

## How Silk Changed History

Fill in the circle by the correct answer. Then answer questions 3, 4, and 5.

1. Which of these is a pair of synonyms?
    - (A) artisans, envoys
    - (B) exclusively, solely
    - (C) edicts, routes
    - (D) journeyed, influenced
  
  2. Which phrase from the passage sums up its most important point?
    - (A) “began weaving silk fiber into a soft, smooth fabric” (paragraph 1)
    - (B) “merchants who searched for routes from Europe to the Far East” (paragraph 2)
    - (C) “came to be known as ‘The Silk Road,’ but...plural” (paragraph 4)
    - (D) “bringing diverse cultures and peoples into contact” (paragraph 5)
  
  3. What was the Chinese rulers’ probable motive for keeping silk-making methods secret?
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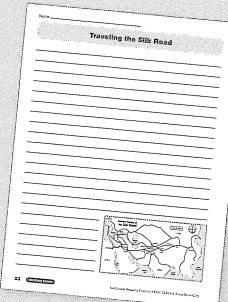
4. Infer why routes were called “The Silk Road” despite the wide variety of trade goods.
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5. How did developing trade routes cause various cultures to influence one another?
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### Write About the Topic

Use the Writing Form to write about what you read.

Reread the author’s last sentence. Rewrite it in your own words, tell whether you agree, and explain why or why not.



# The Parthenon

## **Level 1** ■

## Words to Know list, Reading Selection, and Reading Comprehension questions

**The Parthenon of Ancient Greece**

III In the circle by the correct answer. 10

**The Parthenon of Ancient Greece**

Many people call the Parthenon the most beautiful building in the world. Greek workers built it between 447 BC and 432 BC in the city of Athens in ancient Greece. The Parthenon rises about 20 feet above the Acropolis. The Acropolis is a hill where the ancient Greeks built their temples. They believed the gods lived there.

**A Temple Inside**

Many buildings in ancient Greece were made of wood, but the Athenians built the Parthenon of stone. It was 277 feet (84 m) long and 101 feet (31 m) wide. The roof was made of tiles. The floor was made of large blocks of marble. The building sat on a raised platform called a stylobate.

Another building on the Acropolis was the Erechtheion. It had a porch that decorated the temple's length. It was 101 feet (31 m) long and 33 feet (10 m) wide. The Erechtheion had a porch that was only 133 feet (40 m) from the Parthenon. The Erechtheion had a porch that was only 133 feet (40 m) from the Parthenon.

**A Gigantic Statue at Athens**

Inside the Parthenon, the statue of Athena stood over the people. Inside the statue was made of ivory and gold and was covered in fine robes. The helmet painted the colors of the Athenians' war chariot. The spear she held in her right hand pointed a small golden figure of Nike, the winged goddess of victory.

**Destruction and Survival**

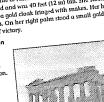
The Parthenon went through many changes over time. Thirty years after the Persians destroyed the temple, the Romans captured it. They stripped the roof, walls, and columns. In the tenth century, Arab pirates captured the temple and used its stones to build a fort.

Yes, the exterior remained standing because it was used as a quarry. In the 1970s the Greeks began to reconstruct the temple. They used the original blocks and a financial help from the European Union. Today millions of tourists visit the site every year.

**Words to Review**

**The Parthenon of Ancient Greece**

Parthenon  
Acropolis  
Athens  
exterior  
frame  
created  
devastated  
interior  
European Union



*Parthenon in Athens, Greece*

**The Parthenon II**

**The Parthenon II**

**Level 2** ■ ■

## Words to Know list, Reading Selection, and Reading Comprehension questions

The Parthenon is one of the most recognizable ancient structures in the world. It stands as a symbol of classical Greek civilization, despite being severely damaged over centuries. The image shows various magazine covers from the mid-20th century illustrating its history and reconstruction.

**Level 3**

## Words to Know list, Reading Selection, and Reading Comprehension questions

**The Magnificent Parthenon**

III In the box by the correct answer.

**The Magnificent Parthenon**

In War of Words

The ancient Greeks believed in many deities, or gods. One way in which they distinguished between them was by giving them different strengths. The most powerful deity was Zeus, who could move the earth and the sky. Next came Poseidon, who controlled the sea. Hera was the wife of Zeus and the queen of the sky. Athena was the goddess of wisdom and war. She was known as the "wise one." She was also the protectress of Athens. Her symbol was the owl. She was often shown wearing a helmet and holding a spear.

