

The Seven Ancient Wonders of the World

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Introduction

For my expert project, I chose the seven ancient wonders of the world. I chose them because I am extremely intrigued by ancient civilizations and the massive structures they built. My biggest questions about my topic were, “Why did people go to such great lengths to make such big monuments?”, “What makes wonders, wonders?” and “What was the purpose of each wonder?”

I got interested in this topic when my family took a trip to France over spring break in 2019. Specifically, I went to the ancient city, Glanum. Glanum was ruled by three different empires at three different periods of time. The Greeks to the Celtic-Ligurian period and the Romans. The city intrigued me, and I wanted to learn how all of this was made and why.

When I first started researching I thought that my topic would be loaded with information about everything. As soon as I went deeper I started to realize that there was not a lot of information at all. I then became aware of the fact that most of the Ancient wonders were destroyed thousands of years ago, so it would be difficult for people to find information to work with. I scraped together all the information I could find and made my expert paper. What I love about my topic is all of the different stories about how the ancient wonders were built and then destroyed. For example, Mausolus built his own tomb (the Mausoleum) before he died. That is why I love my topic and would not trade this topic with any other.

Chapter I: Wonders in Africa

The two wonders of Africa are the Pyramids of Giza and the Pharos of Alexandria. The Pyramids of Giza are ancient pyramids holding ancient pharaohs. The Pharos of Alexandria was a lighthouse that was used to warn ships of the extremely rocky terrain. The Greeks considered them wonders because of the great importance that the structures hold.

The first and oldest wonder is the Pyramids of Giza. The construction of the Pyramids of Giza

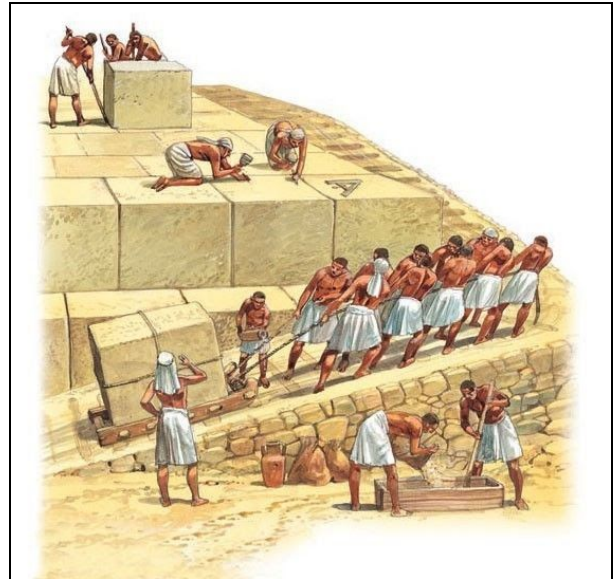
lasted 20 years from 2580 B.C. to 2560 B.C. If the construction of the pyramids of Giza took 20 years, that means that workers would have to work 10 hours a day in the



extreme heat. Each pyramid had a different height. For example, The Pyramid of Khufu is 481 feet high, the Pyramid of Menkaure is 226 feet high, and the Pyramid of Khafre stands at 477 feet high. The construction of the Pyramids was extremely influential throughout history, which gave the other nations the courage to build other pyramids.

During the construction, workers would split into small groups called Zaa. The Zaa would often compete with each other to see who could work the fastest. The laborers were organized in a small town at the base of the pyramids. The laborers would be rewarded with simple foods such as fish, bread, and meat. The workers worked extremely hard since they were not getting treated like slaves. The pace of the building went quickly because the laborers were treated well.

Transporting limestone from the quarry was difficult. To remove a stone from the quarry, they would first need to soften the stone, then remove the stone with chisels and hammers. Many ships would sail back and forth, and carried the limestone blocks that the Zaa removed. By the time construction was finished, the limestone quarry would be 100 feet deep. The technique for removing the limestone blocks took a long time, but they did not use all limestone for the pyramids of Khafre and Menkaure, they used Aswan granite.



