

THE **7** WONDERS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD

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The Statue of Zeus



The Temple of Artemis



The Lighthouse of Alexandria

A first list

The Seven Wonders of the Ancient World are monuments which represent the most wondrous examples of human achievement in art, architecture, and engineering. They were all located around the Mediterranean and they were all huge, impressive, and beautiful, inspiring awe and admiration. The first list of these monuments first appears about 2000 years ago in a short poem by Antipatrus, a Greek poet. Today we call them the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World and sadly all but one of them can now only be found in history books.

The Great Pyramid in Egypt is the only wonder that survived to the present day. All the others, the Hanging Gardens of Babylon, the Temple of Artemis, the Statue of Zeus at Olympia, the Mausoleum at Halicarnassus, the Colossus of Rhodes and the Lighthouse of Alexandria, were destroyed by earthquakes or fire and have disappeared or are in ruins.



The Mausoleum at Halicarnassus



The Hanging Gardens of Babylon



The Colossus of Rhodes



The Great Pyramid of Giza

Originally, the list was called the Seven Sights of the World and so it was a kind of ancient travel guide.

The Great Pyramid of Giza

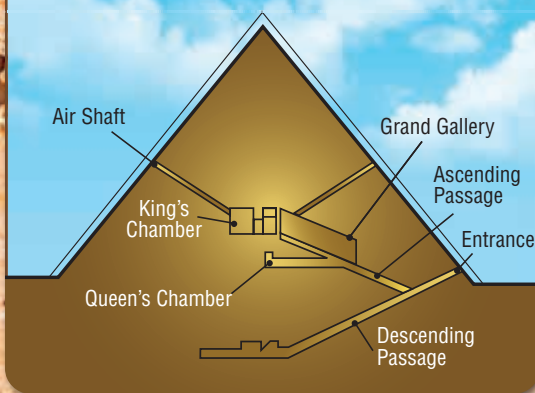
For teachers' inspection ONLY

In the suburbs of Cairo, one of the world's most famous sights rises from the desert. The large stone structure towers over its surroundings. It is, after all, 450 feet tall and made up of over 2.3 million individual blocks of stone. Researchers and historians are still puzzled about this enormous masterpiece of ancient engineering. It is the Great Pyramid of Giza, completed around 2560 BCE. Throughout the ages, this pyramid has inspired awe and curiosity in all who have seen it. The Great Pyramid is the only ancient wonder that time and outside forces did not destroy. Despite this fact, questions about its construction and purpose still do not have definitive answers.



The Great Pyramid we see today looks nothing like it would have when it was first built over 4,500 years ago. It was about 480 feet tall and made of limestone. The outside of the pyramid was covered with a layer of smooth, polished, white limestone, and at the top of the pyramid was a capstone which may have been gold. Four smaller pyramids stood around the base of the pyramid, three of which still remain.

Inside the Great Pyramid of Giza



The Great Pyramid was the tallest man-made structure on Earth for thousands of years.

Building the Pyramid

The Great Pyramid was built by the Pharaoh Khufu (King Cheops in Greek) as his tomb in 2560 BCE. The ancient Egyptians were able to move and stack the pyramid's blocks almost perfectly. The average weight of each block is 2.5 tons, which is more than a white rhinoceros weighs. The largest blocks weighed up to nine tons. The workers cut blocks from quarries from as far as 500 miles away. It is likely that they built large inclined ramps to put the blocks in place. They placed the blocks on sleds and wet the ramps. This made it easier to move the blocks. Using ropes made from papyrus twine, they pulled the blocks upward and put them in place. At the top, the workers probably used levers, which allowed them to lift the blocks. It probably took them 10-20 years to complete with a workforce of 14,000-40,000 workers.

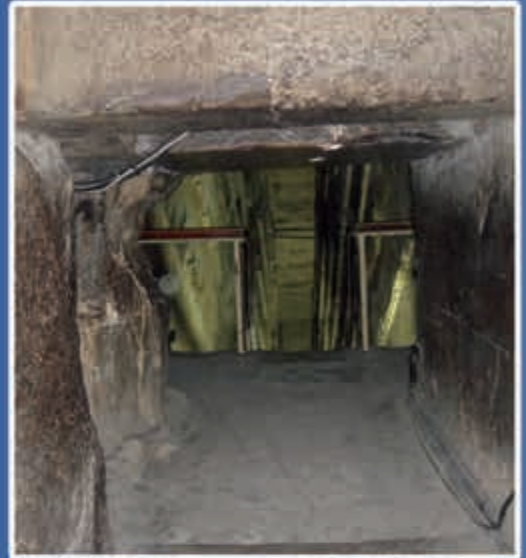
The interior of the pyramid had long narrow passageways; some of them went up, and others went down. They led to three chambers deep within the pyramid. One of them was the King's Chamber, and another was called the Queen's Chamber.



The Missing Treasure

In Ancient Egypt, modern day Cairo was called Memphis and it was the capital city of the Egyptian pharaohs. The pharaohs used Giza as the Royal Necropolis or “city of the dead”. This was where they built tombs to bury the pharaoh kings and queens of Egypt. The Egyptians believed that the pharaohs were living gods and that after they died, they would live in the afterlife with the other gods. They were buried in tombs, some above ground like the pyramids and others below ground. In the tombs were all the possessions that they might need in the afterlife.

Khufu's treasure and body have never been found. When the tomb was raided in 820 CE by the Arabs, they found nothing. The sarcophagus, in which dead bodies were placed, in the King's Chamber, was empty. In addition, there were no personal belongings or signs of how thieves may have got in and out of the pyramid. Archeologists presume that the pyramid may have been robbed in ancient times. However, some historians suggest that King Khufu and his architects may have outsmarted modern archeologists, and his tomb and his treasure may still lie somewhere in or below the pyramid.



To prevent thieves from robbing the tombs, Egyptian architects built passageways that could be blocked with impassable granite blocks, created secret hidden rooms, and made decoy chambers.

The Great Pyramid of Giza

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Word Bank (pp. 6-7)

suburb (n) = an area where people live on the outskirts of a city

sight (n) = sth you really should see

rise (v) = (of a building) to stand above

desert (n) = a dry sandy place where little rain falls

structure (n) = a type of building or construction

tower (v) = (of a building) to stand very high above

surroundings (pl n) = things around a place or thing

individual (adj) = single, one

block of stone (phr) = a large piece of stone that has been made to a certain size

researcher (n) = sb who tries to find new facts about a subject

puzzled (adj) = not sure how sth happened and thinking about a solution

enormous (adj) = very big, huge

masterpiece (n) = a piece of work that needed a lot of skill and care to do or make

complete (v) = to finish

ages (pl n) = many hundreds or thousands of years

curiosity (n) = wanting to know more about sth

outside forces (phr) = activities which come from sb or somewhere else

despite (prep) = in spite of, regardless of

construction (n) = the act of building, how sth was built

purpose (n) = the reason for sth

definitive answer (phr) = a final answer which covers all the points of a question

limestone (n) = a type of rock that is made of things that were once alive (e.g. shells) and is used in building

layer (n) = one part of a covering material

smooth (adj) = not rough

polished (adj) = made to shine

capstone (n) = the highest point of the pyramid, or the final stone

gold (adj) = made of a yellow colored metal that is expensive

base (n) = the bottom part

remain (v) = to still exist

man-made (adj) = artificial, not natural

chamber (n) = a room for official purposes

air shaft (n) = a long vertical passage of air

ascending (adj) = moving or going upwards

descending (adj) = coming down or downwards

passage (n) = a way through

entrance (n) = the way into a place

Pre-Reading activities

1 a) Choose the option that best answers each question.

1 Where do you think the Great Pyramid is?

- A almost in Cairo
- B in the middle of a desert
- C on the banks of the Nile River

2 How high do you think the Great Pyramid is?

- A 450 feet
- B 500 feet
- C 550 feet

3 When do you think the Egyptians finished building the Great Pyramid?

- A 2065 BCE
- B 2650 BCE
- C 2560 BCE

4 What do you think the pyramid was built with?

- A sandstone
- B limestone
- C clay bricks

5 How many pyramids stood around the bottom of the Great Pyramid?

- A two
- B three
- C four

b)  Listen, read, and check.



While-Reading activities

2 Decide if the statements are *T* (true), *F* (false) or *DS* (doesn't say).

- 1 The city of Cairo has grown so much that the Great Pyramid is no longer in the middle of the desert.
- 2 No one really knows how the ancient Egyptians built the Great Pyramid.
- 3 Herodotus, the ancient Greek historian, was the first to describe this pyramid.
- 4 The whole pyramid was built with white limestone.
- 5 Perhaps there was a gold capstone on the Great Pyramid.
- 6 The Great Pyramid is the oldest structure in the area.
- 7 For three hundred years the Great Pyramid was the tallest building in the world.

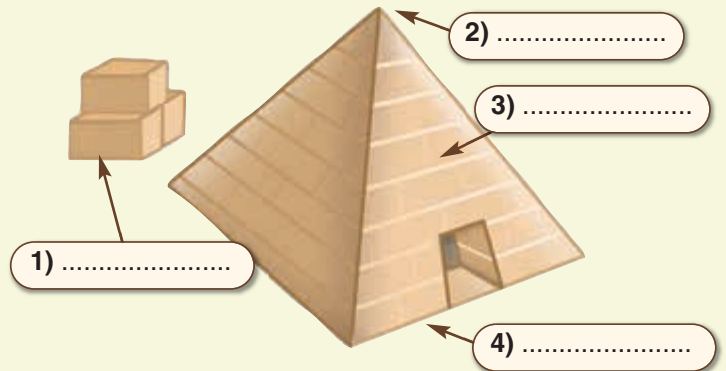
3 Replace the words in bold with a word from the list.

- remain • suburbs • enormous • purpose
- masterpiece • despite • construction

- 1 The **outskirts** of Cairo are now very close to the Great Pyramid.
- 2 The **building** of the Great Pyramid was a huge achievement.
- 3 The Great Pyramid is **huge** so you feel very small when you stand close to it.
- 4 The Great Pyramid is an **impressive work** of ancient engineering.
- 5 **In spite of** the fact that ancient Egyptians did not have the tools we have today, the Great Pyramid is very impressive.
- 6 The **reason** for building the Great Pyramid is not completely understood.
- 7 There are three pyramids that **exist now** around the Great Pyramid.

4 SUBJECT-SPECIFIC VOCABULARY: Label the diagram of the Great Pyramid using the words in the list.

- capstone • base • limestone
- blocks of stone



After-Reading activities

5 Correct the mistakes in bold. Use words or phrases from the list.

- curiosity • towers above • layer
- suburbs of Cairo • base • remains

The Great Pyramid is located in the **1) middle of the desert**, and is a large stone structure that **2) looks small in** its surroundings. It is the only one of the seven wonders of the ancient world that **3) was destroyed**. It has inspired **4) awe** in historians who still do not know why this pyramid was built. The pyramid had an outer **5) part** which was smooth and polished. Four small pyramids stood around the **6) center** of this pyramid.

6 **ICT** Collect information on how to make a pyramid. Draw some diagrams with notes explaining how a pyramid is built. Show your work to your class.

7 **Think** Imagine you are looking at the Great Pyramid just after it was built. In two minutes, tell your class what you can see and how it makes you feel.

Building the Pyramid

For teachers' inspection ONLY

Word Bank (pp. 8-9)

Pharaoh (n) = the title of the ancient Egyptian Kings

tomb (n) = a place to put dead people

BCE (abbr) = Before the Common Era, before the birth of Christ

stack (v) = to put things on top of each other

perfectly (adv) = with no errors, in the best possible way

average weight (phr) = the weight of a number of things added together and divided by their total number

ton (n) = an American measurement of weight; 2,000 pounds

weigh (v) = to have a particular weight

quarry (n) = a place where stone can be found and removed from

it is likely (phr) = it is probable; it could very well be true, but there is no absolute proof

inclined (adj) = at an angle, sloping

ramp (n) = a structure that connects two things that are at different heights or levels

in place (phr) = where sth fits, in position

place (v) = to put

sled (n) = a type of vehicle on runners (not wheels) used to carry things

wet (v) = to put water on

rope (n) = a thick cord in a long line used to pull things or tie them in place

papyrus twine (n) = string or cord made from a tall plant that grows near the Nile River

upwards (adv) = to a higher place, up

lever (n) = a strong tool used to move sth heavy

allow (v) = to let, to permit

lift (v) = to raise, to carry upward

workforce (n) = all the people who work in a place or on a project

interior (n) = the inside of sth

narrow (adj) = small in width (Opposite: wide)

passageway (n) = a way that connects one place to another

lead (v) = to go in the direction of

deep (adv) = going a long way down

treasure (n) = money, gold, jewels, etc.