**Shaky Foundations**

Greece began building its original temples in about 800 B.C. The earliest, however, did not stand very long. This was due to an capture Athenians by Persians in 490 B.C. The Persians were so angry at the Athenians that they would light fire to the temple foundations so that they would never stand again. After the Persians left, the Athenians rebuilt their temple. They used the same stones as before, but they had to add more stones to the top of the temple to make it stand. The new temple was built in 447 B.C. It was the first temple to have columns. The Persians destroyed the temple again in 406 B.C. This time, the Athenians decided to rebuild the temple, including the Parthenon.

**Famous Figures**

Athenians used to practice what we call democracy. This means that everyone was free to do what he wanted, as long as he did not break any laws. The Parthenon was built during the reign of Pericles, who was the leader of Athens. He was a wise man, and engineers often asked him for advice. A famous statue sculptor called Phidias created the best-known statue inside the Parthenon. It was made of gold and ivory statues of Athena. The statue was 11 feet tall—about the height of a four-story building.

**A Long History of Battles**

Over the centuries, the Parthenon went through many changes. After hundreds of years, the temple became a Christian church. In 1458, the Turks captured Athens and used it as a military camp. They put a fort inside the temple, many buildings, destroying the temple's roof. The Parthenon's roof is still missing.

**Today's Parthenon**

Today the Parthenon still stands in Athens. It is a ruin of its former self, but it is extremely popular with tourists. It is one of the most visited ancient sites in the world.

**Wings-In-Knows**

**The Magnificent Parthenon**

magnificent  
Parthenon  
deities  
devotion  
Athenians  
mammoth  
Oath of Poseidon  
monuments  
defensive  
Porticos  
Doric  
Frieze  
removed  
edifices

**The Parthenon** 815

## **Assemble the Unit**

Reproduce and distribute one copy for each student:

- Visual Literacy page: The Parthenon of Athens, Greece, page 31
  - Level 1, 2, or 3 Reading Selection and Reading Comprehension page and the corresponding Words to Know list
  - Graphic Organizer of your choosing, provided on pages 180–186
  - Writing Form: The Parthenon, page 32

# Introduce the Topic

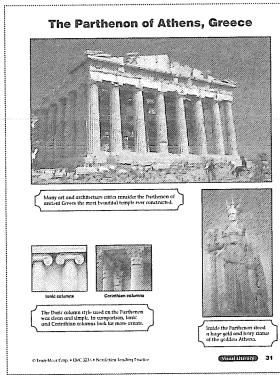
Read aloud and discuss the description and photos on the Visual Literacy page titled “The Parthenon of Athens, Greece.” Explain that this building was originally built almost 2,500 years ago. It served to honor Athena, one of the many gods and goddesses that the ancient Greeks revered.

## **Read and Respond**

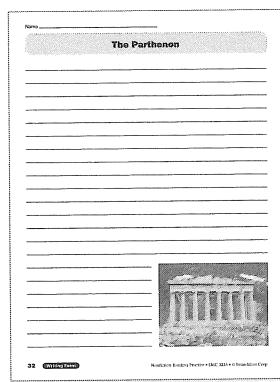
Form leveled groups and review the Words to Know lists with each group of students. Instruct each group to read their selection individually, in pairs, or as a group. Have students complete the Reading Comprehension page for their selection.

## **Write About the Topic**

Read aloud the leveled writing prompt for each group. Tell students to use the Graphic Organizer to plan their writing. Direct students to use their Writing Form to respond to their prompt.



## Visual Literacy



## Writing Form

# The Parthenon of Athens, Greece



Many art and architecture critics consider the Parthenon of ancient Greece the most beautiful temple ever constructed.



Ionic columns



Corinthian columns

The Doric column style used on the Parthenon was clean and simple. In comparison, Ionic and Corinthian columns look far more ornate.