Getting the limestone blocks into place was a huge challenge. For the laborers to actually know where to put the blocks, the supervisors would drive wooden stakes into the ground, marking where the pyramid would be built. To transport the blocks to their destination, the Zaa would use sleds to move the 2.3-ton blocks. To make the sleds move faster, workers would pour milk or water on the ground. After the Zaa put the base blocks in place, they would make dirt and sand paths going farther up the pyramid to place the blocks higher. It was an

efficient way to build with large blocks. Khafre and Menkaure are commonly known as the step pyramids.

The Pyramid of Menkaure is the shortest pyramid standing. The Pyramid of Menkaure only stands at 226 feet high. The base of the Pyramid of Menkaure was much larger than the height. The width measured up to 345.5 feet long. The Pyramid of Khafre is much larger than the Pyramid of Menkaure, the base measured up to 704 feet long. The Pyramids of Giza is a huge step in ancient architecture.

The Greeks considered the Pyramids of Giza worth traveling for because of the beauty of the structure and all of the Egyptian culture surrounding the whole pyramid. Even in ancient times, the Greek thought of the Egyptian culture to be ancient. The Pyramids of Giza is unique in all of the ancient wonders because it is the only one standing right now.

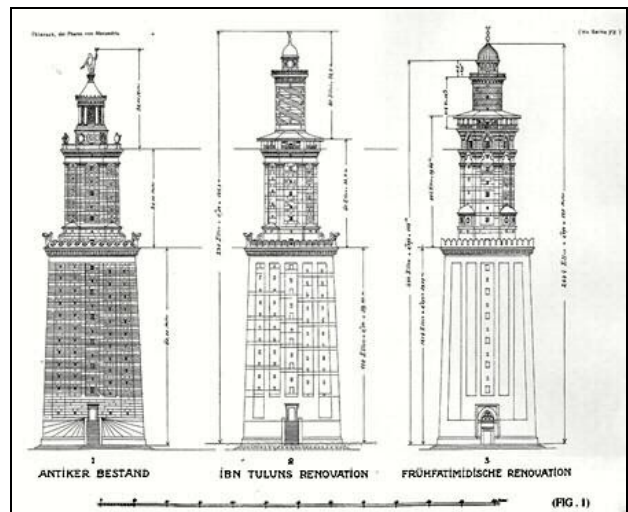
The second ancient wonder in Africa is the Pharos of Alexandria, which happens to be the newest wonder in certain terms. The city of Alexandria, Egypt was founded in 332 B.C. The Island of Alexandria used to be the Hellenic capital of Egypt.



Since the Island of Alexandria was rocky, the lighthouse was used as a marker. The Island of Alexandria was famous because of the great library and ancient knowledge that it contained. The city of Alexandria was of high prestige and was royal.

The Pharos of Alexandria was an important structure in ancient history, but what was the Pharos of Alexandria? It is an ancient lighthouse that baffled modern-day architects because it was an amazingly talented and unique design. The tower was crafted perfectly because of its amazing secrets in design. Inside the lighthouse, there were three stages made in the lighthouse: 1. the square base, 2. the body was an octagonal, and 3. the top was cylindrical. The lighthouse was built like this because it needs to be tall so the flame at the top can be seen well by ships passing by.

Sasatrus, a wealthy person from the island of Nidos, paid for the lighthouse because of his ships that kept



getting wrecked by the jagged rocks. The workers who worked on the lighthouse finished the construction around 250 B.C.

The Pharos of Alexandria was an extremely important structure in the history of the city. It would have a flame burning on the top, showing the sailors where the rocky side was, so they do not run into the rocks and damage their boat. The lighthouse was a significant structure while it lasted. The Pharos got so famous that its name became the origin of the lighthouse.

