

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The Parthenon

The Parthenon remains one of the greatest buildings in the world even though it was originally built in the days of the Ancient Greeks. The remains of the Parthenon sit high above the modern city of Athens on a rocky hill the Ancient Greeks called the Acropolis, meaning "High City." Scholars consider that the Acropolis is the birthplace of Western Civilization. Western Civilization is the culture of Europe and much of North America. Western civilization also affected anywhere else that came under the colonial power of European countries.

The citizens of Athens continue to honor the Parthenon, the ancient building that was built to be the temple of Athena. Athena was the goddess who protected Athens. Every night now the remains of the Parthenon are lit with bright lights and the magnificent temple sitting high above the city can be seen from downtown Athens. Athenians have an extensive plan for restoring their ancient temple and they have already begun the restoration. Every year tens of thousands of tourists visit the Parthenon and its surrounding buildings on the Acropolis. It is worth the long climb to reach the top.



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The Parthenon was built when the city-state of Athens was wealthy from using its army to protect other parts of Greece from the invading Persians. Athens was a democracy and its democratic leader was Pericles. Pericles hired a famous sculptor named Phidias to be in charge of the entire project. Besides overseeing the design and the project, Phidias created a magnificent statue of Athena nearly forty feet high that was placed in the center of the temple.

The statue of Athena was a most unusual statue because it was made from many pieces that were fashioned from exotic materials. Normally a statue is carved from marble or some other type of stone or cast in bronze. Athena's eyes were made from precious jewels and her skin was made from thin pieces of ivory imported from Africa. Her clothing was made from sheets of gold. All these pieces were attached to a wooden skeleton that supported the hollow statue. Phidias designed a reflecting pool in front of the statue that released humidity to keep the statue's pieces from drying out.

The entire temple of the Parthenon took only fifteen years to complete and it was finished in 432 B.C.E.



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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Multiple Choice Questions

Circle the correct answer.

1. The Parthenon is located in the city of
  - a. Rome
  - b. Paris
  - c. London
  - d. Athens
  
2. The Parthenon sits atop
  - a. Mount Olympus
  - b. The Acropolis
  - c. One of the Seven Hills of Rome
  - d. None of the above
  
3. The Parthenon was a temple dedicated to
  - a. Athena
  - b. Artemis
  - c. Apollo
  - d. Aphrodite
  
4. The designer of the Parthenon was
  - a. Pericles
  - b. Phidias
  - c. Both a. and b. above
  - d. None of the above
  
5. The statue inside the temple was about
  - a. 8 feet tall
  - b. 15 feet tall
  - c. 25 feet tall
  - d. 40 feet tall
  
6. How long did it take to build the Parthenon?
  - a. 10 years
  - b. 15 years
  - c. 20 years
  - d. 25 years



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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Short Answer Questions

1. Do some research on the Internet and locate pictures of the Acropolis and the Parthenon.
2. Explain how the Acropolis is related to our lives in the United States today.
3. Tens of thousands of tourists visit the Parthenon and its surrounding buildings on the Acropolis. Would you like to visit the Parthenon? Explain why or why not.
4. What was the relationship between Pericles and Phidias?
5. Describe the statue of Athena that Phidias designed and built.
6. Phidias used ivory from African elephants. Do some research and explain what elephant ivory is and why it is now illegal to sell elephant ivory.
7. Would you like to be a worker, called a conservator, restoring an ancient building? Explain why or why not.



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## Answer Key

### Multiple Choice

1. d.
2. b.
3. a.
4. b.
5. d.
6. b.

### Short Answer

1. Individual response
2. Scholars consider that the Acropolis is the birthplace of Western Civilization. Western Civilization is the culture of Europe and much of North America.
3. Individual response
4. Athens was a democracy and its democratic leader was Pericles. Pericles hired a famous sculptor named Phidias to be in charge of the entire project of building the Parthenon.
5. The statue of Athena was a most unusual statue because it was made from many pieces that were fashioned from exotic materials. Normally a statue is carved from marble or some other type of stone or cast in bronze. Athena's eyes were made from precious jewels and her skin was made from thin pieces of ivory imported from Africa. Her clothing was made from sheets of gold. All these pieces were attached to a wooden skeleton that supported the hollow statue.
6. Ivory comes from the tusks of elephants. Ivory is now illegal to prevent elephants from being killed for their tusks.
7. Individual response

