
 - d. A fish

Vocabulary

What do these words and phrases mean?

1. Vacation - "Thailand is one of the Israelis' favorite **vacation** spots"

- A. travel
- B. abroad
- C. holiday

2. Foreign - "There are some things that most **foreign** tourists don't know"

- A. outside
- B. French
- C. young

3. Role - "they play an important **role** for the Tai people"

- A. function
- B. play
- C. job

4. Kind - "There used to be as many as 23 different **kinds** of Siamese cats"

- A. nice
- B. type
- C. child

5. Gift - "You give a couple of Siamese cats as a **gift** to a bride on her wedding day"

- A. surprise
- B. money
- C. present

6. Bride - "you give a couple of Siamese cats as a gift to a **bride** on her wedding day"

- A. man
- B. wife

C. girl

7. Term - “The **term** “Siamese twins” came from conjoined brothers Chang and Eng Bunker”

A. name

B. idea

C. story

8. Conjoined - “The term “Siamese twins” came from **conjoined** brothers Chang and Eng Bunker”

A. close

B. connected

C. special

9. Complicated - “Writing in Thai is pretty **complicated**”

A. funny

B. easy

C. difficult

10. Giant - “Don’t forget to take a selfie with your **giant** ride”

A. big

B. slow

C. expensive

Grammar

1. Write the superlative forms of the following adjectives:

A. famous

B. amazing

C. friendly

- D. big
- E. beautiful
- F. important
- G. old
- H. good
- I. pretty
- J. small

2. Rewrite the following sentences as PASSIVE sentences:

- A. People give cats to a bride on her wedding day.
- B. Cats bring good luck to people.
- C. Tourists visit Thailand's beaches.
- D. The people of Thailand build many temples.
- E. We see the whale shark every day.