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| **The Seven Wonders of the Ancient World By Colleen Messina**  |    | http://www.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/edhelp1.gif |

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|  | homage | pinnacle | elegance | scepter |  |
|  | Antipater | influence | present-day | palace |  |
|  | lasted | bronze | granite | testimony |  |
|  | sprays | influenced | last | purpose |  |
|  | core |  |  |  |  |

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**Directions:**  Fill in each blank with the word that best completes the reading comprehension.

     The ancient world was full of wonders that ranged from magnificent temples to gigantic statues. Seven incredible creations became known as the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Even though most of these Wonders are gone, their memory still inspires us today.
     The Egyptian pharaoh Khufu built the Great Pyramid of Cheops around 2560 B.C. The Great Pyramid was originally 481 feet tall, but it lost about 30 feet off of its top over time. It was made with about 2 million blocks that weighed over two tons each! Inside, the builders created corridors, galleries, and shafts. The King's chamber is at the center of the pyramid, and its walls are covered with red *(1)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  .
     No one knows exactly how the Egyptians built the pyramids. Some historians believe that the Egyptians used a ramp coated with mud and water to move the huge stones. Others believe that long levers moved the great blocks. All the stones inside the pyramid fit so closely together that a playing card can't fit between them. The Egyptians were master builders of ancient times and for all time. Their art reached its *(2)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   in the construction of the Great Pyramid.
     The Mausoleum at Halicarnassus commemorated another ancient leader. Unlike the Great Pyramid, this gigantic tomb was known for its beauty rather than its size. This white alabaster building was decorated with gold and surrounded by columns. A statue of a chariot pulled by four horses sat on top of the tomb. Life-size statues of people, horses, and lions decorated the roof. The Mausoleum was finished in 350 B.C. It became famous, even though no one remembers the king who built it.
     Some Wonders remembered dead kings, but one Wonder was alive. The Hanging Gardens of Babylon was in *(3)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   Iraq. Legends say that these beautiful gardens were built by King Nebuchadnezzar for his wife. We don't know exactly what these beautiful gardens looked like, but poets and historians have written that they were filled with fruits, flowers, waterfalls, and gardens hanging from the *(4)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   terraces. In the dry climate, it must have seemed like a lush oasis in the ancient world.
     The Hanging Gardens may have been heavenly, but another Wonder was dedicated to the most important god in the heavens. A great temple to Zeus was in Olympia on the west coast of modern Greece. Phidias began working on a statue of Zeus for the temple in 440 B.C. Phidias worked hard to create his masterpiece, but he had a little trouble with the size. When the statue was finished, it almost didn't fit into its temple! Earthquakes, floods, and landslides hit Olympia by the fifth century, but the statue managed to survive and was moved to a palace in Constantinople. Then, a big fire destroyed it.
     We only know what Zeus looked like because of a description written by a Greek named Pausanias in the 2nd century. He wrote, "On his head is a sculpted wreath of live *(5)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  . In his right hand he holds a figure of Victory made from ivory and gold. In his left hand, his scepter inlaid with all metals and an eagle perched on the *(6)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  . The sandals of the god are made of gold, as is his robe. His garments are carved with animals and with lilies. The throne is decorated with gold, precious stones, ebony, and ivory."
     Zeus was big, but another wonder was even bigger. It was colossal. In fact, it was called the Colossus. This statue of a man was so big that if you made a circle with your arms, you could not put the circle around the statue's thumb. The *(7)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   Colossus was 110 feet high and had a torch in one hand and a spear with the other. This statue stood in a strange place. Each leg was on a platform, but the platforms were in the harbor for the island of Rhodes in Greece. Sailors and their ships went right underneath him. Many people believe that this statue was a symbol of the great unity of these island people.
     Colossus celebrated his 56th birthday, but then he was destroyed by an earthquake. The great statue lay in pieces for almost a millennium, but then the Arabs invaded Rhodes in 654 A. D. and saw a business opportunity. They took the huge pieces of the Colossus and sold them to a Jew from Syria. According to legends, 900 camels carried the fragments of the statue back to Syria!
     Only one Wonder had a practical *(8)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  . The Lighthouse of Alexandria stood on the island of Pharos in present day Egypt. It guided sailors safely home. In 1166, an Arab traveler visited the lighthouse and wrote about it. It was about the size of a modern 40-story building. At the top of the lighthouse, a mirror reflected sunlight during the day. During the night, the mirror reflected a fire inside the *(9)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   of the lighthouse. Legends even say that the mirror could find and destroy enemies' ships before they could reach the shore! This lighthouse was also destroyed by an earthquake. It was the *(10)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   Wonder to disappear. However, its *(11)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   *(12)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   for centuries. It was used as a model for many other lighthouses on the Mediterranean. And the island's name, Pharos, *(13)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   the word for lighthouse in French, Italian, and Spanish.
     The Lighthouse was stunning, but another building was even more beautiful. The Temple of Artemis in Turkey was built around 550 B.C. Artemis was the goddess of hunting, nature, and fertility. Many pilgrims, merchants, and tourists visited the temple to pay *(14)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   to the goddess and give her presents. Some of the presents were expensive, like gold and ivory statuettes, earrings, bracelets, and even Persian and Indian artifacts.
     When Saint Paul visited the city in the first century A.D, the temple had golden pillars around it. It had silver and bronze statues, as well as paintings inside. The Temple was later torn down by a Christian saint, and we don't know many details about what it looked like, but one man thought it was the most amazing Wonder of all. *(15)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   of Sidon said, "But when I saw the sacred house of Artemis that towers to the clouds, the other Wonders were placed in the shade."
     Most of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient crumbled long ago, but they still astound us with their size, beauty, and *(16)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  . Only the Great Pyramid still stands. Even though we can build great cities today, the ancient wonders were a *(17)*  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   to the remarkable inventiveness of people long ago.

