

SEVEN WONDERS OF THE WORLD



Can you name all Seven Wonders of the World? Most people know that the pyramids at Giza in Egypt are one of the Seven Wonders, but many cannot name even one other Wonder of the World. Wonder why? It could be because all but one of them, the Ancient Egyptian pyramids, have long ago been destroyed by fires, earthquakes and conquests.

Ancient civilizations built these Seven Wonders of the World between 2700 B.C. and 270 B.C. and the Greeks and Romans comprised the list. Over time, the list changed, but by the Middle Ages, the list was completed. Classical historians believe that the list was compiled as a travel guide.

PYRAMIDS OF EGYPT

The pyramids in Egypt are located near Cairo in Giza off the west bank of the Nile River. They were built between 2700 and 2500 B.C. and are the oldest and only surviving Wonder of the World. Of the ten pyramids, the Great Pyramid built in honor of Pharaoh Khufu is the largest. It took 100,000 labors about twenty years to build the Great Pyramid.

THE HANGING GARDENS OF BABYLON

Located in Babylon near present-day Baghdad, Iraq, these gardens were constructed around 600 B.C. by King Nebuchadnezzar as a gift to his wife. The garden was so huge that slaves had to work in shifts to irrigate the trees, shrubs and flowers. Some historians believe that this garden may have been a myth.

THE TEMPLE OF ARTEMIS

This temple was built in the Greek city of Ephesus located on the west coast of modern-day Turkey around 550 B.C. With a marble sanctuary and tile-covered wooden roof, it was the largest and most complex temple built during ancient times. It was originally designed by Chersiphron, but after a fire destroyed it in 356 B.C., it was rebuilt. Later another fire destroyed the second temple in 262 A.D. Many of the surviving sculptures can be found at the British Museum in London.

STATUE OF ZEUS

In 457 B.C., a 40-foot statue of the Greek god Zeus was erected in Olympia to stand before the temple that honored Zeus. Designed by Phidias of Athens, Zeus wore a gold robe and had a wreath around his head. Wealthy Greeks later had the statue moved to a palace in Constantinople, present-day Istanbul, Turkey. A fire destroyed the Olympia temple after the statue was moved, thus prolonging the life of the statue. It survived until 462 A.D. when another fire ravaged its new location.

MAUSOLEUM AT HALICARNASSUS

Built in 353 B.C., this mausoleum is located in southwest Turkey on the coast of the Aegean Sea. The design of an elaborate tomb was conceived by the wife of Mausollos and construction may have begun before his death. The mausoleum was completed three years after the king's death. It was damaged by an earthquake sixteen centuries later. Then during the 15th century, the Knights of St. John of Malta invaded and built a massive crusader castle. By 1522, every block from the mausoleum had been disassembled and used in construction.

THE PHAROS

The Pharos, or Lighthouse of Alexandria, was built around 270 B.C. It was built by a Greek architect named Sastratus during the reign of King Ptolemy II. For about 1,500 years, it guided ships into the harbor of Alexandria. It was destroyed by an earthquake

during the 14th century.

THE COLOSSUS OF RHODES

This statue stood on a promontory overlooking the water on the island of Rhodes in the Aegean Sea off the coast of Greece. The Colossus represented the sun god Helios and celebrated the unity of the three city-states in Rhodes. It took the Greek sculptor Chares 12 years to build during the 200's B.C. and it was destroyed by an earthquake only 56 years after its completion.

MODERN DAY WONDERS OF THE WORLD

Pretend that a new list of the Seven Wonders of the World is being compiled today. On a separate sheet of paper, write down your suggestions along with a brief explanation as to why you feel it should be included.