The Pharos of Alexandria was one of the tallest structures in the ancient world, standing at 450 feet high. It stood for over 1,500 years. The Pharos of Alexandria crashed between 1303 to 1349 A.D, due to a violent earthquake. The Pharos of Alexandria was an architectural wonder to the human eye.

The Pharos of Alexandria was considered a wonder because of its amazing structural design and the great importance it had by protecting ships from passing by Alexandria.

Chapter II: Wonders in Europe

The wonders in Europe were the Temple of Zeus and the colossus of Rhodes. The Temple of Zeus holds a huge statue of Zeus. The colossus of Rhodes was a gigantic statue shaped like the ancient Greek sun god, Helios.

The first Wonder located in Europe is The Temple of Zeus. The statue of Zeus inside the Temple was located in Olympia, Greece. The Temple was the place to pray for Zeus and sacrifice animals in his honor. The Temple of Zeus was built in 466-456 B.C. The architect that built the Temple of Zeus, was named Bilon. Bilon was a sculptor who lived in Elis. Bilon used laurel stone and fossil shells to sculpt the Temple of Zeus. The Temple of Zeus was an extremely religious place. In honor of Zeus, the community hosted the Olympic Games.

The Olympic Games would happen every four years. Successful athletes would become famous and celebrated by playing the games. Spectators of the Olympic Games would come from all over Greece, and even overseas. The first Olympic Game was in 776 B.C. The games were a festival of athletic skills. These games were so important that Greece could not participate in any war.



All of the Olympic games would happen in Greece. The Olympic Games started out with only running and wrestling, but soon included horse races, chariot races, and fighting in armor to the death. The winners of the games were rewarded with

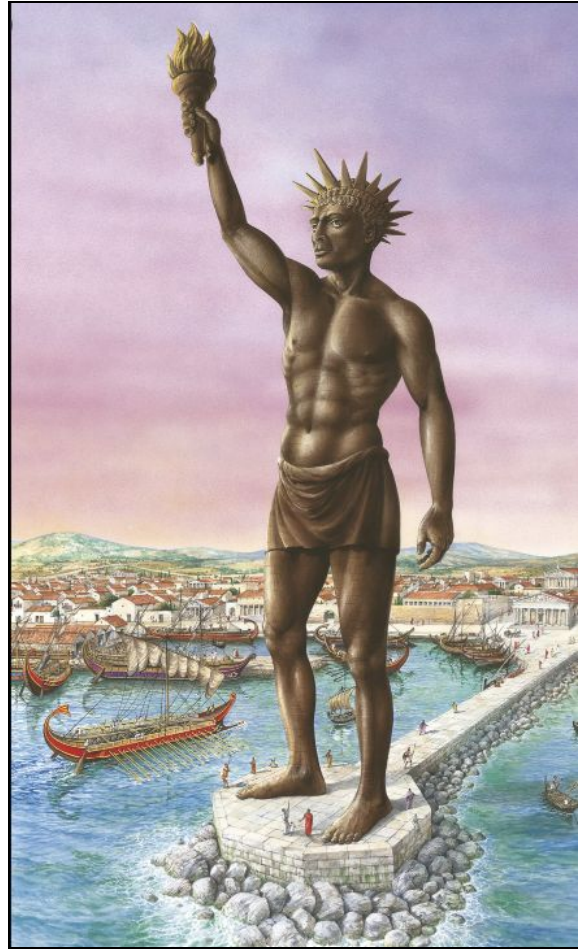
crowns made from olive leaves. Only people with Greek heritage could take part in the games. All the games would involve sacrifices in honor of Zeus. Soon after the games had been created, they were forgotten and eventually revived in the 1800s, now known as the Olympics. So if it was not for Ancient Greece the Olympics never would have existed. Phidias, the sculptor for the statue of Zeus, is also a painter and architect. Phidias was known as Phidias the Great due to his outstanding art. He was also referred to as Phidias the Great because he came up with a new architectural technique that made a dent in modern and ancient architecture. That technique is called wet drapery. Wet drapery made sculptures look more vivid. Soon after his big break, he was forced to leave after being falsely accused of stealing a gold bar. Overall, Phidias was one of the best artists in Ancient Greece.

