



# *Unit III*

## *Rivers and Ruins: What is Valuable?*

### *Unit Learning Objectives*

Unit III, Rivers and Ruins, explores common goods, resources that are considered valuable but are not necessarily well preserved in a free market. Culture... Language... Nature... How can a modern capitalist system go about protecting these instances of global heritage?

By the end of this unit, *ALL* students should be able to:

- Give examples of different types of common goods including natural resources, cultural resources and public goods.
- Understand the concept of an opportunity cost and realize that there are costs and benefits to any particular economic decision.
- Explain the concept of sustainable development and compare and contrast key features of actual sustainable development projects.
- Understand the process for nominating a site to the UNESCO World Heritage List.

*ADVANCED* students should be able to:

- Understand the concept of a positive sum solution and be able to think creatively of positive sum solutions for scenarios involving conflicts.
- Discuss different factors that determine price and availability in an international trade milieu.

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### *Overview of Activities*

1. Video: Rivers and Ruins  
Overview of Samaipata, a UNESCO World Heritage property, and Amboró Natural Park, a preserve supported by the Nature Conservancy. Introduction to common goods, opportunity costs, cultural and natural preservation.
2. Opportunity Costs  
Exercise highlighting the fact that all economic decisions entail a decision to forego a different set of options.
3. Catchy Quechua  
Essay and questions exploring the value and preservation of multilingualism.
4. Ancient Tourism  
Internet research assignment and classroom discussion focusing on cultural heritage.
5. IAF Notes  
Comparison of four different real-life sustainable development projects.
6. Trading Partners  
Class game exploring international trade, common goods and renewable resources. Reinforcement of supply and demand.
7. Utilizing UNESCO  
Group presentations, including Internet research, utilizing the World Heritage List and its criteria.

