

# #9408 THE SEVEN WONDERS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD

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Grade Levels: 8-11  
30 minutes



## DESCRIPTION

The Great Pyramid of Giza, the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, the Statue of Zeus, the Temple of Artemis, the Mausoleum of Halicarnassus, the Colossus of Rhodes, and the Lighthouse of Alexandria come to life with computer animation. Gives a brief history and statistics, and looks at present-day ruins of these seven architectural wonders of the ancient world.

## ACADEMIC STANDARDS

### Subject Area: History

- Standard: Understands selected attributes and historical developments of societies in Africa, the Americas, Asia, and Europe
  - Benchmark: Knows significant historical achievements of various cultures of the world (e.g., the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, the Taj Mahal in India, pyramids in Egypt, temples in ancient Greece, bridges and aqueducts in ancient Rome)

### Subject Area: Visual Arts

- Standard: Understands the visual arts in relation to history and cultures
  - Benchmark: Understands how factors of time and place (e.g., climate, resources, ideas, technology) influence visual, spatial, or temporal characteristics that give meaning or function to a work of art
  - Benchmark: Understands relationships among works of art in terms of history, aesthetics, and culture

## INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To introduce the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.
2. To describe the physical characteristics of each of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.
3. To examine the history of each of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.

## BEFORE SHOWING

1. What are the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World?
2. Where are these Seven Wonders located?

## AFTER SHOWING

### Discussion Items and Questions

1. Describe the Great Pyramid of Giza and for what purpose was it built.
2. Describe the Hanging Gardens of Babylon and for what purpose were they built.
3. Describe the Statue of Zeus at Olympia and for what purpose was it built.
4. Describe the Temple of Artemis (Diana) at Ephesus and for what purpose was it built.
5. Describe the Mausoleum at Halicarnassus and for what purpose was it built.
6. Describe the Colossus of Rhodes and for what purpose was it built.
7. Describe the Lighthouse of Alexandria (or Pharos) and for what purpose was it built.

### Applications and Activities

1. Research and write a brief report on each of the Seven Wonders of the World.
2. Pick one of the Seven Wonders of the World and create a story using materials of your choice.
3. Draw one of the Seven Wonders of the World, using proportionally scaled measurements.
4. Pick one of the Seven Wonders of the World and imagine you are helping to build it. What and how many materials are needed? Use ancient "technology."

## SUMMARY



**The Great Pyramid of Giza** was built by Khufu (Cheops), 2<sup>nd</sup> pharaoh of the 4<sup>th</sup> Dynasty, around the year 2560 to serve as his tomb. It was built over a 20-year period by 100,000 seasonal workers, not by slaves. It contains two million blocks of limestone, each over two tons. It is supposed that the stones were pulled or pushed up a slippery mud-covered sand ramp and levered into place. The 13 acres it covers could accommodate St. Peter's, the cathedrals of Florence and Milan, and St. Paul's and Westminster Abbey combined. It was 481 feet high. Over time, it has lost 30 feet off of the top. It was the tallest structure in the world for over 43 centuries. Inside are corridors and galleries. The pharaoh's chamber is at the pyramid's heart. Stones fit so tightly that a card will not fit between them.

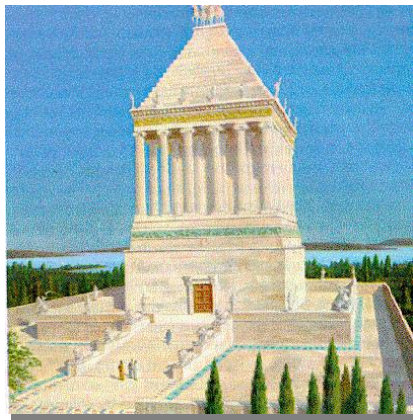
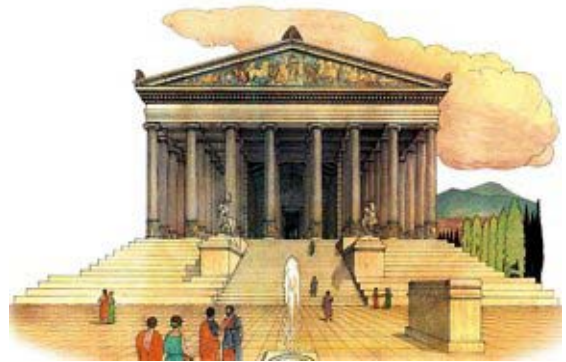


**The Hanging Gardens of Babylon** were supposedly built in the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC by King Nebuchadnezzar for his Median wife, Amytis. Little of what is known about them comes from Greek historians and the writings of Strabo and Philo of Byzantium. Located on the east bank of the Euphrates River about 30 miles south of Bagdad, Iraq, they cover about 10,000 square feet and were around 80 feet high.



