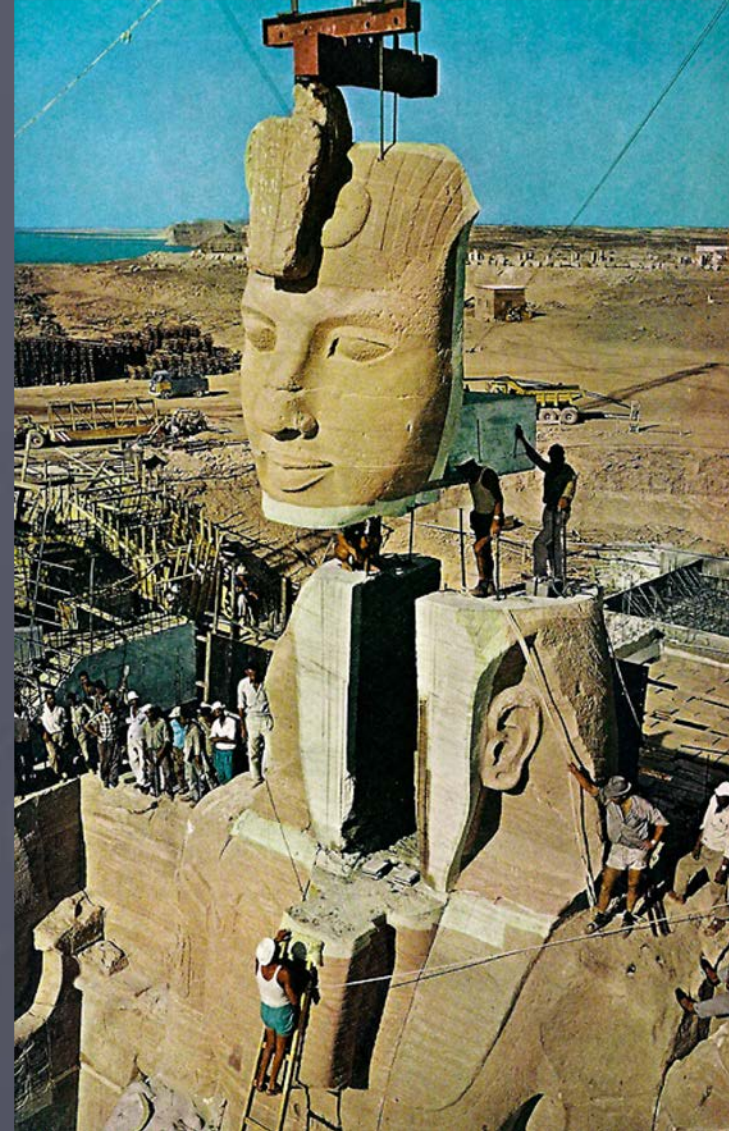


UNESCO World Heritage Sites

Preserving Sites Critical to an Understanding of Human History

The United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization

- UNESCO developed in 1945
- World Heritage Sites organized in 1972 as an international body to assist in efforts to preserve and protect sites of significance for humanity
 - Organized after efforts to save Abu Simbel during construction of Aswan High Dam in Egypt



Cultural Sites

- "to represent a masterpiece of human creative genius"
- "to exhibit an important interchange of human values, over a span of time or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture or technology, monumental arts, town-planning or landscape design"
- "to bear a unique or at least exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition or to a civilization which is living or which has disappeared"
- "to be an outstanding example of a type of building, architectural or technological ensemble or landscape which illustrates (a) significant stage(s) in human history"
- "to be an outstanding example of a traditional human settlement, land-use, or sea-use which is representative of a culture (or cultures), or human interaction with the environment especially when it has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change"
- "to be directly or tangibly associated with events or living traditions, with ideas, or with beliefs, with artistic and literary works of outstanding universal significance"

Natural Sites

- "to contain superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance"
- "to be outstanding examples representing major stages of earth's history, including the record of life, significant on-going geological processes in the development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features"
- "to be outstanding examples representing significant on-going ecological and biological processes in the evolution and development of terrestrial, fresh water, coastal and marine ecosystems and communities of plants and animals"
- "to contain the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation"