

# The Seven Wonders of the Ancient World

Read about the seven wonders of the ancient world. Learn some facts about these fabulous structures and complete the tasks.

## The Great Pyramids of Giza, Egypt

The Great Pyramids, located at Giza on the west bank of the Nile River, are the only wonder of the ancient world that has survived to the present day. The three pyramids were built from roughly 2550 to 2490 B.C. as royal tombs. The largest pyramid, built by Cheops, covers 13 acres and is believed to contain more than 2.3 million stone blocks. The average weight of each block is 2.5 tons. According to the ancient Greek historian Herodotus, it took about 20 years to build this pyramid and as many as 100,000 men worked on it.



## The Hanging Gardens of Babylon

The Hanging Gardens of Babylon were supposedly built around 600 B.C. near the Euphrates River in modern-day Iraq by the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar to cheer up his homesick wife. They are also associated with the mythical Assyrian queen, Semiramis. The beautiful gardens were said to be more than 80 feet high planted on a huge square brick terrace that rested on the tall stone columns. There is a report that this wonder was destroyed by an earthquake in the second century B.C.



## The Statue of Zeus at Olympia

The Athenian sculptor Phidias built this 40-foot high statue of Zeus and placed it in the temple of Zeus at Olympia around 430 B.C. It was richly decorated with gold and ivory and was so tall that its head nearly touched the top of the temple. One theory states that the statue was moved to a temple in Constantinople, where it was destroyed in a fire in the fifth century A.D. All trace of it is lost.