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| 1.   | Which Wonder was alive?http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblea.jpg  The Hanging Gardenshttp://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbleb.jpg  The Temple of Artemishttp://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblec.jpg  The Colossushttp://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbled.jpg  The Great Pyramid |

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| 2.   | Which Wonder had a practical, everyday purpose?http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblea.jpg  The Hanging Gardenshttp://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbleb.jpg  The Great Pyramidhttp://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblec.jpg  The Lighthouse of Alexandriahttp://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbled.jpg  The Mausoleum |

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| 3.   | What natural disaster destroyed some of the Seven Wonders?http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblea.jpg  Fireshttp://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbleb.jpg  Floodshttp://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblec.jpg  Earthquakeshttp://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbled.jpg  Mudslides |

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| 4.   | What is a synonym for the word "commemorated" in paragraph 4?http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblea.jpg  Rememberedhttp://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbleb.jpg  Criticizedhttp://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblec.jpg  Forgothttp://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbled.jpg  Ignored |

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| 5.   | Where was the Temple of Artemis?http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblea.jpg  Iranhttp://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbleb.jpg  Turkeyhttp://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblec.jpg  Egypthttp://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbled.jpg  Iraq |

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| 6.   | Where did the Colossus stand?http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblea.jpg  In a harborhttp://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbleb.jpg  In a templehttp://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblec.jpg  On a hillhttp://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbled.jpg  In a city |

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| 7.   | What was the purpose of the Mausoleum?http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblea.jpg  To store foodhttp://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbleb.jpg  To harbor shipshttp://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblec.jpg  To guide sailors homehttp://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbled.jpg  To remember a king |

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| 8.   | Which Wonder still survives?http://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblea.jpg  The Great Pyramidhttp://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbleb.jpg  The Temple of Artemishttp://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubblec.jpg  The Hanging Gardenshttp://stories.edhelperclipart.com/clipart/bubbled.jpg  The Colossus |

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| **Answer Key** |

     The ancient world was full of wonders that ranged from magnificent temples to gigantic statues. Seven incredible creations became known as the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Even though most of these Wonders are gone, their memory still inspires us today.
     The Egyptian pharaoh Khufu built the Great Pyramid of Cheops around 2560 B.C. The Great Pyramid was originally 481 feet tall, but it lost about 30 feet off of its top over time. It was made with about 2 million blocks that weighed over two tons each! Inside, the builders created corridors, galleries, and shafts. The King's chamber is at the center of the pyramid, and its walls are covered with red *(1)*  granite  .
     No one knows exactly how the Egyptians built the pyramids. Some historians believe that the Egyptians used a ramp coated with mud and water to move the huge stones. Others believe that long levers moved the great blocks. All the stones inside the pyramid fit so closely together that a playing card can't fit between them. The Egyptians were master builders of ancient times and for all time. Their art reached its *(2)*  pinnacle   in the construction of the Great Pyramid.
     The Mausoleum at Halicarnassus commemorated another ancient leader. Unlike the Great Pyramid, this gigantic tomb was known for its beauty rather than its size. This white alabaster building was decorated with gold and surrounded by columns. A statue of a chariot pulled by four horses sat on top of the tomb. Life-size statues of people, horses, and lions decorated the roof. The Mausoleum was finished in 350 B.C. It became famous, even though no one remembers the king who built it.
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     Most of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient crumbled long ago, but they still astound us with their size, beauty, and *(16)*  elegance  . Only the Great Pyramid still stands. Even though we can build great cities today, the ancient wonders were a *(17)*  testimony   to the remarkable inventiveness of people long ago.

Answers to Reading Comprehension Questions

**1**    The Hanging Gardens
**2**    The Lighthouse of Alexandria
**3**    Earthquakes
**4**    Remembered
**5**    Turkey
**6**    In a harbor
**7**    To remember a king
**8**    The Great Pyramid