Taj Mahal

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Vocabulary

Mausoleum- a building in which the bodies of dead people are buried.

Crenellated- having battlements (castle walls with regular spaces along the top)

Betrothal- to cause someone to promise formally to marry someone.

Wrought- made or done in a careful or decorative way.

Stucco- a type of plaster used for covering walls and ceilings, especially one that can be formed into decorative patterns.

Cenotaphs- a public monument (special statue or building) built in memory of particular people who died in war, often with their names written on it.

Sarcophagi- a stone coffin, often decorated, that was used in ancient times.

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Introduction

The Taj Mahal which means "Crown of the Palace" is an ivory-white marble **mausoleum** on the south bank of the Yamuna river in the beautiful indian city of Agra.

Famous as one of the wonders of the world, it was built in 1632 by the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his beloved wife, Mumtaj Mahal. It is an epitome of true love and passion. The architectural beauty and magnificence of the Taj Mahal has never been surpassed.

The tomb is the centrepiece of a 17-hectare complex, which includes a mosque and a guest house, and is situated in formal gardens bounded on three sides by a **crenellated** wall.

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