



Fluentlicious
Materials for language learning

Terrifying places from around the world

Halloween themed lesson , B2 level



What is this place? What happened there?



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The Amityville House (USA)

A peaceful-looking home with a dark past. Some say its walls remember the horror that once happened inside.



Seulatr, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

What is this place? What happened there?



Eastern State Penitentiary (USA)

Once a model prison, now a maze of empty cells and ghostly echoes. Do the inmates still walk its halls?



What is this place? What happened there?



Poveglia Island (Italy)

Beautiful from afar, forbidden up close. This island hides centuries of death, madness, and whispers on the wind.



What is this place? What happened there?



Aokigahara Forest (Japan)

Beneath Mount Fuji lies a sea of trees – quiet, confusing, and heavy with secrets the forest never lets go.



What is this place? What happened there?



Bhangarh Fort (India)

Sunlit ruins by day, cursed shadows by night. Locals say no one dares to stay here after sunset.



Warm-up

- Why do you think people are fascinated by haunted or mysterious places?
- Would you ever visit a haunted location? Why or why not?
- Do you believe old buildings can “remember” what happened inside them?



Vocabulary

1. slam
2. to flee
3. façade
4. penitent
5. infamous
6. to clang
7. to crumble
8. plague
9. decay
10. unsettling
11. restless
12. to curse
13. sorcerer
14. overgrown

- a. To close or hit something with a loud, sudden noise.
- b. Feeling sorry for something bad you've done and wanting to change.
- c. Famous for something bad or unpleasant.
- d. To run away quickly, usually from danger or fear.
- e. The front or outside of a building, often decorative or impressive.
- f. Rotting or breaking down naturally over time.
- g. A terrible disease that spreads quickly and kills many people.
- h. Covered with too many plants or bushes growing wildly.
- i. To fall apart slowly or break down into small pieces.
- j. Causing worry, fear, or discomfort.
- k. Not able to rest or stay still; constantly moving or uneasy.
- l. To make a loud metallic sound, like metal hitting metal.
- m. To use magic to bring bad luck or harm to someone or something.
- n. A person who uses magic, especially in stories; a wizard.

The Amityville House – New York, USA

At first glance, the Amityville House looks like an ordinary suburban home. But in 1974, it became the scene of a shocking tragedy when a man murdered his entire family inside. A year later, the Lutz family moved in – and their nightmare began. They claimed to hear voices whispering their names, see doors slam by themselves, and feel icy cold spots in warm rooms. Green slime reportedly oozed from the walls, and a strange pig-like creature appeared outside the windows. After only 28 days, they fled the house, never to return. Whether these stories were real or invented, the events inspired books, documentaries, and horror films. Today, the house still stands in Amityville, Long Island – renovated, renamed, and privately owned – but many believe something dark still lingers behind its peaceful façade.

True or false?

- The Amityville House became famous after a robbery took place there.
- The Lutz family said they experienced strange sounds, cold spots, and moving doors.
- The house has been completely destroyed since the 1970s.

Let's talk!

- Do you think the Lutz family really experienced something paranormal, or was it imagination?
- Would you feel comfortable living in a house where a tragedy happened? Why or why not?
- Why do you think people are still interested in this story after so many years?

Eastern State Penitentiary - Philadelphia, USA

Built in 1829, Eastern State Penitentiary was one of the first prisons to use complete isolation as punishment. Inmates lived alone in cold stone cells, their only light coming from a small skylight above. The idea was to make them “penitent” through silence – but the isolation often drove them mad. Over the years, the prison became infamous for its harsh conditions and mysterious happenings. Guards and prisoners alike reported strange footsteps, ghostly whispers, and cries echoing through empty corridors. Even after its closure in 1971, visitors have described hearing cell doors clanging shut and seeing shadowy figures disappear around corners. Today, the crumbling building is a museum and popular Halloween attraction, where some say the spirits of tortured inmates still pace the dark halls, trapped forever in their cells.

True or false?

- Eastern State Penitentiary used isolation as a form of punishment.
- The prison is still operating today with real inmates.
- Visitors have reported hearing strange sounds and seeing shadows.