Inside the Parthenon stood a huge gold and ivory statue of the goddess Athena.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# The Parthenon



### **Words to Know**

#### **The Parthenon of Ancient Greece**

Parthenon  
Acropolis  
Athenians  
Athena  
exterior  
frieze  
crested  
devastated  
interior  
European Union

### **Words to Know**

#### **A 2500-Year-Old Wonder**

gawkers  
Parthenon  
exquisite  
Athena  
edifice  
mortar  
molten lead  
embedded  
optical refinements  
Doric  
pediments  
frieze  
gargantuan  
intact

### **Words to Know**

#### **The Magnificent Parthenon**

magnificent  
Parthenon  
deities  
devotion  
Acropolis  
Athenians  
mammoth  
Oath of Plataea  
monuments  
defensive  
Pericles  
Doric  
frieze  
renowned  
edifices

**The Parthenon ■**

**The Parthenon ■■**

**The Parthenon ■■■**



# The Parthenon of Ancient Greece

Many people have called the Parthenon the most beautiful building in ancient Greece. Greek workers built it between 447 BC and 432 BC in the city of Athens on a flat-topped hill called the Acropolis. The Acropolis rises about 200 feet (61 m) above Athens. Ancient Athenians built the Parthenon to worship the goddess Athena. They believed that she protected their city.

## A Temple Made of Marble

Most buildings in ancient times were made of wood, but the Athenians used white marble to construct the Parthenon. It was 237 feet (72 m) long and 110 feet (34 m) wide. It stood about 60 feet (18 m) high, taller than a modern five-story hotel. The building's exterior was bordered with 46 huge marble columns.

Another beautiful feature of the Parthenon was its frieze. This was a colorful band of sculpture that decorated the temple's crown. Out of 525 feet (160 m), only 325 feet (99 m) of the frieze still exists. The frieze depicted a parade that the Greeks held every four years in Athena's honor.

## A Gigantic Statue of Athena

Inside the Parthenon, a huge statue of Athena towered over her worshipers. The statue was made of ivory and gold and was 40 feet (12 m) tall. She stood guard, dressed for warfare, and wore a gold cloak fringed with snakes. Her helmet had a sphinx and four winged horses. On her right palm stood a small golden figure of Nike, the winged goddess of victory.

## Destruction and Reconstruction

The Parthenon went through many changes over time. Then, tragically, in 1687, Turkish invaders destroyed the inside of the Parthenon. They stored gunpowder in the temple, and, in a terrible accident, the gunpowder exploded and devastated the building's interior.

Yet, the exterior remained standing because of its sturdy construction. In the 1970s the Greeks began to reconstruct the monument; later they received financial help from the European Union. Today, millions of tourists visit the site every year.



Visitors at the Parthenon on the famous Acropolis, circa 2016

futureGalore / Shutterstock.com

## The Parthenon of Ancient Greece

Fill in the circle by the correct answer. Then answer questions 3, 4, and 5.

1. The Parthenon's frieze \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A was made of shiny white marble  
 B honored Athena  
 C honored Nike  
 D is no longer visible
2. Tourists probably visit the Parthenon because it is \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A filled with natural beauty  
 B ancient, beautiful, and famous  
 C the biggest building in the world  
 D so sad that invaders destroyed it
3. How might an Athenian explain why Athena's statue was so big?  


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4. Why do you think the ancient Greeks built the Parthenon high on a hill?  


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5. What do you think of the Parthenon's design? Give reasons for your opinion.  


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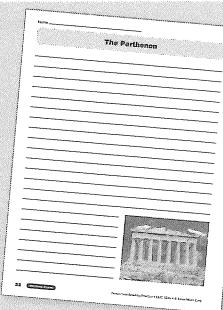
  


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### Write About the Topic

Use the Writing Form to write about what you read.

Explain what the Parthenon and the Athena statue show about ancient Greek religious beliefs. Include details in your answer.



# A 2,500-Year-Old Wonder

Is any building capable of surviving almost 2,500 years of weather, wars, and gawkers by the millions? Is any work of art beautiful enough to amaze art lovers everywhere? Has any structure served as a place of worship for three different major religions and also functioned as a wartime fortress? Certainly. All of the above is true of the Parthenon in Athens, Greece.

## White Marble Held Together Without Mortar

Ancient Athenians built the exquisite Parthenon as a temple to Athena, the city's guardian goddess. Workers used about 22,000 tons of costly white marble to construct the gorgeous edifice.

The architects who designed the Parthenon proved their superior design skills. They invented a technique for holding stone together without mortar. They hooked stone blocks together with clamps shaped like huge staples. Using molten lead, they embedded the clamps into the ends of the marble blocks.