The materials that Phidias used to sculpt the statue of Zeus was wood, ebony, bronze, and ivory. Phidias made the statue approximately 12.4 meters tall and made Zeus in a sitting position. In his right hand, Zeus was holding Nike, the goddess of victory, and in his left hand, Zeus was holding a scepter surmounted with an eagle.

The second Wonder located in Europe is the colossus of Rhodes. The word colossus means gigantic statue. The statue known as the Colossus of Rhodes was designed by Charles of Lindos. The statue of Rhodes stood at about 110 feet high. For comparison, the Statue of Liberty from base to torch is 305 feet high. The construction of the statue cost a whopping 1.5 million stater (Rhode's currency.) This statue started construction around 294 to 282 B.C. The statue of Rhodes was made to look after the Ancient Greek sun god, Helios. This made a fierce

impression on neighboring empires because their island was protected by the sun god Helios.

The population of the Island of Rhodes was about 60,000 - 80,000. The people of Rhodes believed that their island was blessed by Helios. In 305 B.C. before the statue was built, trespassers, The Macedonian army to be exact, invaded Rhodes. The people of Rhodes fought bravely and won the war. All the invaders ran for their lives but made the mistake of leaving all their equipment behind. After that, the people of Rhodes proceeded to melt the bronze



armor and weapons then make the Colossus of Rhodes out of the melted bronze. This battle was significant because without it there would be no Colossus of Rhodes.

The Colossus of Rhodes took 12 years to build. The statue of Helios stood for 56 years. The statue would have lasted longer, but in 226 B.C. there was a violent earthquake that made the statue collapse. The statue fell on a beach in Rhodes. The Rhodians would have rebuilt the statue but they were told by an oracle not to build the statue again. Overall, the Colossus of Rhodes was a large and meaningful statue to the ancient Greeks because of the great victory the statue held.

Chapter III: Wonders in Asia

The three wonders in Asia are the Temple of Artemis, the Gardens of Babylon, and the Mausoleum. The Temple of Artemis was a temple that honors the god Artemis. The Gardens of Babylon was a famous garden in the Mesopotamia civilization. The Mausoleum was a tomb dedicated to the emperor Mausolus.

First, the Temple of Artemis was located in Ephesus, Turkey. The temple started construction at approximately 800 B.C. The Temple was built to honor Artemis, one of the maiden goddesses at Olympus. The Temple of Artemis was destroyed twice, once in a flood and once in a fire. When building the Temple of Artemis,

workers would get the blocks from a quarry in Italy.

Workers would use a wire to finely cut blocks out.



Workers, when they wanted to cut out the blocks, would use hammers and wedges to separate the blocks. After the workers cut out the blocks, they roughly trimmed them with a machete. Sometimes workers would chisel holes in the blocks to make them lighter. Cutting the blocks from the quarry was hard work but actually transporting the blocks was also difficult.

Transporting the blocks was a hard and long journey. To transport a block, workers would tie the block to a sled and use logs to roll it down the path. If they needed to transport large amounts of blocks they would use a cart and have oxen pull it. Workers would also send out ships carrying these blocks. When transporting the blocks to the temple, men worked in groups. The blocks were estimated to be 24 tons each. After the blocks were transported, the workers would move on to the construction.

The laborers worked hard to build the Temple of Artemis. The average diet for the workers was bread, fruit, and wine. Workers would wake up as early as 4:00 AM to start working. They lived in a nearby village one to two miles away from the base of the Temple. The Temple construction took approximately 10 years to complete. Their lifestyle was a stressful and painful journey.

The art of the Temple was beautifully detailed. The slabs on top of the Temple were carved to be animals and hunting scenes since Artemis was the goddess of hunting.

