

The Ancient Greeks: Amazing Architects

- 1 Can you imagine being able to see and touch a structure that was built over 2,500 years ago! Travel to Greece and you can! The Ancient Greeks were master builders. Although they did not have machines and equipment, they were still able to construct strong buildings that still stand today. How incredible!



- 2 Ancient Greece was famous for its architecture. Architecture is the **designing and planning of buildings**. One of the most important buildings the Greeks designed was the Parthenon, which means "The House of the Maiden". They built it on a hill called the Acropolis which overlooks the city of Athens. The Parthenon was built to honor the goddess Athena. The Greeks built a huge statue of this goddess inside the temple.
- 3 The architects in Ancient Greece designed many of their important buildings with columns. Columns help to support the roof of a building. The Parthenon was built with 64 sturdy, stone columns. Thousands of years later, part of this temple is still standing!
- 4 Today, many public buildings, such as banks and libraries, have been built in the same style as the ancient Greek buildings. The Supreme Court building in Washington, D.C. looks very similar to the Parthenon. The Ancient Greek civilization made important contributions in the area of architecture.

Directions: Read the article, The Ancient Greeks: Amazing Architects. Answer the questions that follow.

1. A student is writing notes about the Parthenon.

The Parthenon
• Built on a hill called the Acropolis
• Called "House of the Maiden"
• Part of it still stands today
?

Which detail can be added to the chart?

- A Found in Washington
- B Built with columns
- C Used as a library
- D Constructed with machines

2. What question can be answered in paragraph 3?

- F What did the Greeks use to support the roof of their buildings?
- G What modern day building is built in a similar style to the Parthenon?
- H Why did the Greeks build the Parthenon?
- J Where did the Greeks build the Parthenon?

3. Which words are synonyms?

huge-enormous
part-piece
similar-different
many-few
strong-sturdy

4. The article is MOST useful to a student who wants to –

- A learn about famous buildings located around the world
- B know how long it took to build the Parthenon
- C find out about different styles of architecture
- D understand why the Greeks built the Parthenon

5. Which detail from the text BEST helps the reader understand why the Parthenon still stands today?

- F They built it on a hill.
- G Ancient Greece was famous for its architecture.
- H It was built with 64 sturdy stone columns.
- J The Greeks built it to honor the goddess Athena.

6. The Supreme Court Building is similar to the Parthenon because of the –

- A reason it was built
- B design
- C way it was decorated
- D size

7. What is the meaning of supports in paragraph 3?

- F separate in parts
- G send up into the air
- H reach a high location
- J hold in an upright position

8. A student wants to learn more about the Parthenon. The best resource to use is –

- A a book of Greek myths
- B a nonfiction book about architecture
- C an atlas
- D an encyclopedia

Life in West Africa



Grasslands

- 1 Most people living in Ancient Mali were farmers who lived in the grasslands. These farmers had good soil for crops and fresh water from the Niger River. The Niger River would flood during the rainy season. This would leave behind rich, fertile soil. The people of Mali would grow grains like rice alongside the Niger River.

Northern Areas

- 2 The land in the northern part of the empire was drier and not as well suited for farming crops. The people who lived here usually raised livestock. The land had open areas for grazing animals and was just right for raising cattle, goats and sheep.

The Desert

- 3 The people living in the Sahara used other natural resources to make a living. The land in this area provided salt. Salt was worth as much as gold! This was because the people needed salt to stay healthy. They used it to preserve fresh meat and keep it from rotting. Miners cut large slabs of salt from the earth. A slab of salt could weigh as much as 220 pounds!

Move It!

- 4 Traders would exchange the salt for other goods they needed. Salt slabs would be loaded onto camels. Camels were good for transportation because they could travel over long distances without water and are strong enough to carry heavy loads in harsh conditions. Traders traveled in camel caravans. These large groups of camels traveled south to city markets where they would trade salt for gold or other goods. Mali was a busy place!

Directions: Read the article, Life in West Africa . Answer the questions that follow.

1. A student is writing notes about the people of Mali.

People of Mali
• Used the Niger River for farming
• Mined salt in the Sahara
• Traded for goods
?

Which detail can be added to the chart?

- A Farmed in the north
- B Used ships for trading
- C Raised livestock
- D Grew grain on the hills

2. What question can be answered in paragraph 1 ?

- F Where did the people of Mali find gold?
- G What animals did they raise?
- H Why did the people need salt?
- J What types of crops did they grow?

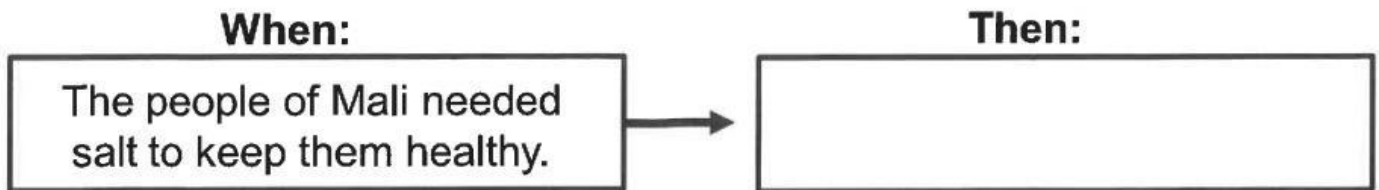
3. What is the meaning of exchange in paragraph 4?

- A make different
- B trade
- C give away
- D take

4. Farmers in Mali would MOST likely –

- F Carry their crops south to trade
- G Plant before the river flooded
- H Find salt in their soil
- J Use water from the sea

5. Read this chart.



The chart shows some information from the article.

Which of these belongs in the empty box?

- A Camels carried goods in harsh conditions.
- B Salt slabs are up to 220 pounds.
- C The people of Mali mined for gold.
- D Salt became a valuable natural resource.

6. Read this dictionary entry.

raise v. 1. to move to a higher position 2. to make greater; increase 3. to bring up and take care of 4. to gather; collect

Which meaning of raise is used in paragraph 2?

- F 1
- G 2
- H 3
- J 4

7. The Sahara was different from the grasslands because-

- A The Sahara was used for raising crops, but the grasslands were used for mining salt.
- B Trading markets were located in the Sahara but not in the grasslands.
- C The Niger River ran through the Sahara but not through the grasslands.
- D The grasslands were used for farming, but the Sahara was used for mining.

8. A Necessary Resource would be a good heading for paragraph –

- F 2
- G 3
- H 4
- J 5