Let's talk!

- What do you think life was like for prisoners who lived in complete silence?
- Should dark historical places like prisons be open to tourists?
- Would you join a ghost tour in this kind of place? Why or why not?

Poveglia Island - Italy

Hidden in the Venetian Lagoon, Poveglia Island is small, silent, and strictly off-limits. For centuries, it served as a quarantine site for plague victims. Boats carrying the sick were sent there to die, and mass graves were dug to hold thousands of bodies. In the 20th century, the island became home to a mental hospital, where cruel experiments were reportedly carried out. According to legend, one of the doctors went insane and threw himself from the bell tower after being “pushed” by unseen hands. Today, the hospital lies in ruins, and the air is thick with the scent of decay. Locals claim to hear whispers carried by the wind and screams echoing from the empty buildings. Poveglia remains uninhabited – and many Venetians believe it always should be.

True or false?

- Poveglia Island was once used to isolate people with the plague.
- A hospital for mental patients was built there later.
- The island is now a popular tourist destination with hotels.

Let's talk!

- Why do you think the Italian government forbids visitors from entering the island?
- What do stories like this say about how people treated illness or mental health in the past?
- Would you ever want to visit a place that is said to be cursed?

Aokigahara Forest – Japan

At the base of Mount Fuji lies Aokigahara, a beautiful but deeply unsettling forest. Known as the “Sea of Trees,” it is so dense that sunlight barely reaches the ground and compasses often fail. Sadly, it is also known as Japan’s “Suicide Forest.” Since the mid-20th century, hundreds of people have ended their lives there, drawn by the forest’s eerie silence and reputation as a place of spirits. Hikers sometimes find ribbons or tape tied to trees – a guide back for those who might change their minds. Locals believe the area is haunted by yūrei, restless souls unable to find peace. Despite warning signs and police patrols, Aokigahara remains a place of mystery and melancholy – where nature and tragedy coexist in haunting stillness.

True or false?

- Aokigahara Forest is located near Mount Fuji.
- It is famous for being a popular camping and hiking area only.
- People believe it is haunted by the spirits of those who died there.

Let's talk!

- How can a beautiful natural place also feel frightening?
- What should be done to protect people and respect the area's history?
- Why do you think some people are drawn to sad or haunted places?

Bhangarh Fort - India

In the desert state of Rajasthan stands Bhangarh Fort, a grand 17th-century complex of temples, palaces, and marketplaces – now eerily silent. According to legend, the fort was cursed by a dark sorcerer who fell in love with the local princess. When she rejected him, he cast a spell of destruction on the entire settlement. Soon after, the kingdom was invaded, and Bhangarh was abandoned forever. Locals say no one is allowed to stay inside after sunset – even the government has posted signs warning visitors to leave before dark. People who've ventured in at night claim to hear ghostly music, screams, and footsteps echoing through the ruins. Today, the crumbling walls are overgrown with plants, but the shadow of the curse still hangs heavily over Bhangarh's silent stones.

True or false?

- Bhangarh Fort was built in the 17th century.
- According to legend, it was cursed by a sorcerer.
- Visitors are encouraged to stay there overnight.

Let's talk!

- Do you think legends like this are meant to explain real events or just to entertain?
- Would you explore the fort after dark if you had the chance?
- Why do you think governments sometimes post warnings about haunted or dangerous places?

