

World's largest building opens in China

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China is building up a large collection of the biggest things in the world. The latest addition is the world's largest building. It is called the New Century

Global Center and it opened this week in Chengdu, Sichuan province, in China's southwest. It is 500 meters long, 400 meters wide and 100 meters high. The area inside covers an amazing 1.76 million square meters. The building is so big that 20 Sydney Opera Houses could fit inside. It is almost three times the size of the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. It took thousands of workers just three years to build the enormous structure. The center is an important part of plans to make Chengdu a 21st-century city. It fits with the city's slogan, "Chengdu - Can Do".

The inside of the center is almost like a small city in itself. There are around 400,000 square meters of shopping space, a 15-screen IMAX movie theatre complex and an ice rink big enough to hold international competitions. There are also offices, hotels, a replica Mediterranean village and a water park. The building's owners hope it will attract business and tourists from across China and the world. It is all part of a wider plan to put Chengdu on the global map. Around 14 million people currently live in the city, but that is set to increase. The city is also a magnet for investment and is one of China's most important industrial regions. The area is also home to the world's largest giant panda nature reserve.

Sources: *The Independent* / *CNN*

Writing

The New Century Global Center should be a tourist spot on the world sightseeing map. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

large collection / biggest buildings / Sydney Opera House / 21st-century city / slogan / small city / shopping space / movie theater / ice rink / water park / magnet / panda

True / False

- a) The world's largest building is now an army headquarters in China. T / F
- b) The building is 100 meters high and 500 meters long. T / F
- c) 20 Sydney Opera Houses could fit inside the building. T / F
- d) It took 13 years to build. T / F
- e) There are 400,000 small stores in the building. T / F
- f) The building has a village that looks European. T / F
- g) 14 million people will use the building every week. T / F
- h) The city with the building is also famous for pandas. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. collection | a. huge |
| 2. addition | b. set |
| 3. amazing | c. motto |
| 4. enormous | d. copy |
| 5. slogan | e. extra |
| 6. theater | f. areas |
| 7. competitions | g. cinema |
| 8. replica | h. contests |
| 9. attract | i. unbelievable |
| 10. regions | j. win over |

Discussion - Student A

- a) Is it possible to have a shopping mall that's too big?
- b) What do you think of living inside a city in a building and not going out?
- c) Why do you think a replica Mediterranean village is in the building?
- d) Do you think Chengdu will become a famous tourist spot?
- e) What is your city a magnet for?
- f) What problems are there with enormous buildings?
- g) What do you think is the world's most amazing building?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the owner of the building?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. building up a | a. a 21st-century city |
| 2. The area inside covers an amazing | b. business and tourists |
| 3. It took thousands of workers | c. of shopping space |
| 4. enormous | d. for investment |
| 5. plans to make Chengdu | e. large collection |
| 6. 400,000 square meters | f. structure |
| 7. big enough to hold | g. nature reserve |
| 8. it will attract | h. 1.76 million square meters |
| 9. a magnet | i. international competitions |
| 10. giant panda | j. just three years to build |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- Is it good to have the world's largest building in your town?
- What's the biggest building in your town like?
- What would you like to have in your town that's the world's biggest?
- Would you like to visit the New Century Global Center in Chengdu?
- How big will buildings get in the future?
- What kind of buildings do you like?
- What should be in a 21st-century city?

Spelling

- a large onioccllet
- the latest aniditod
- in Chengdu, Sichuan ipnrvoec
- 1.76 million rqusea meters
- toassnhdu of workers
- build the orsonmeu structure
- IMAX movie theatre melxcpo
- otrsstui from across China
- people rutlycnre live in the city
- a magnet for eviettnsmn
- industrial sniego
- giant panda nature rrseeev

Answers – Synonym Match

1. b	2. e	3. i	4. a	5. c
6. g	7. h	8. d	9. j	10. f

Role Play

Role A – World's biggest building

You think the world's biggest building is the best thing to have for your town. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): the world's fastest train, the most luxurious hotel or the world's best soccer team.

Role B – World's fastest train

You think the world's fastest train is the best thing to have for your town. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): the world's biggest building, the most luxurious hotel or the world's best soccer team.

Role C – World's most luxurious hotel

You think the world's most luxurious hotel is the best thing to have for your town. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): the world's fastest train, the biggest building or the world's best soccer team.

Role D – World's best soccer team

You think the world's best soccer team is the best thing to have for your town. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): the world's fastest train, the most luxurious hotel or the world's biggest building.

Speaking - Biggest

Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the ones you want in your country at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| • shopping mall | • sports stadium |
| • water park | • university |
| • zoo | • car park |
| • building | • airport |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.