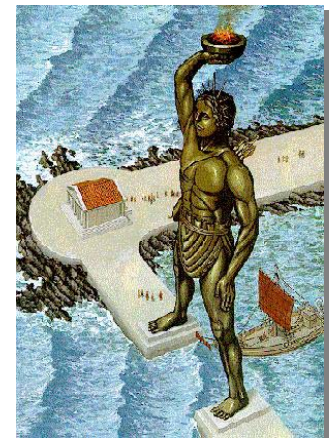
**The Statue of Zeus at Olympia** was designed by the architect Libon and built about 450 BCE. The Athenian sculptor Phidias created the statue over a wood frame. In the 1<sup>st</sup> century CE, the Emperor Caligula tried to move it to Rome, but failed when the scaffolding collapsed. After the Olympic Games in 391, it was ordered closed by the Byzantine Emperor Theodosius as a pagan site. It was destroyed by fire in 462. The statue was 20 feet wide at the base and stood 40 feet high.

**The Temple of Artemis (Diana) at Ephesus** was built around 550 BCE of marble. It was sponsored by the Lydian King Croesus and designed by the Greek Chersiphron. It was 430 feet long and 60 feet tall. Bronze statues were by the major artists of the time including Phidias. It was a marketplace and religious institution. Kings and commoners who visited from as far as India left gifts to the goddess, some of which have now been unearthed. It was burned by a single man in 356 BCE and destroyed by the Goths in 262. It was torn down in 401 CE by St. John Chrysostom.



**The Mausoleum at Halicarnassus** was built around 350 BCE by Artemisia, the wife and sister, of Mausolus, ruler over Caria. Caria was far from the Persian Empire's capital and Mausolus was virtually unknown except for his Mausoleum. It had 102 feet sides and was 140 feet tall. It stood for 16 centuries in good condition until an earthquake damaged it. In the 1400s, the Knights of St. John of Malta invaded the region and used the mausoleum stones to build a castle. Today, their castle remains at Bodrum, southwestern Turkey, where polished stones and marble blocks can be seen within its walls.

**The Colossus of Rhodes** was erected as a statue of the Rhodesians' sun god, Helios. In attempt to break up the commercial alliance of the Greek island of Rhodes and Egypt, Macedonians besieged the capital in 305 BCE. The statue was finished in 282 and stood until the earthquake of 226. It was broken at its weakest point—the knee. Ptolemy III offered to rebuild it, but an oracle was consulted and forbade it. Arabs sold its remains in 654 CE. It was cast in bronze by the sculptor Charles of Lindos and fortified with stone and iron. It stood 110 feet high.





**The Lighthouse of Alexandria (or Pharos)** was a project conceived by Ptolemy Soter, Alexander the Great's successor in Egypt, but carried out by Sostratos of Cnidus. Its total height was 384 feet. An internal core was used to lift fuel for the fire. In ancient times, a statue of Poseidon adorned the summit. Earthquakes damaged the Lighthouse in 1303 and 1323, and in 1480 the Egyptian Mamelouk, Qaitbay, used its stones to build a fort. Centuries before Columbus, departing sailors realized that the Earth was round as they saw the Lighthouse "disappear" from bottom up.

## RELATED RESOURCES



### Captioned Media Program

- Athena's City #3334
- Clash of the Titans #6907
- Geography Principles: Natural and Manmade Wonders #9193
- Pyramid #3284



### World Wide Web

The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and "kid safe" sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

- **SEVEN WONDERS—GET CLUED IN**

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/sunken/wonders/>

Displays pictures of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World and challenges you to name them. Provides clues in science, geography, and history if you need help. A PBS NOVA site.

- **CNN INTERACTIVE DESTINATIONS**

<http://www.cnn.com/travel/destinations/9705/seven.wonders/>

Take a virtual tour of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Presents a brief background of how these seven imposing projects began.

- **EXPLORE THE PYRAMIDS**

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/pyramid/textindex.html>

View Khufu from the top; get the inside story of Khufu, Khafre, Menkaure, and The Sphinx; read the history of Giza; answers commonly asked questions; follow the excavation; and much more! A PBS NOVA site.