

*If you only have 30 minutes ...*

Analyze how history, storytelling and conservation work together to keep George Town's heritage alive.

**Text Mining (12 minutes)**

**Task1: Cloze Reading—The History and Conservation of George Town**

Complete the paragraph below using the **Cloze Word Bank**:

George Town began as a British free port and became a major \_\_\_\_\_ connecting Malay, Chinese, Arab and European communities. \_\_\_\_\_ and migration shaped the city's economy, architecture and social divisions.

After Malaysian independence in 1957, the city fell into \_\_\_\_\_. Historic buildings deteriorated or disappeared as modern construction replaced older neighborhoods.

By the late 20th century, a movement for \_\_\_\_\_ emerged. Conservationists argued that George Town's value extended beyond a few famous landmarks because its streets, homes and public spaces together formed a living historical fabric and reflected the city's \_\_\_\_\_.

In 2008, George Town received \_\_\_\_\_ World Heritage status. At Fort Cornwallis, the marks of history remain \_\_\_\_\_. Rather than hiding them, guides use them to discuss war, colonialism and political change. Lin Lee and her associates also selectively deploy media and digital tools such as \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ to help visitors visualize the past.

For Lin Lee, preserving \_\_\_\_\_ means helping \_\_\_\_\_ understand the people, histories and social forces that shaped those spaces. She believes understanding heritage also requires understanding the surrounding \_\_\_\_\_.<sup>1</sup>

**Cloze Word Bank**

Augmented Reality	Conservation	Decline	Environment
Heritage	Layered Graphics	Maritime Crossroads	
Trade	UNESCO	Visible	Visitors
Layered Histories			

**Task 2: The Power of Story**

Find two phrases from the reading that show how Line Lee connects conservation with storytelling or human experience.<sup>2</sup>

**Text Analysis (12 minutes)**

Fill in the table using complete sentences and text evidence.

Article Themes	Guiding Questions	Text Evidence (from reading)
<b>Global influences on George Town<sup>3</sup></b>	How did trade, migration and colonialism shape George Town's identity?	
<b>The role of conservation<sup>4</sup></b>	Why did conservationists believe George Town's entire historic fabric should be preserved?	
<b>Storytelling and interpretation<sup>5</sup></b>	How does Lin Lee help visitors understand history beyond physical buildings?	
<b>Balancing past and present<sup>6</sup></b>	How are historic spaces adapted to support modern environmental or community needs?	

**Synthesis (6 minutes)**

Why does Lin Lee believe history should not be “pick and choose”? Explain how preserving the full story of George Town helps people better understand culture, identity or community.<sup>7</sup>

**Common Core Standard(s) Met:**

**CCRA.R.1** Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

**CCRA.R.2** Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.

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1 George Town began as a British free port and became a major **maritime crossroads** connecting Malay, Chinese, Arab and European communities. **Trade** and migration shaped the city's economy, architecture and social divisions.

After Malaysian independence in 1957, the city fell into **decline**. Historic buildings deteriorated or disappeared as modern construction replaced older neighborhoods.

By the late 20th century, a movement for **conservation** emerged. Conservationists argued that George Town's value extended beyond a few famous landmarks because its streets, homes and public spaces together formed a living historical fabric and reflected the city's **layered histories**.

In 2008, George Town received **UNESCO** World Heritage status. At Fort Cornwallis, the marks of history remain **visible**. Rather than hiding them, guides use them to discuss war, colonialism and political change. Lin Lee and her associates also selectively deploy media and digital tools such as **augmented reality** and **layered graphics** to help visitors visualize the past.

For Lin Lee, preserving **heritage** means helping **visitors** understand the people, histories and social forces that shaped those spaces. She believes understanding heritage also requires understanding the surrounding **environment**.<sup>1</sup>

2 Answers may include:

- “Visitors should leave understanding the people, histories and social forces that shaped those spaces.”
- “Buildings only matter when people understand who lived there, who worked there and how larger historical forces shaped local communities.
- “She hopes visitors leave not only informed but emotionally connected to the places they encounter.”

3 Text evidence: George Town began as a British free port and became a maritime crossroads connecting Malay, Chinese, Indian, Arab and European communities through trade and migration.

4 Text evidence: Conservationists believed George Town's value extended beyond a few landmarks because its streets, homes and public spaces together formed a living historical fabric.

5 Text evidence: Lin Lee explains the lives of people connected to the buildings and uses war scars, colonial history and augmented reality to help visitors understand human experiences behind the sites.

6 Text evidence: Fort Cornwallis includes stormwater retention and redesigned public spaces, while the Blue Mansion functions as both a heritage site and boutique hotel serving modern visitors

7 Answers may include:

- Lin Lee believes history should not be selective because ignoring difficult parts of the past creates an incomplete understanding of society and culture.
- Preserving the full story helps people understand how colonialism, migration and trade shaped George Town's identity.
- Honest storytelling makes heritage more meaningful and relevant to modern communities.