



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Ghost Town Busters

*An extension of "Exploring Italy's ghost towns"*

Read "**Exploring Italy's ghost towns**" (page 14, *What's Up* October 2018) to see what rural-to-urban migration can do to small towns, and how great ideas can restore them. Work in pairs to complete the following.

1. Circle T (True) or F (False) for each of the statements on human migration.
  - City-to-rural migration is often due to a lack of job opportunities. (T / F)
  - Not everyone would have left their family homes if they could find ways to survive financially in their own villages. (T / F)
  - In ghost towns, the cultural heritage may disappear over time. (T / F)
2. Imagine that **Ghost Town Busters** (GTB) is a team that works with local communities to revive Italy's deserted towns. Here are some ways they do this:
  - a. They discover unique features like scenic beauty, forgotten history, and natural resources. They look for traditional skills like glass blowing, handicraft making, unique cuisines and such that can be used to create new industries.
  - b. They support people in learning new skills to gain employment.
  - c. They help people to start small businesses. They teach them how to get good loans through micro-financing.
  - d. They encourage people to think of new ways to sell their products and services. These include handicrafts, homestays, scenic tours and such to a larger market by creating websites and linking up with online stores like Amazon.

If you were a member of the **Ghost Town Busters**, how would you work with the following people? Each one used to live in Santo Stefano di Sessanio. Now, they long to return. Write out your suggestions for each person.

- a) Maria makes dolls as a hobby, and sometimes sells them. She wants to do this full-time, and employ a few people so that she can make more dolls to sell or export. But, she does not have the money and knowhow to start a factory.
- b) Marco used to be a shepherd until he moved to large cities in search of a higher-paying job. He longs to return to Santo Stefano di Sessanio. He has heard that the town has new hotels that need chefs, plumbers, electricians, and other skilled people. He is not sure what to do about it.
- c) Francesco dreams of starting a small business. He has some savings which he wants to invest in his start-up. However, he is not sure what kind of business to get into. He is wondering how to make that decision.

Display your ideas in class using large post-it memos. When all students have put up their ideas, spend some time reading one another's. This could inspire you to have even more great ideas to share with Maria, Marco, and Francesco.