

7 wonders of the ancient world for kids

7 Wonders of the Ancient World for Kids

The 7 Wonders of the Ancient World are some of the most amazing structures that were built by human hands thousands of years ago. They showcase the creativity, engineering skills, and artistry of ancient civilizations. Although most of these wonders no longer exist, their stories continue to inspire people around the globe. In this article, we will explore each of these incredible wonders, where they were located, and what made them special. Let's dive into the fascinating world of ancient wonders!

What Are the 7 Wonders of the Ancient World?

The 7 Wonders of the Ancient World is a list of remarkable constructions known to the ancient Greeks. These wonders were celebrated for their grandeur and extraordinary craftsmanship. Here's a quick list of the wonders:

1. The Great Pyramid of Giza
2. The Hanging Gardens of Babylon
3. The Statue of Zeus at Olympia
4. The Temple of Artemis at Ephesus
5. The Mausoleum at Halicarnassus
6. The Colossus of Rhodes
7. The Lighthouse of Alexandria

Each of these wonders has its own unique story and significance. Let's explore them one by one!

The Great Pyramid of Giza

Location and History

The Great Pyramid of Giza is located on the outskirts of Cairo, Egypt. It was built around 2580 - 2560 BC and is the oldest of the 7 wonders. It is also the only one that still stands today.

What Makes It Special?

- Size: Originally, the pyramid stood at about 146.6 meters (481 feet) tall, making it the tallest man-made structure in the world for over 3,800 years.
- Construction: It was built as a tomb for the Pharaoh Khufu (also known as Cheops). It is estimated that around 2.3 million blocks of stone were used in its construction, weighing an average of 2.5 tons each.

- Alignment: The pyramid is perfectly aligned with the four cardinal points of the compass, showcasing the Egyptians' advanced knowledge of astronomy.

The Hanging Gardens of Babylon

Location and History

The Hanging Gardens are said to have been located in the ancient city of Babylon, near present-day Hillah, Babil in Iraq. They were supposedly built during the reign of King Nebuchadnezzar II, around 600 BC.

What Makes It Special?

- Terraced Gardens: The gardens were described as a series of tiered gardens that resembled mountains or hills. They were filled with a variety of trees, shrubs, and vines.
- Irrigation: The gardens were said to have been watered by an innovative irrigation system that brought water from the Euphrates River, allowing the plants to thrive in the arid climate.
- Mystery: Interestingly, some historians debate whether the gardens actually existed, as there are no definitive archaeological findings. This adds an element of mystery to their story.

The Statue of Zeus at Olympia

Location and History

The Statue of Zeus was located in the Temple of Zeus in Olympia, Greece. It was created by the famous sculptor Phidias around 435 BC.

What Makes It Special?

- Size: The statue stood about 12 meters (39 feet) tall and was made of ivory and gold-plated bronze. It depicted Zeus, the king of the Greek gods, seated on a grand throne.
- Artistic Mastery: The statue was renowned for its amazing craftsmanship and attention to detail. It was considered a masterpiece of ancient Greek art.
- Cultural Significance: The statue was not only a religious symbol but also an important part of the Olympic Games, as Olympia was the site of the games in honor of Zeus.

The Temple of Artemis at Ephesus

Location and History

The Temple of Artemis was located in Ephesus (modern-day Turkey) and was completed around 550 BC. It was dedicated to the goddess Artemis, the goddess of the hunt and wilderness.

What Makes It Special?

- Architecture: The temple was famous for its magnificent size and beautiful design. It measured around 115 meters (377 feet) in length and 55 meters (180 feet) in width, supported by 127 columns.
- Cultural Importance: The temple served as a major religious center and attracted worshippers from all over the ancient world.
- Destruction: The temple was destroyed multiple times throughout history, with the final destruction occurring in 262 AD. Today, only a few ruins remain.

The Mausoleum at Halicarnassus

Location and History

The Mausoleum at Halicarnassus was located in what is now Bodrum, Turkey. It was built as a tomb for Mausolus, a Persian satrap, around 350 BC.

What Makes It Special?

- Design: The mausoleum was around 45 meters (148 feet) tall and was adorned with intricate sculptures and reliefs. It was considered a blend of Greek, Egyptian, and Lycian architectural styles.
- Cultural Legacy: The term "mausoleum" originates from Mausolus's name, reflecting the structure's influence on future tomb designs.
- Destruction: The mausoleum was destroyed by a series of earthquakes in the Middle Ages, leaving only its foundation.

The Colossus of Rhodes

Location and History

The Colossus of Rhodes was a gigantic statue of the sun god Helios, located on the island of Rhodes, Greece. It was constructed around 280 BC to celebrate Rhodes's victory over Cyprus.

What Makes It Special?

- Size: The statue stood approximately 33 meters (108 feet) tall, making it one of the tallest statues of the ancient world.
- Symbol of Freedom: The Colossus was a symbol of unity and freedom for the people of Rhodes and greeted sailors entering the harbor.
- Destruction: The statue stood for only 56 years before being toppled by an earthquake in 226 BC. Its remains were left on the ground for centuries.

The Lighthouse of Alexandria

Location and History

The Lighthouse of Alexandria, also known as the Pharos of Alexandria, was located on the small island of Pharos near Alexandria, Egypt. It was built around 280 BC during the reign of Ptolemy II.

What Makes It Special?

- Height: The lighthouse was estimated to be around 100 meters (330 feet) tall, making it one of the tallest structures of the ancient world.
- Functionality: The lighthouse served as a guide for sailors navigating the busy harbor of Alexandria. It used a large open flame at the top to provide light.
- Destruction: The lighthouse suffered damage from several earthquakes and eventually collapsed in the 14th century. Today, its remnants lie underwater near the coast of Alexandria.

Conclusion

The 7 Wonders of the Ancient World not only demonstrate the incredible creativity and skill of ancient civilizations but also serve as reminders of human ambition. While most of these wonders no longer exist, their stories live on, inspiring future generations. Learning about these remarkable structures helps us appreciate the history and achievements of our ancestors.

So, the next time you hear about the wonders of the ancient world, remember the creativity, engineering, and artistry that brought these incredible structures to life!

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the 7 Wonders of the Ancient World?

The 7 Wonders of the Ancient World include the Great Pyramid of Giza, the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, the Statue of Zeus at Olympia, the Temple of Artemis at Ephesus, the Mausoleum at Halicarnassus, the Colossus of Rhodes, and the Lighthouse of Alexandria.

Which of the 7 Wonders is still standing today?

The Great Pyramid of Giza is the only one of the 7 Wonders of the Ancient World that is still standing today.

Why were the 7 Wonders of the Ancient World built?

The 7 Wonders were built to showcase the incredible achievements of ancient civilizations, their architectural skills, and to honor important figures or deities.

Which Wonder was known for its beautiful gardens?

The Hanging Gardens of Babylon were famous for their extraordinary beauty, featuring lush, tiered gardens that were said to be built in the ancient city of Babylon.

How did the 7 Wonders influence modern architecture?

The 7 Wonders inspired many modern architects and builders to create grand structures, incorporating elements of their design and engineering techniques into contemporary buildings.

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