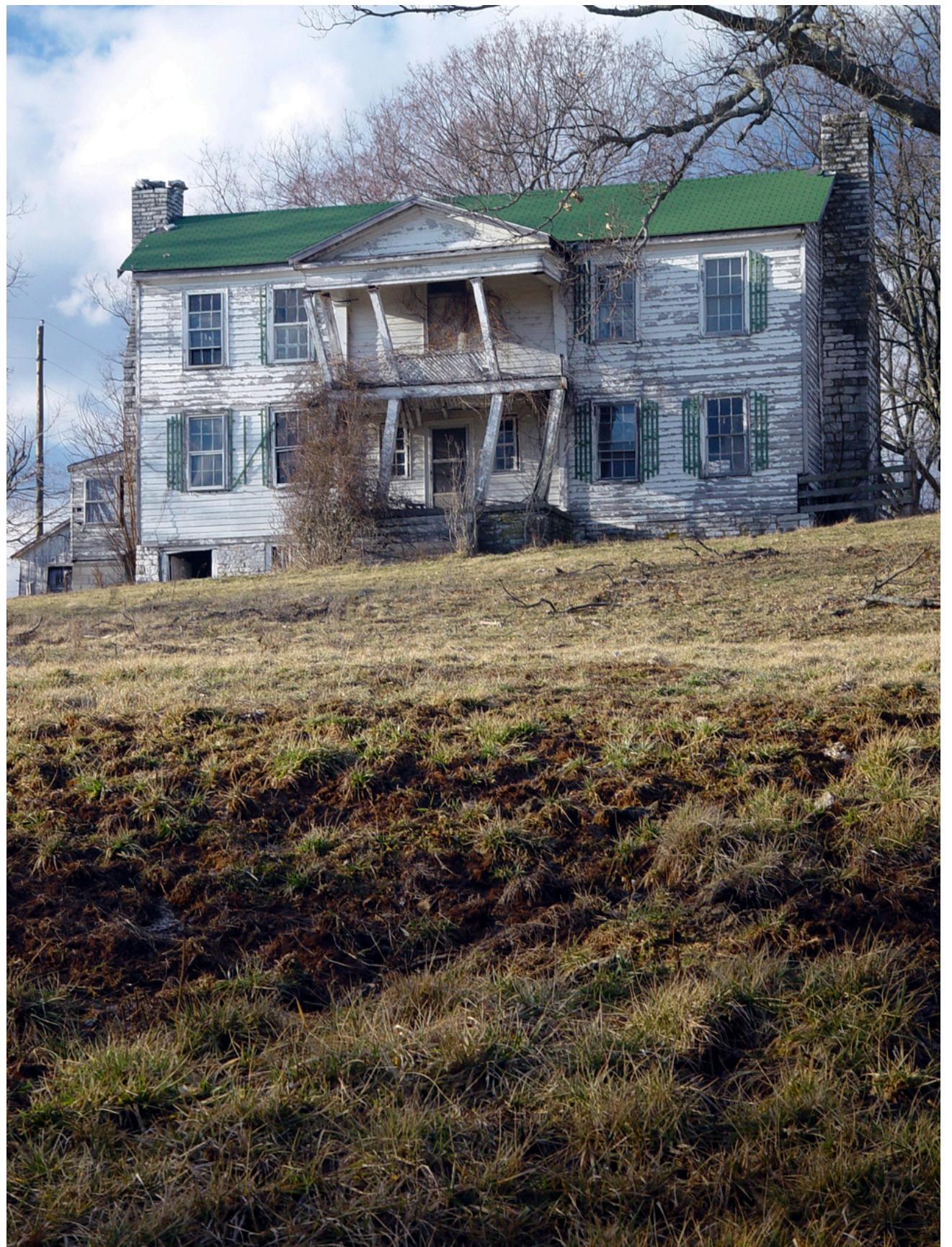
Describe!

Look at the photo. Take a moment to observe it, then describe what you see and how it makes you feel. Use some the vocabulary from today's lesson:

to flee, infamous, to crumble, decay, unsettling, restless, to curse, overgrown

Think about:

1. What kind of place is it? (a house, school, hospital, factory, town, etc.)
2. What happened there in the past? Why was it abandoned?
3. What can you see, hear, or feel in this picture?
4. What might happen if someone went inside now?













Let's talk!

- If you could explore one mysterious or abandoned place safely, where would you go? Would you visit it at night or during a day?
- Do you think fear can also be fun? Why do people enjoy being scared sometimes?
- What's more frightening to you – real danger or things you can't explain?

Answer key

Vocabulary

- 1. a
- 2. d
- 3. e
- 4. b
- 5. c
- 6. l
- 7. i
- 8. g
- 9. f
- 10. j
- 11. k
- 12. m
- 13. n
- 14. h



Thank you!
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