

Seven Wonders of the ancient world (2)

temple carved fabulous according legend depicted ruins topped
declared crafted restored respectively

The famed statue of Zeus, the king of the gods in Greek Mythology, was _____ by the Athenian sculptor Phidias and completed and placed in the temple of Zeus at Olympia, site of the ancient Olympics, around the mid-fifth century B.C. The statue _____ the god of thunder seated bare-chested at a wooden throne. Holding up the thrones' armrests were two _____ sphinxes, mythical creatures with the head and chest of a woman, the body of lion and the wings of a bird. The statue of Zeus was richly decorated with gold and ivory. At 40 feet, it was so tall that its head nearly touched the top of the temple. According to _____, the sculptor Phidias asked Zeus for a sign of his approval after finishing the statue; soon after, the _____ was struck by lightning. The Zeus statue graced the temple at Olympia for more than eight centuries before Christian priests persuaded the Roman emperor to close the temple in the fourth century A.D. At that time, the statue was moved to a temple in Constantinople, where it is believed to have been destroyed in a fire in the year 462.

There was actually more than one Temple of Artemis: A series of several altars and temples was destroyed and then _____ on the same site in Ephesus, a Greek port city on the west coast of modern-day Turkey. The most _____ of these structures were two marble temples built around 550 B.C. and 350 B.C., _____. "Apart from Olympus, the Sun never looked on anything so grand," the writer Antipater of Sidon wrote of the Temple of Artemis at Ephesus.

The original Temple of Artemis was designed by the Cretan architect Chersiphron and his son Metagenes and decorated by some of the most celebrated artists of the ancient world. The building burned on July 21, 356 B.C., _____ to legend the same night that Alexander the Great was born. It was torched by a Greek citizen named Herostratus, who claimed he burned the marvel so that his name would be known to history. He was put to death and the government _____ it illegal to utter his name.

About six years later, the building of the new Temple of Artemis was begun. The new building was surrounded by marble steps that led to a more than 400-foot-long terrace. Inside stood 127 60-foot marble columns and a statue of Artemis, the Greek Goddess of the hunt. Archeologists disagree as to whether the building had an open-air ceiling or was _____ with wood tiles. The temple was largely destroyed by Ostrogoths in A.D. 262, and it was not until the 1860s that archeologists dug up the first of the _____ of the temple's columns at the bottom of the Cayster River.