capital city (phr) = the main city in a country, usually where the government is

royal (adj) = of kings and queens

necropolis (n) = a cemetery, an area of land used for burials

bury (v) = to place or hide in the ground

afterlife (n) = the life we have after we die

god (n) = a supernatural being

above ground (phr) = on top of the ground

below ground (phr) = under the ground

possessions (pl n) = what we own, our belongings

raid (v) = to make a sudden surprise attack

CE (abbr) = Common Era, after the birth of Christ

sarcophagus (n) = a stone coffin, like a box, where the dead are placed

dead body (phr) = a corpse, a lifeless person

empty (adj) = with nothing in it (Opposite: full)

personal belongings (phr) = things that belong to a person, their possessions

sign (n) = a trace

thief (n) = (plural: thieves) a person who steals things from others

presume (v) = to suppose that sth is true because of facts you know, although it might not be true

rob (v) = to steal sth from a place

suggest (v) = to put forward an idea

outsmart (v) = to be cleverer than

prevent (v) = to stop sth from happening

impassable (adj) = not allowing sb to pass or get over

granite (n) = a type of hard rock

secret (adj) = kept away from others

hidden (adj) = out of sight or view

decoy chambers (phr) = rooms designed so that people would not find the room that was really important

Pre-Reading activities

- 1 a) Choose the word that best completes the sentences.

- 1 Archeologists/Engineers believe that the Great Pyramid was the tomb of Pharaoh Khufu.
- 2 The workers **weighed/placed** huge blocks of stone on top of each other.
- 3 The pyramid builders used tools which **prevented/allowed** them to lift heavy blocks of stone.
- 4 It was very difficult to **bury/lift** the heavy stones into place.
- 5 Cairo is the **capital/decoy** city of Egypt.
- 6 Egyptian pharaohs were buried with many of their **possessions/sleds** so that they could use them in the afterlife.
- 7 Some archeologists think that Pharaoh Khufu's treasure is still **secret/hidden** in or under his pyramid.

- b)  Listen, read, and check.

While-Reading activities

- 2 Fill in the blanks with words from the list.

- hidden • narrow • secret • empty • deep
- impassable • inclined

- 1 The ramps were so that it was easier to move the heavy blocks.
- 2 Inside the pyramid there are long passageways that go up and down.
- 3 The King's and Queen's Chambers are located inside the pyramid.
- 4 When the Arabs raided the pyramid they found the sarcophagus was
- 5 There were huge blocks of granite which were
- 6 There may be more rooms in or under the pyramid.
- 7 Some people think the treasure of Pharaoh Khufu is somewhere in the pyramid.

- 3 Fill in the blanks with the verbs in their correct form.

- pull • bury • raid • suggest • stack • rob
- weigh

- 1 The ancient Egyptians had to huge blocks of stone to build the pyramid.
- 2 Each block of stone at least a ton.
- 3 The workers the stones upward and then carefully placed them.
- 4 The ancient Egyptians their dead pharaohs in tombs above or below ground.
- 5 The Arabs the Great Pyramid in 820 CE.
- 6 Some archeologists that Pharaoh Khufu's body and treasure are hidden somewhere in the pyramid.
- 7 Some historians think the pyramid might have been in ancient times.

After-Reading activities

- 4 Fill in the blanks with: *chambers, ropes, passageways, inclined ramps, secret room, levers.*

The pyramid builders used 1) to get the huge blocks of limestone onto sleds. When they got to the building site, they used 2) made from papyrus twine to lift the blocks and put them in place very carefully. They probably used 3) to place the blocks when they got to the top of the pyramid.

They built three large 4) inside the pyramid and narrow 5) that went up and down. There were impassable blocks of granite and various 6) that acted as decoy chambers.

- 5  Collect more information about the Great Pyramid and prepare a presentation for your class on what you discover.

Review

Listening Activities

- 1**  Listen to a dialogue about a vacation. For questions 1-4, choose the correct answer (A, B, C, or D).

- 1 What are the speakers mainly discussing?
A a vacation in Turkey
B the Mausoleum at Halicarnassus
C the British Museum
D the Bodrum Castle
- 2 How did the woman feel about her visit to the ancient site?
A amazed
B fascinated
C disappointed
D annoyed
- 3 Why does the man ask "Who was she?"
A He had never heard of her.
B He wanted to show that he was listening.
C He was checking that his knowledge was correct.
D He was being polite and didn't really want more information.
- 4 According to the woman, what kind of woman was Artemisia?
A powerful
B secretive
C interesting
D intelligent

- 2**  Listen to a talk about the Great Pyramid of Giza. For questions 1-4, choose the correct answer (A, B, C, or D).

