Travel Adventures

# Wonders of the WORLD

## Symmetry



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# Ancient Wonders of the World

Top-ten lists are everywhere you look. We list our favorite foods. We list the best places to travel. We even make lists about lists. Oddly, this is not a new trend. Ancient Greeks made lists, too. They made lists of seven instead of ten. They believed seven was a **sacred** number. Philo of Byzantium wrote the most well-known list. He named the seven best man-made **structures.** Today, we know them as the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.

These wonders were all built at different times. The list was made after many of them were destroyed. But, people still travel to the sites where these wonders once stood. They imagine the giant statues. They picture the beautiful gardens. They inspire people to this day.

## The Great Pyramid of Giza

The Great Pyramid of Giza is the only ancient wonder left standing today. It was built almost 4,600 years ago. It was a tomb for the Egyptian Pharaoh Khufu.

It's no surprise that the word *great* is in this pyramid's name. Building it was a huge project. It took about 20 years and over 2 million stones. At 455 feet (139 meters), it is as tall as a 40-story skyscraper!

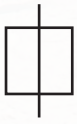
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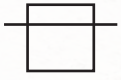
Great Pyramid of Giza in Egypt

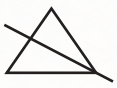
## LET'S EXPLORE MATH

The Great Pyramid of Giza has five faces made up of one square and four triangles. Which examples show correct lines of symmetry for these squares and triangles?

