

One billion dollars promised to rebuild Notre Dame

19th April, 2019



People have donated over one billion dollars to help rebuild the Notre Dame cathedral in Paris. The 850-year-old cathedral was badly damaged in a fire on Monday. The UNESCO World Heritage site is one of the most important cultural buildings in France. Wealthy people from all over France and around the world have given hundreds of millions of dollars to help restore the cathedral to its former glory. French president Emmanuel Macron told the nation in a televised address that he would make sure the reconstruction would be finished within five years. This would be in time for the opening of the Paris Olympics in 2024. However, architects say it could take decades to rebuild the world-famous landmark.

Some of the donors that are handing over cash are French billionaires. They include the owners of the luxury brand Louis Vuitton and the cosmetics company L'Oreal. The French oil company Total is also pledging 100 million euros. Apple CEO Tim Cook tweeted that his company would donate an unspecified amount. He said: "We are heartbroken for the French people and those around the world for whom Notre Dame is a symbol of hope. Relieved that everyone is safe. Apple will be donating to the rebuilding efforts to help restore Notre Dame's precious heritage for future generations." However, many people are asking whether the money would be better spent on helping the world's poor.

Sources: buzzfeednews.com / france24.com / npr.org

Writing

It is important to preserve historic buildings. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

a billion dollars / cathedral / damaged / cultural / glory / address / architects / nation / donor / luxury / brand / cosmetics / heartbroken / symbol / hope / heritage / the poor

True / False

- a) The article said the cathedral is 857 years old. T / F
- b) Notre Dame cathedral is a UNESCO World Heritage site. T / F
- c) France's president spoke to the French people on TV about Notre Dame. T / F
- d) Architects say it will take five years to rebuild Notre Dame. T / F
- e) None of the donors giving money to Notre Dame are billionaires. T / F
- f) An oil company said it would give 100 million euros to help Notre Dame. T / F
- g) Apple promised to give 100 million euros to help Notre Dame. T / F
- h) Many people think the world's poor should get the money instead. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. donated | a. unnamed |
| 2. damaged | b. speech |
| 3. former | c. giving |
| 4. address | d. harmed |
| 5. landmark | e. promising |
| 6. handing over | f. optimism |
| 7. pledging | g. given |
| 8. unspecified | h. monument |
| 9. hope | i. impoverished |
| 10. poor | j. past |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you know about Notre Dame cathedral?
- b) How sad is it that an 850-year-old building is damaged in a fire?
- c) How important are UNESCO World Heritage sites?
- d) What are your country's most important cultural buildings?
- e) How much money would you give to restore your favourite building?
- f) What is your favourite building?
- g) What is a cathedral?
- h) Why might it take longer than five years to reconstruct Notre Dame?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. People have donated | a. handing over cash |
| 2. restore the cathedral | b. to rebuild |
| 3. make sure the reconstruction would be | c. famous landmark |
| 4. architects say it could take decades | d. heritage |
| 5. the world- | e. brand Louis Vuitton |
| 6. Some of the donors that are | f. finished within five years |
| 7. the owners of the luxury | g. of hope |
| 8. donate an unspecified | h. over one billion dollars |
| 9. a symbol | i. amount |
| 10. help restore Notre Dame's precious | j. to its former glory |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What did you see or read of this news?
- How important are places of worship?
- What do you think of brands donating so much money?
- What is the biggest symbol of hope in the world?
- Would as much money have been raised for flood victims?
- Should the money be given to the world's poor?
- What questions would you like to ask France's president?

Spelling

- People have ndtodea over one billion dollars
- the most important lracutlu buildings
- restore the latdacerh
- its former yolgr
- it could take seecdda to rebuild
- the world-famous radmlnak
- owners of the ulxury brand
- the csemsctoi company
- an snefupiidce amount
- a myblso of hope
- Notre Dame's precious ahietreg
- for future eesgrinaont

Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. d	3. j	4. b	5. h
6. c	7. e	8. a	9. f	10. i

Role Play

Role A – Building Restoration

You think it is best to make a donation to building restoration. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least worthy of these (and why): cancer research, education projects or political parties.

Role B – Cancer Research

You think it is best to make a donation to cancer research. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least worthy of these (and why): building restoration, education projects or political parties.

Role C – Education Projects

You think it is best to make a donation to education projects. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least worthy of these (and why): cancer research, building restoration or political parties.

Role D – Political Parties

You think it is best to make a donation to political parties. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their things. Also, tell the others which is the least worthy of these (and why): cancer research, education projects or building restoration.

Speaking – Donations

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important things to donate to at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| • clean water projects | • building restoration |
| • children's charities | • cancer research |
| • helping the aged | • wildlife projects |
| • political parties | • save a school |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	T
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.