- 1 What is the main topic of the talk?
A the way archeologists are searching for the body of Pharaoh Khufu
B the search for the treasure that was buried with the pharaoh
C the search for the pharaoh's body
D the way technology helps in the exploration of the pyramid
- 2 Who is the talk aimed at?
A students of archeology
B a group of professors
C everyone who is interested in the Great Pyramid
D robotics engineers
- 3 Why does the speaker say that people watched the exploration of the pyramid "on live television"?
A to show that a lot of people are interested in the subject
B to explain that people became disappointed
C to show what problems the archeologists have
D to demonstrate the way technology helps archeologists
- 4 According to the speaker, what did the 2011 exploration of the pyramid show?
A There is another room in the pyramid that has not been seen.
B The mystery of the pyramid has been solved.
C There are more metal pins than people thought.
D There is a door with metal pins in it at the end of the passageway.

For teachers' inspection ONLY

Reading Activities

1 Mark the sentences as *T* (true) or *F* (false). Correct the false statements.

- 1 All the seven wonders of the ancient world are located in Greece.
- 2 The Great Pyramid of Giza is the only wonder that still exists.
- 3 The Great Pyramid was built in the city of Cairo.
- 4 The Hanging Gardens of Babylon were built in modern-day Iran.
- 5 King Nebuchadnezzar wanted the gardens built to make his wife happy.
- 6 The Hanging Gardens of Babylon might be only a story.
- 7 The Temple of Artemis was built on swampy ground.
- 8 The Temple of Artemis was rebuilt several times.
- 9 Herostratus was a hero for the people of Ephesus.
- 10 The statue of Zeus was built in the ancient Olympic stadium.
- 11 When the Olympic Games began they were to honor Zeus.
- 12 The statue of Zeus first supervised the Games in 420 BCE.
- 13 Phidias was not sure if his statue was good enough for Zeus.
- 14 Archeologists have not figured out how Phidias made his statue.
- 15 The Mausoleum of Halicarnassus can be found in Greece today.
- 16 Mausolus had the tomb built for himself.
- 17 The Colossus of Rhodes was built to honor Antigonos the one eyed.
- 18 The Rhodian builders used ramps to help them build the statue.
- 19 We know exactly what the Colossus looked like.
- 20 Nothing remains of the Lighthouse of Alexandria.

2 Write ten *T/F* statements based on the reader. Swap with your partner and answer them.

Subject-Specific Vocabulary

people: archeologists, historians, invaders, sculptor, architects, traitor

tools/equipment: chain pump, ramps, sleds, wheels, molds, scaffolding, siege tower

adjectives: in ruins, ancient, devastated

man-made: irrigation system, metropolis, necropolis, columns, statues, platforms, temples, sculpture, monument, marble

verbs: decorate, damage, rebuild, destroy, collapse, exist

nouns: site, interior, exterior, construction, structure, frieze, apex

materials: bronze, limestone, granite, metal, iron, marble

3 Use words from the Subject-Specific Vocabulary box to complete the fact file.

Modern technology can help 1) to discover the secrets of 2) buildings and other artefacts when they are working at historical sites. The 3) who designed the temples of Artemis, for example, used math and engineering skills which seem advanced for their time. The Hanging Gardens of Babylon were watered by a(n) 4) and engineers designed a(n) 5) to transport the water to the top terrace. Many of the ancient wonders are now 6) or completely 7), as the only one that still 8) is the Great Pyramid of Giza which still has many mysteries. In contrast we now know that the statue of Zeus was built using terracotta 9) discovered in the workshop of the 10) Phidias.

Reading in Context

For teachers' inspection ONLY

Pre-Reading activities

- 1 a) Read the title of the passage. What is the purpose of the text?
- b)  Listen, read, and check.

Word Bank

structure (n) = a building
guide (v) = to lead
trading center (phr) = a place to buy or sell things
oversee (v) = to supervise, to be in charge
request (v) = to ask
carve (v) = to engrave, to cut by chipping away at sth

determined (adj) = having made a firm decision and not changing it
ignore (v) = to take no notice of, to pay no attention to
foundation (n) = the lowest support of a structure which begins below the ground
overlook (v) = (of a building) to have a view of

THE SECOND TALLEST BUILDING IN THE ANCIENT WORLD

Although Alexander the Great founded the city of Alexandria, Egypt, it was Ptolemy Soter who made the city rich and who had the lighthouse built after Alexander's death. He did this because he thought the city needed a structure to guide ships into the harbor, which helped the city become an important trading center. He ordered the lighthouse to be built in 290 BCE and it was completed about twenty years later. Ptolemy Soter died before it was completed. It was his son, Ptolemy II, who oversaw the completion of the lighthouse.