## Optical Illusions in Doric Columns

Many critics and experts think the Parthenon is an artistic marvel. One reason is that its design includes optical refinements. These cause the human eye to make adjustments. For example, a vertical column looks narrower in the middle, even though it is actually the same width at every point. The Parthenon's architects realized this, so they designed columns that bulge slightly in the middle. These columns appear to be perfectly straight.

In addition, the Parthenon's 46 Doric-style columns lean just a bit toward the building's center. This trick makes the columns look as if they point straight up. Yet, if the leaning columns were extended one mile up into the sky, they would have touched each other!

## Brightly Colored Accents

Brightly painted sculptures once decorated three sections of the Parthenon. One was the frieze, a horizontal band of stone carvings that ringed the outside of the building. It depicted a long parade honoring Athena. The other two sections were triangular pediments below the roof at opposite ends of the Parthenon. They held sculptures of other Greek gods and goddesses. A gargantuan gold and ivory statue of Athena stood inside the Parthenon.

## Standing Up to the Centuries

While the Parthenon is not completely intact today, it is still standing almost 2,500 years after Greek artisans began to design and build it. This makes the Parthenon one of the world's architectural wonders.



The Parthenon at dusk, circa 2016

## A 2,500-Year-Old Wonder

Fill in the circle by the correct answer. Then answer questions 3, 4, and 5.

1. Which of these is a pair of synonyms?
  - (A) served, functioned
  - (B) technique, marvel
  - (C) narrowed, bulged
  - (D) horizontal, gargantuan
  
2. The Parthenon's architects included optical refinements to \_\_\_\_\_.  
  - (A) make the temple last longer
  - (B) honor the goddess Athena
  - (C) accent the building with colorful touches
  - (D) make its columns look perfectly straight
  
3. What ideas justify the Athenians' choice to use costly materials to build the Parthenon?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

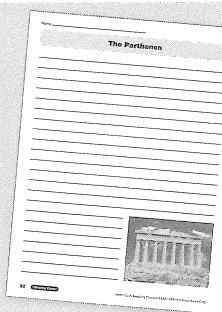
4. How do you think the writer feels about the Parthenon? How can you tell?  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

5. Do you agree with the author that the Parthenon is an architectural wonder? Explain.  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

### Write About the Topic

Use the Writing Form to write about what you read.

Use the headings Who?, What?, When?, Where?, How?, and Why? to summarize the text.



# The Magnificent Parthenon

## In Honor of Athena

The ancient Greeks believed in many deities, or gods. One way in which they displayed their devotion to gods and goddesses was by building massive temples in their honor. The people of ancient Athens, a Greek city, constructed the Parthenon on the Acropolis, a hill that rose about 200 feet (61 m) above Athens. The Athenians built this mammoth structure to honor Athena, the goddess who they believed protected their city.

## Shaky Beginnings

Greeks began building the original Parthenon in about 480 BC. The ancient Persians, unfortunately, chose this same era to capture Athens; this halted construction. In “the Oath of Plataea,” Greeks swore to one another that they would fight to the death. They also vowed that they would never rebuild the monuments of Athens. When the Athenians survived the invasion, they used the remains of their monuments to build a defensive wall around their city. After 30 years of peace, the Greeks finally broke the Oath of Plataea. Pericles, the ruler of Athens, directed his people to rebuild everything, including the Parthenon.

## Fit for a Goddess

Athenians used precious white marble to construct the Parthenon. The magnificent structure was 60 feet (18 m) tall and surrounded by 46 huge Doric columns. Numerous sculptures, statues, and engravings adorned the temple. A continuous horizontal sculpture called a frieze crowned the building’s exterior. Inside the temple, a gigantic gold and ivory statue of Athena rose above her worshipers; the artwork was 40 feet (12 m) tall—about the height of a four-story hotel.



A statue of the Greek Goddess Athena, for whom the Parthenon was built

## A Long and Varied History

Over the centuries, the Parthenon went through various changes. After hundreds of years as a Greek temple, it became a Christian church in the fifth century CE, and Muslims used it as mosque during the 1400s. In 1687, Turkish invaders nearly flattened the structure by storing gunpowder inside it; tragically, the gunpowder exploded, destroying the temple’s interior.

Today the Parthenon still stands proudly atop the Acropolis and is an immensely popular tourist attraction. It is a ruin of its former self, but it is under reconstruction and remains one of the most renowned edifices on Earth.