**A.** 

**C.** 

**E.** 

**B.** 

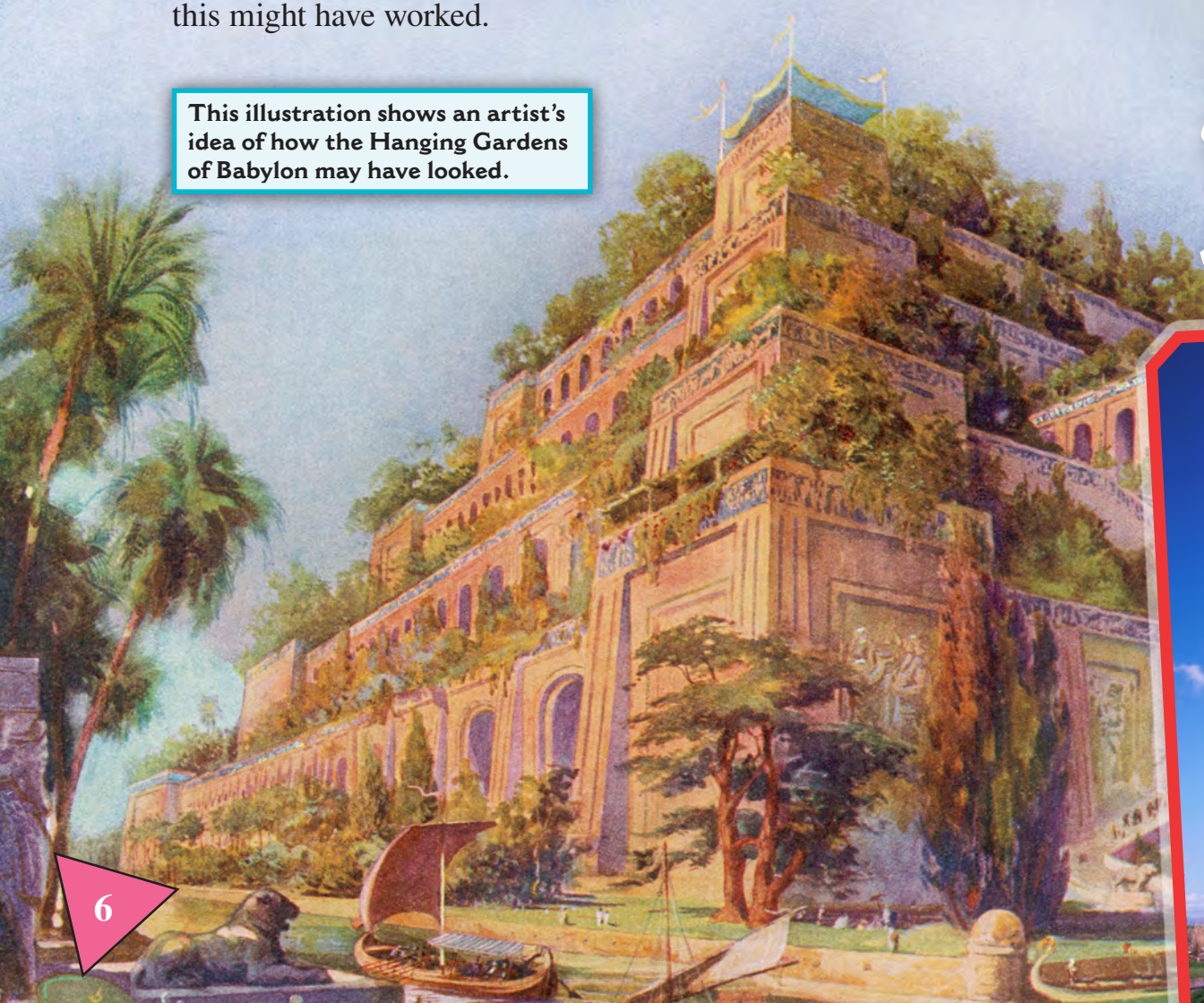
**D.** 

**F.** 

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# Hanging Gardens of Babylon

The Hanging Gardens of Babylon still inspire curiosity and questions. A popular story is that a king created them to cheer up his homesick wife. But to this day, no one has found the site in modern-day Iraq. Many people question whether the gardens ever existed at all. If they did, they would have grown on several levels of terraces. There are many ideas about how the gardens would have been watered. People cannot agree on how this might have worked.

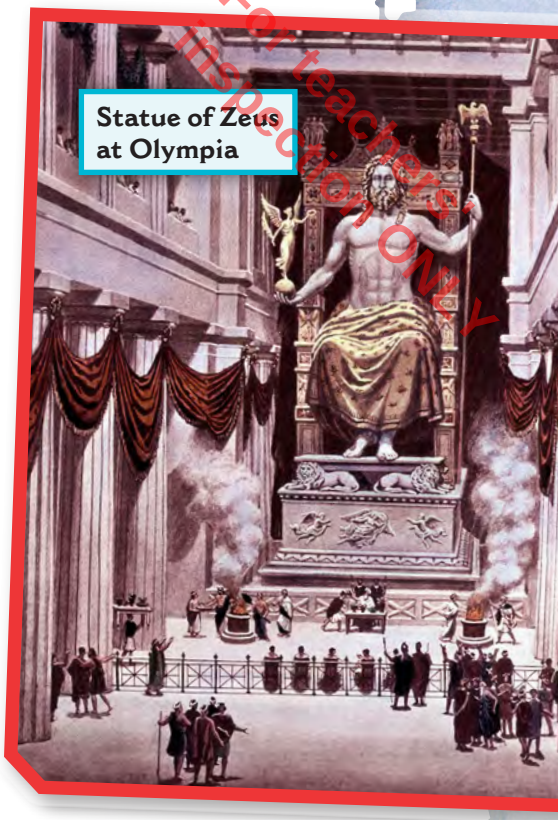


**This illustration shows an artist's idea of how the Hanging Gardens of Babylon may have looked.**

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# Statue of Zeus at Olympia

The Statue of Zeus at Olympia was sculpted around 435 BC in Greece. It was built to honor the Greek god Zeus. The statue was so large that the temple was built around it! It stood over 40 ft. (12 m) high. The statue was made of ivory and gold. The throne was made from wood, gold, and ebony. About 1,000 years later, it was destroyed by an earthquake.



Statue of Zeus at Olympia



a reconstructed column on the site of the Temple of Artemis in modern Turkey

# Temple of Artemis

The Temple of Artemis was named for the goddess it honored. The structure was rebuilt at least three times. The final temple was about 350 ft. (107 m) long and 180 ft. (55 m) wide. It was four times the size of one of the earlier temples. More than 100 stone columns were needed to hold up its huge roof. In AD 262, a mob destroyed the temple. It was never rebuilt.