It was the first lighthouse in the world and the tallest building in the ancient world, after the Great Pyramid at Giza.

The lighthouse was designed by Sostratus of Knidos and he was very proud of his work. He requested that his name be carved into the building but this was refused. Ptolemy II wanted his name to be the only one on the building.

However, Sostratus was determined. He ignored Ptolemy and carved his name on the foundation of the lighthouse and then covered it with plaster. In the plaster he carved Ptolemy's name. Years passed and Ptolemy's name fell away with the plaster so that only Sostratus' name remained.

The lighthouse was not simply a working structure; it was also a tourist attraction. Visitors could buy food at the observation balcony at the top of the first level. A smaller balcony provided a view from the top of the eight-sided tower for those that wanted to make that climb. The view from there must have been impressive as it was probably 300 feet high and overlooked the city.

While-Reading activities

2 Mark the sentences as T (true), F (false), or DS (doesn't say).

- 1 Alexander the Great chose Ptolemy to rule Egypt.
- 2 Ptolemy Soter helped to make Alexandria a wealthy city.
- 3 The lighthouse was the tallest building in the ancient world.
- 4 The lighthouse worked for many centuries.
- 5 Sostratus wanted to create a masterpiece.
- 6 Sostratus did as Ptolemy wanted.
- 7 In the end, only Sostratus' name was on it.
- 8 Not all visitors to the lighthouse climbed up to the second observation balcony.

3 Choose the correct word.

- 1 Alexander the Great **built/founded** the city of Alexandria in Egypt.
- 2 Ptolemy II **oversaw/overlooked** the completion of the lighthouse.
- 3 Sostratus wanted his name **carved/sculpted** on the lighthouse.
- 4 Ptolemy **decided/refused** to allow Sostratus to carve his name on the lighthouse.
- 5 Sostratus **ignored/obeyed** Ptolemy and carved his name on the lighthouse.

4 Fill in the blanks. Use the following words in the correct form: trade, attract, impress, complete, work, die.

- 1 The lighthouse was constructed after Alexander the Great's
- 2 Because Alexandria had a harbor it became an important center.
- 3 Ptolemy II presided over the of the lighthouse.
- 4 The lighthouse was a structure as well as a tourist
- 5 The view from the top balcony of the lighthouse must have been

After-Reading activities

5 Correct the summary.

Ptolemy Soter ordered the Lighthouse of Alexandria to be built. He realized that ships needed to be guided into the 1) **Nile River**. This helped the city become one of the most important 2) **tourist attractions** in the Mediterranean. The lighthouse was the first in the 3) **modern** world. It was built by Sostratus of Knidos who was very proud of it. He 4) **ordered** that his name be carved on the lighthouse but Ptolemy II 5) **overlooked** his request. Sostratus got his wish as he 6) **completed** his name on the lighthouse but 7) **provided** it with plaster and carved Ptolemy's name into that. Eventually the plaster fell off the lighthouse so only Sostratus' name was visible.

6 **ICT** Collect more information on the lighthouse. Take notes for a presentation.

Amazing Facts

Did you know?

Some of the building materials in the Lighthouse of Alexandria were used to build a 2) in the 1400s.

Tourists visiting the Temple of Artemis could buy small 4) of the statue of Artemis as souvenirs.

The statue of Zeus, although 5), was the smallest of the seven wonders.

King Mausolus was just an average ruler of a province in the Persian Empire. It was only his 6) that made him and his name well-known.

The Great Pyramid was the tallest structure in the world until the end of the 14th 7) when Lincoln Cathedral in the UK became the tallest.

The Great Pyramid originally had a 9) white surface of limestone blocks, so it shone in the morning sun.

The Lighthouse of Alexandria was very 1) and even appeared on Roman coins.

One legend about the Hanging Gardens of Babylon is that they were planted on a 3) mountain.

The Statue of Liberty outside New York City 8) was based on the 19th century idea of what the Colossus of Rhodes looked like.

Chares of Lindos was responsible for creating the Colossus of Rhodes and one 10) says that he killed himself because someone pointed out a mistake in the statue.

- 1 Fill in: replicas, massive, man-made, polished, famous, tomb, fortress, harbor, century, legend.
- 2 **ICT** In groups, collect more information about one of the seven wonders and prepare a Yes/No quiz.