

LITHUANIA - Environment

Water? Vanduo!
(vuhn-DOO-o)

Vardas _____



Heritage is our legacy from the past, what we live with today, and what we pass on to future generations. Imagine what the world would be like without its most remarkable — and destructible — places.

Preserving the world's truly great places has never been easy, often because it's hard to determine just what they are. One person's verdant grassland might be another's development site.

That's where UNESCO and the World Heritage Committee come in. UNESCO stands for the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization**. The committee meets once a year to choose the world's natural or human-made wonders in the greatest need of protection. They assign them to a sort of endangered-species list that makes them eligible for protection and restoration funds. As of 2009, 890 sites were listed.

Which of these World Heritage sites have you heard of?

- ◆ East Africa's Serengeti Desert
- ◆ the Pyramids of Egypt
- ◆ the Great Barrier Reef in Australia
- ◆ the Statue of Liberty, USA
- ◆ the Great Wall of China
- ◆ the Baroque cathedrals of Latin America
- ◆ Lalibela Churches, Ethiopia
- ◆ Notre Dame Cathedral, France
- ◆ the Acropolis, Greece
- ◆ Chichen-Itza, Mexico
- ◆ Monarch Butterfly biosphere res., Mexico
- ◆ Yellowstone National Park, USA

Also included are Lithuania's Curonian Peninsula National Park (with amazing ancient sand dunes), the entire Medieval Old Town of the capital city Vilnius, and the Kernavė archeological excavation site...



Curonian "Nerija" sand dunes



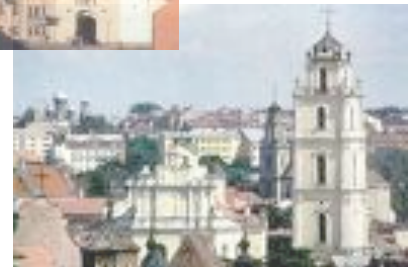
Kernavė castle mound



Gediminas castle, Vilnius



St. Anne's Church



St. Mary Cultural Awareness Week, 2010