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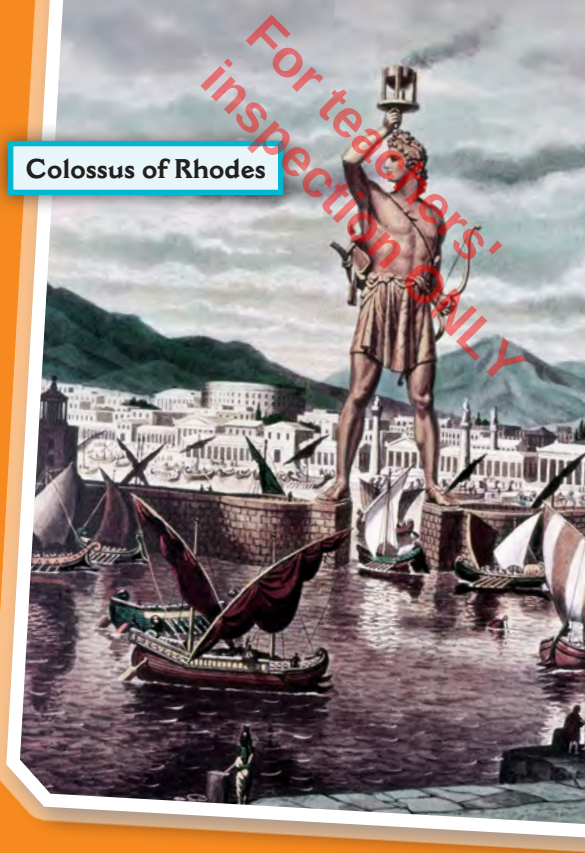
Mausoleum at Halicarnassus (modern-day Turkey)

# Mausoleum at Halicarnassus

When governor Mausolus of Caria died, his wife built a tomb for him. It was greater than anything ever built. It was called the **Mausoleum** at Halicarnassus. The marble tomb sat 140 ft. (43 m) tall in the center of a courtyard on a great stone platform. It overlooked the city for centuries. Stone warriors on horseback symbolically guarded it from people who might do it harm. But, people weren't its greatest threat. Earthquakes destroyed it in the thirteenth century.

# Colossus of Rhodes

The Colossus of Rhodes was a huge sculpture of the sun god Helios. How **colossal** was it? The bronze statue was over 100 ft. (30 m) tall. That's about as tall as a 10-story building! The statue overlooked the island of Rhodes in Greece for 56 years before being destroyed by an earthquake. Even so, the ruins were visited by tourists for another 800 years!



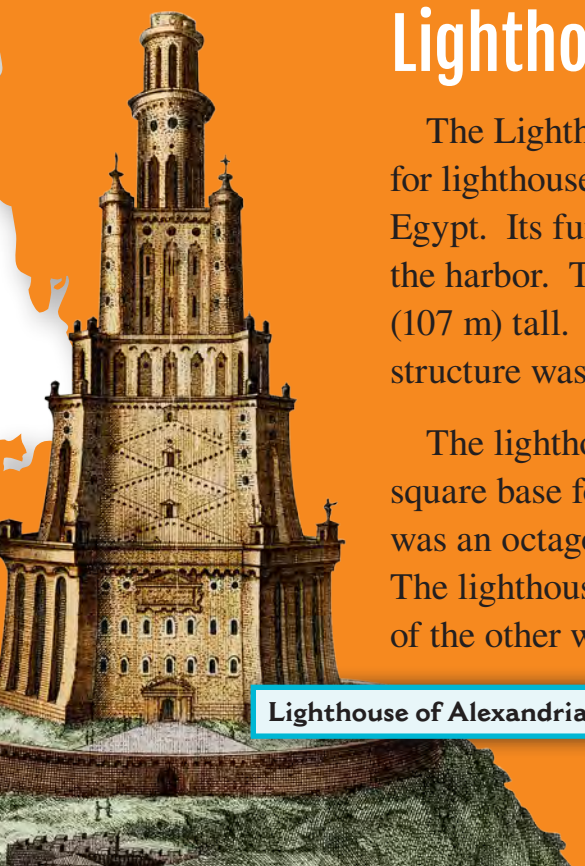
Colossus of Rhodes

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# Lighthouse of Alexandria

The Lighthouse of Alexandria was the inspiration for lighthouses today. It was built in 280 BC in Egypt. Its function was to guide trade ships into the harbor. The lighthouse stood more than 350 ft. (107 m) tall. At the time, the only taller man-made structure was the Pyramid of Giza.

The lighthouse was built in three pieces. A square base formed the bottom. The middle piece was an octagonal **prism**. A cylinder rested on top. The lighthouse survived until the 1300s. Like many of the other wonders, an earthquake destroyed it.



Lighthouse of Alexandria