The pillars were Ionic columns. The workers chiseled the blocks into a disk with a square base. Each part of the marble pillars were drilled together with bronze keys. The architecture of the Temple of Artemis is a good example of how important design was to ancient people.

The second Wonder located in Asia is the Gardens of Babylon. The Gardens of Babylon were in the Mesopotamia civilization. Today, this civilization would be located in the city of Hillah. Nebuchadnezzar II built the gardens for his wife, Amytis because she stated she was homesick and needed all the vegetation. Nebuchadnezzar II ruled between 605 B.C. to 562 B.C. The gardens were built on the Euphrates River. In the civilization of Mesopotamia, there were people who

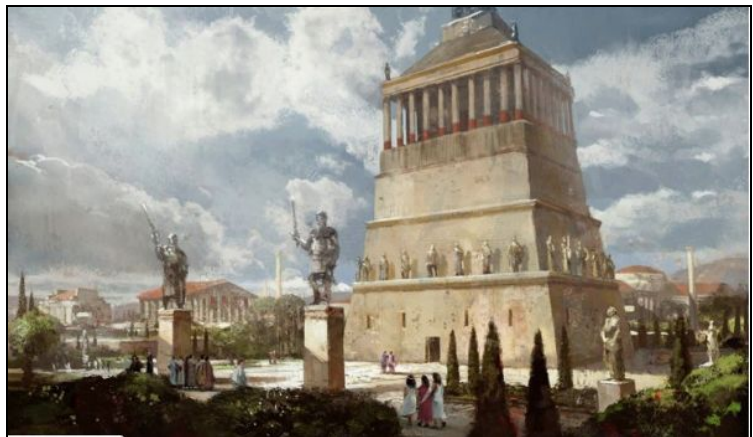
were jewelers, weavers, astronomers, mathematicians, and teachers. The plants and fruits grown in the gardens were, almond, date palm, ebony, olive, oak, terebinth, nuts, ash, firs, nightshade, willow, pomegranate, plum, pear, quince, and fig. The gardens were an amazing part of ancient history because of the fascinating gardens and the backstory behind it all.



The structure is an architectural mystery because of the fact that there is no evidence showing that the gardens are real or not. The city was built by Nebuchadnezzar II. The outer walls of the city were 79 feet thick. The word “paradise” originally meant a walled garden. The outer wall of the gardens was 11 miles long. There is still a mystery surrounding the existence of the Gardens of Babylon.

The third of the Seven Wonders located in Asia was the Mausoleum of Halicarnassus. The emperor Mausolus was a powerful man. The city of Halicarnassus is now the town of Bodiam, Turkey. Mausolus married his sister Artemisia. Sadly, Mausolus died in 353 B.C. before he could finish his tomb.

The Mausoleum was an amazing piece of art. Mausolus ruled the ancient city of Halicarnassus. The Mausoleum



was a tomb for Mausolus, the emperor of Halicarnassus. The monument was adorned with stone lions, gods, and warriors. The monument was set on a massive stone block. The Mausoleum finished construction in 350 B.C. The Mausoleum was a great wonder due to its amazingly talented design. The Mausoleum was so famous that the modern English word “mausoleum”, which means to describe any above-ground burial chamber, comes from it.

Conclusion

All of the Wonders changed the world in different ways. For example, the priests of the Statue of Zeus hosted the Olympic games which later became the Olympics we know today. The wonders really made their empire more powerful spiritually and physically. During all of the long hours of research and drafting, I had answered my main questions and many more in my mind. For example, for the question, “What makes wonders, wonders?” The answer is simple. The Greeks and Romans believed that these monuments were of great importance because of the power that the wonders held.

What touched me about my topic is all of the background surrounding these wonders. If I could go back and research more about my topic, I would research the background of the cities and countries in which the wonders were built. I enjoyed writing and learning about my topic, and I would definitely go back and do the expert project again.

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