



Name: _____

Class: _____

Date: _____

1 The facts first

RECALL · ANSWER IN FULL SENTENCES

Explain what the Thailand–Burma “Death Railway” was, who was forced to build it, and why so many people died.

The film says the real officers tried to *sabotage* the railway, while the movie showed them proudly building it. Why is that difference important?

2

Digging deeper

ANALYSIS · THINK LIKE A HISTORIAN

The film argues: “We create legends about places, then visit the legends rather than the places themselves.” Explain what this means in your own words, and give one example of your own (a place you know from a film, book or story).

The film points out there are “no Asian faces” in the movie’s crowd, even though huge numbers of Southeast Asian workers died. Why do you think their story was left out — and what does this teach us about whose stories get remembered?

The film says a powerful myth can “completely cover up what really happened.” Can you think of another famous place, event or person where the popular story is very different from the truth? Explain.

3

Quick check

CIRCLE THE CORRECT ANSWER

1. Which of these *really* happened, according to the film?

The officers tried to secretly sabotage the railway

A commando team blew up the bridge in a daring mission

The prisoners proudly built a perfect bridge

2. What is the film’s big idea about tourism and famous places?

Famous places are always more boring in real life

We often visit the legend in our heads, not the real place

Tourists should never visit historical sites

5

Myth or truth?

SORTING PUZZLE · TICK THE RIGHT COLUMN

Read each statement. Tick it in the column where it belongs — is it the **myth** (the movie version) or the **truth** (what really happened)?

THE MYTH (THE MOVIE)

- A daring commando team blew up the bridge
- The officers proudly built a perfect bridge
- It was a thrilling war adventure
- A story about a few brave heroes

THE TRUTH (REAL HISTORY)

- The officers secretly tried to sabotage it
- Thousands died of illness and starvation
- The bridges were bombed by planes and repaired
- Huge numbers of Asian workers were forgotten

Challenge: the statements are already in the right columns above. Now write your own — can you add one more myth *and* one more truth from the film?

Another myth from the movie:

Another truth from real history:

6

The bigger question

TRANSFER · THINKING BEYOND THAILAND

THINK LIKE A GLOBAL CITIZEN

This film isn't really just about one bridge in Thailand. It's about a habit of mind we can use **anywhere**: whenever we learn about a place or a culture, we should ask *whose story is being told, and whose is missing*.

Apply it: Choose *one* of these and write a short response (3–5 sentences).

- Think of how **your own country or town** is shown in films or adverts. What gets left out of that picture?
- When you see a country on the news or in a film, how could you find out what it's **really** like — beyond the story?
