

Disney Plans New Theme Park in UAE

VOCABULARY WORDS

1. **Transformed** (verb) /træns'fɔ:rmɪd/: Changed completely in appearance or character, usually for the better.
Example: The abandoned building was **transformed** into a beautiful community center.
2. **Reserved** (adjective) /rɪ'zɜ:rvd/: Not showing feelings or thoughts; also, kept for a particular purpose or person. (In this context, meaning more quiet or traditional.)
Example: The small town had a **reserved** charm, unlike the busy city.
3. **Capitalize** (verb) /'kæpɪtəlaɪz/: To gain a further advantage from a situation; to make money from something.
Example: The company plans to **capitalize** on the growing demand for eco-friendly products.
4. **License** (verb) /'laɪsns/: To give official permission for something to be done or for something to happen.
Example: The toy company hopes to **license** popular cartoon characters for their new products.
5. **Royalties** (noun) /'rɔɪəltɪz/: A payment made to an author, composer, inventor, etc., for the use of their work or invention.
Example: The singer earns **royalties** every time their song is played on the radio.



Disney, the global entertainment giant, has announced its intention to construct its seventh theme park, which will be located in the United Arab Emirates. This new resort will be developed on Yas Island, situated on the outskirts of Abu Dhabi. This area is already a hub for major attractions, including Formula One's Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, the Ferrari and Warner Bros. amusement parks, SeaWorld, and a waterpark.

Abu Dhabi serves as the capital of the United Arab Emirates, a federation of seven emirates on the Arabian Peninsula. Home to a population of 9 million people, the UAE's long-haul carriers, Emirates and Etihad Airways, have significantly boosted tourist arrivals over the years. A recent real-estate boom and record-breaking tourism numbers have also **transformed** Dubai into a prominent destination and a popular layover city.

While Abu Dhabi is often perceived as more **reserved** compared to its neighbor Dubai, known for its vibrant beaches and nightlife, it also boasts cultural attractions. The Louvre Abu Dhabi is a notable landmark, with several other museums currently under construction. Disney and Miral, the Abu Dhabi-based developer overseeing the project, are hoping to **capitalize** on the substantial flow of 120 million airline passengers who travel through Abu Dhabi and Dubai annually.

The announcement of the new theme park comes just before an upcoming visit by US President Donald Trump to the region next week. President Trump has previously pledged to secure a series of significant business deals with Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the UAE. Miral will be responsible for both the construction and operation of the theme park, while Disney will manage its design and development. Furthermore, Disney will **license** its intellectual property and provide development and management services.

Notably, the California-based company will not be investing any capital into the project. Instead, it will generate revenue through **royalties** based on the resort's overall revenues. Additionally, Disney will earn service fees for its involvement. Miral has extensive experience, having been involved in the development of almost all the entertainment complexes already established on Yas Island. A projected opening date for the new Disney theme park has not yet been announced.

DISCUSSION

1. If you could design a magical main entrance for this new Disney theme park in the UAE, what would it look like? Would it be a giant genie lamp, a desert oasis, or something else entirely fantastic?
2. Yas Island already has many attractions. If you were Disney, what super creative new rides or lands would you add to make *your* park the most special on the island? Think about unique themes!
3. The UAE is known for its tall buildings and modern cities. If Disney built a ride that went *through* a real skyscraper, what kind of wild adventure would happen inside?
4. Disney is known for its beloved characters. If Mickey Mouse, Aladdin, and Stitch all met at this new park, what funny or exciting thing would they do together first?
5. Imagine the park has a special "future of magic" section. What futuristic or impossible technologies would be used in the rides or shows there?
6. The article mentions travel. If you could fly on a magic carpet (like Aladdin's) to this new Disney park, what amazing sights would you want to see on your journey there?
7. Disney won't provide money but will earn royalties. If you invented a new super popular toy, how would you want to earn money from it: by selling it yourself, or by letting others sell it and getting royalties? Why?
8. Abu Dhabi is seen as more "reserved" than Dubai. If this park had a "quiet zone" for relaxation, what kind of peaceful and magical things would be there?
9. If you were in charge of naming the very first new character created just for this UAE Disney park, what would they be called, what would they look like, and what would be their special power?

10. If the theme park had a special "Night Magic" show, what kind of amazing lights, music, and fireworks display would you create that combines Disney magic with the UAE's desert beauty?