

Seven Wonders of the Ancient World

Lesson 1

Warm-up

What do you know about holidays in our distant past? Did people use to travel for leisure in the ancient world? If yes, did people use to go on holidays in the same way as we do now? Were there any popular holiday destinations? Who or what helped them decide where to go? What did they do during their holidays? Read the text and answer the above questions.

The **Seven Wonders of the Ancient World** refers to remarkable constructions of classical antiquity. These were listed by various authors in guidebooks which were popular among the ancient Hellenic tourists, particularly in the 1st and 2nd centuries BC. The most prominent of these were the lists made by Antipater of Sidon and Philon of Byzantium, and they consisted of seven works mainly located in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Background

The Greek conquest of much of the known world in the 4th century BCE gave Hellenistic travellers access to the civilizations of the Egyptians, Persians, and Babylonians. Impressed and captivated by the landmarks and marvels of the various lands, these travellers began to list what they saw in order to remember them. Indeed, instead of "wonders", the ancient Greeks spoke of "theamata", which means "sights", in other words "things to be seen". (Τὰ ἑπτὰ θεάματα τῆς οἰκουμένης [γῆς] *Tà heptà theámata tēs oikoumenēs [gēs]*) Later, the word for "wonder" ("thaumata") was used, and this is also the case in Modern Greek (ἑπτὰ θαύματα του αρχαίου κόσμου). Basically, these were the dramatic monuments that filled the travel guidebooks of the ancient world.

Each person had his own version of the list, but the best known and earliest surviving was from a poem by Greek-speaking epigrammist Antipater of Sidon from around 140 BC. He named six of the seven sites on his list (leaving out the lighthouse), but was mostly in praise of the Temple of Artemis at Ephesus.

Adapted from Wikipedia "Seven Wonders of the Ancient World"

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seven_Wonders_of_the_Ancient_World

A. Circle the correct answer:

1. The text examines
 - a. the impression that major monuments of the ancient world made on people
 - b. the civilizations of the Egyptians, Persians, and Babylonians
 - c. the reason why the list of the seven wonders was created in antiquity.
2. The lists of the seven wonders of the world were made in the:
 - a. 2nd century BC
 - b. 4th century BC
 - c. 2nd century AD
3. Most of the seven remarkable sights were located in:
 - a. Egypt
 - b. Asia Minor
 - c. The Mediterranean region

B. Write if the following statements are true or false. Correct the false ones

1. The list was the equivalent of a travel guidebook.

2. Travellers had agreed only on one list of the seven wonders of the ancient world.
3. Antipater of Sidon and Philon of Byzantium drew up two of the best-known lists.
4. Ancient Greeks became interested in other civilizations during the Classical period.
5. The original word used to refer to the seven wonders meant *marvel*.

C. Vocabulary: write the nouns derived from the following words

conquer, see, construct, civilize, locate, access, travel, prominent, marvelous

Speaking

A. Do you know which the seven wonders of the ancient world are? How many of these still exist?

(Optional)

B. Look at the pictures of ancient structures in your coursebook (Think Teen, 3rd grade, p. 7) and say which of the seven wonders they show.

Φύλλο Εργασίας από το Ψηφιακό Διδακτικό Σενάριο με Τίτλο: «**Seven Wonders of the World**».

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