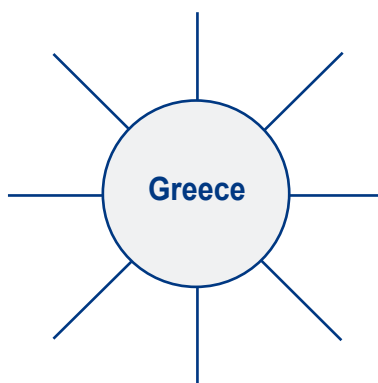


## Greece: 'Only tourism can save our bankrupt land'

### Level 1 • Elementary

#### 1 Warmer

What things do you connect with Greece? Write your answers onto the word wheel.



#### 2 Key words

Fill the gaps in the sentences using these key words from the text. The paragraph numbers are given to help you.

**cobweb**

**loan**

**economic crisis**

**bankrupt**

1. an adjective used to describe a country that owes more money than it is able to pay back  
\_\_\_\_\_ (title)
2. a very difficult and bad time financially \_\_\_\_\_ (para 1)
3. a net that a spider makes out of thin, sticky strings \_\_\_\_\_ (para 1)
4. money given to a country to help save its economy; this money must be paid back  
\_\_\_\_\_ (para 2)

**ancient heritage**

**debts**

**economic collapse**

**monument**

5. when a country's economy breaks down \_\_\_\_\_ (para 2)
6. money that you owe \_\_\_\_\_ (para 3)
7. a structure or building that celebrates or remembers someone or something  
\_\_\_\_\_ (para 7)
8. the very, old art, buildings, traditions and beliefs that are important to a country's history and culture  
\_\_\_\_\_ (para 13)

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### Level 1 • Elementary

#### Greece: 'Only tourism can save our bankrupt land'

Helena Smith in Delos  
8 May, 2011

- 1 For the people travelling on the ferry from Mykonos to Delos last week, it was clear that Greece's economic crisis has reached the island. Its beaches are dirty and its museum shop is flooded and closed. The museum's treasures – including the island's famous lions – are in a building full of cracks and cobwebs.
- 2 The economic crisis on the edges of Europe is affecting Greece very badly. A year after it received loans worth €110 billion, Greece is still fighting economic collapse.
- 3 Greece already has debts of €340 billion. However, European finance ministers said that they would meet to discuss whether Greece needs even more help.
- 4 But for the Greeks, who do not want to leave the euro, the answer to their problem might be tourism. Currently, one out of five jobs in Greece is in the tourism industry.
- 5 People are beginning to recognize that economic recovery can come from tourism. The tourism industry has depended on tour operators and cheap mass travel for a very long time.
- 6 In order to attract visitors, the country must start promoting its culture as well as its natural beauty.
- 7 "Tourism can be the star of development ... a model for economic development," said the socialist Prime Minister, George Papandreou. "The reputation of our country is made stronger when our monuments are displayed and when it is associated with myth, history, tradition, Greek produce and Greek diet."
- 8 Greece, he says, should aim to become one of the "ten best" destinations in the world. To do this, he is trying to improve the country's image.
- 9 It seems the plans are working. Greece expects to have a very good tourist season this year. Popular Ionian islands, like Zakynthos, already had a 200% increase in the number of visitors at Easter. Bookings by Britons have increased by 20%, according to the travel agency Thomas Cook – tourists who might normally go to Egypt and Tunisia have decided to go to the Aegean islands instead.
- 10 For the first time, too, the country is expecting large numbers of visitors from neighbouring Turkey, as well as Russia, China and India. Tourists from these countries no longer need a visa to visit Greece.
- 11 "If Greece became one of the ten best destinations in the world, the tourism sector would represent 20% of GDP and provide one in four jobs," said Andreas Andreadis, the new President of the Association of Greek Tourism Enterprises. "Then it would really help to rescue the Greek economy."
- 12 But officials also know that the image of Greece as a sun, sand and sea holiday destination doesn't work anymore. They know that the country will have to try something new.
- 13 "We Greeks know the Greece of the mountains and hills, countryside and sea, but this is not shown to others," said Andreadis. "Our ancient heritage is our identity and it can help us survive this crisis."

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First published in *The Guardian*, 08/05/11

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#### 3 Comprehension check

Are these sentences true (T) or false (F) according to the text?

1. Greek ministers hope that tourism will rescue their economy.
2. Greece has received €110 million to help its economy.
3. Greece owes around €340 billion.
4. Thirty per cent of people in Greece currently work in tourism.
5. Most tourists who go to Greece go on cheap beach holidays.
6. Greece wants to attract tourists who will be interested in more than the beach and sunshine.
7. Greece is a modern country with very little history.
8. The Greek tourist board want to show that Greece is a country of beautiful mountains, hills, countryside and sea.

#### 4 Financial language

Find all the money-related words in the article and write them into the money bag. Each correct word is worth €1 million. You have ten minutes to earn as much money as possible.



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### Level 1 • Elementary

#### 5 Discussion

Greece's Prime Minister says that Greece should become one of the "ten best" destinations in the world. What other nine destinations would you add to the list, and in what order?

#### 6 Webquest

There are three Greek islands named in the article. What are they?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

Find out more about one of the islands and report back to your class.

## Greece: 'Only tourism can save our bankrupt land'

### Level 1 • Elementary

#### KEY

#### 2 Key words

1. bankrupt
2. economic crisis
3. cobweb
4. loan
5. economic collapse
6. debts
7. monument
8. ancient heritage

#### 3 Comprehension check

1. T
2. F
3. T
4. F
5. T
6. T
7. F
8. T

#### 4 Financial language

**Tip:** Get students to work in pairs and set a time limit on this task to make it more competitive.

(suggested answers)

bankrupt, debts, economy, economic (... crisis, ... collapse, ... recovery, ... development), loans, billion, euro, finance, cheap, GDP

#### 6 Webquest

1. Delos
2. Mykonos
3. Zakynthos