

Kids & Schools Tools

The Temple of Artemis

The Temple of Artemis was one of the Ancient 7 Wonders of the World, chosen by Philon of Byzantium in 200 B.C.

The greatest temple of the ancient world, the Temple of Artemis (also known as the Temple to Diana) once stood as the most magnificent accomplishment of Greek civilization and Hellenic culture, built to honor Artemis—the Greek goddess of the hunt, mistress of Nature, protector of wild beasts and the sister of Apollo. The Temple of Artemis was located in Ephesus (in modern-day Turkey), which was to become the richest seaport in Asia Minor. It once consisted of 127 marble columns, each standing 20 meters (60 feet) tall. The temple was a 120-year project started by Croesus of Lydia. First built in the 6th century B.C., the temple was destroyed by fire 200 years later and then rebuilt under the supervision of Alexander the Great. The great temple was eventually destroyed, bit by bit, by invading Gothic hordes, earthquakes and plunderers. Today, only a solitary column remains of this once-glorious structure.

The great temple was described by Antipater of Sidon as follows: "I have set eyes on the wall of lofty Babylon on which is a road for chariots, and the statue of Zeus by the Alpheus, and the hanging gardens, and the colossus of the Sun, and the huge labor of the high pyramids, and the vast tomb of Mausolus; but when I saw the house of Artemis that mounted to the clouds, those other marvels lost their brilliancy, and I said, 'Lo, apart from Olympus, the Sun never looked on aught (anything) so grand.'" (Greek Anthology [IX.58]).



If you want to find out more about the exciting campaign to name the New 7 Wonders of the World, please go to the New7Wonders website at www.new7wonders.com.

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Official Declaration of the New 7 Wonders of the World

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