Sevens Wonders of the Ancient World (1)

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The Great Pyramid, located at Giza on the west bank of the Nile River north of Cairo in Egypt, is the only wonder of the _____ world that has survived to the present day. It is part of a group of three pyramids–Khufu (Cheops), Khafra (Chephren) and Menkaura (Mycerimus)–that were built between 2700 B.C. and 2500 B.C. as royal tombs. The largest and most impressive is Khufu, known as "The Great Pyramid," which covers 13 _____ and is believed to contain more than 2 million stone blocks that weigh from two to 30 _____ each. For more than 4,000 years, Khufu _____ as the tallest building in the world. In fact, it took modern man until the 19th century to build a taller structure. Amazingly, the nearly symmetrical Egyptian pyramids were built without the aid of modern tools or _____ equipment. So, how did Egyptians build the pyramids? Scientists believe that the Egyptians used log rollers and sledges to move the stones into place. The _____ walls, which were intended to mimic the rays of Ra, the sun god, were originally built as steps, and then filled in with limestone. The _____ of the pyramids included narrow corridors and hidden _____ in an unsuccessful attempt to foil grave robbers. Although modern archeologists have found some great _____ among the ruins, they believe most of what the pyramids once contained was looted within 250 years of their _____.

_____ to ancient Greek poets, the Hanging Gardens of Babylon were built near the Euphrates River in modern-day Iraq by the Babylonian king Nebuchadnezzar II around 600 B.C. The gardens were said to have been planted as high as 75 feet in the air on a huge square _____ terrace that was laid out in steps like a theater. The king allegedly built the towering gardens to _____ his lover Amytis' homesickness for the natural beauty of her home in Media (the northwestern part of modern-day Iran). Later writers described how people could walk underneath the beautiful gardens, which rested on tall stone columns. Modern scientists have deduced that for the

gardens to survive they would have had to be irrigated using a system consisting of a _____, waterwheel and cisterns to carry water from the Euphrates many feet into the air. Though there are _____ accounts of the gardens in both Greek and Roman literature, none of them are firsthand, and no mention of the gardens has been found in Babylonian cuneiform inscriptions. As a result, most modern _____ believe that the existence of the gardens was part of an _____ and widely believed but still fictional _____.

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