Wondering About the New Seven (Man-Made) Wonders of the World

What is a “Wonder of the World”?  
How and when were each of the Wonders created?  
Where are the Seven Wonders of the World located?  What is unique about the locations?  
Who determined the Seven Wonders of the World?  What criteria was used for selection?

To the Teacher

On July 7, 2007, in Lisbon, Portugal, the results of the world’s first-ever global vote to determine the seven new Wonders of the World were announced. Previously, choosing world wonders has been a rather “loose” process, beginning more than 2,200 years ago in ancient Greece, when several writers drew up lists boasting of architectural marvels.

   The idea to update the Wonders began in 1999 with Swiss adventurer Bernard Weber. He began a foundation aimed at promoting cultural diversity by supporting, preserving, and restoring man-made monuments while bringing together the people of the world. The process of determining the new list of Wonders was established by the New7Wonders foundation. The organization collected more than 200 nominees from all over the world. Once the list was narrowed down to 21 finalists, anyone with access to the Internet or a phone was able to vote for their favorite Wonder. Votes were cast through July 6, 2007. The seven winners were announced, quite appropriately, on the seventh day of the seventh month in the year 2007.

Suggestions for Using the Worksheets

- Divide the class into groups of three or four students. Assign each group to research one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World and one of the New Seven Wonders of the World. Have groups present their findings. Presentations can take on many forms (oral, visual, print, technological, and so on).
- Work with students to compare and contrast an Ancient Wonder with a New Wonder. Comparisons may include the purpose of the structure, the size of the structure, location, and so on.
- Use the information gathered by having students create a time line of when each wonder was built.
- Have students look up the other nominees for the New Seven Wonders. Review the criteria used to evaluate nominees. (www.new7wonders.com/index.php?id=583) Have students evaluate the candidates. Poll students to see if they agree or disagree with the final selections. Discuss what factors they consider important.
- The New Seven Wonders represent diverse countries. Discuss the impact of having a Wonder in one’s homeland. What are the advantages and disadvantages? Consider cultural, social, economic, and international implications.
Related Web Sites

Seven Ancient Wonders of the World
http://travel.discovery.com/tv/seven-wonders/original-wonders/slide-shows.html
http://unmuseum.mus.pa.us/wonders.htm
www.princeton.edu/~ferguson/adw/wonders.shtml
www.nationmaster.com/encyclopedia/Seven-Wonders-of-the-World#Ancient_Wonders

Seven New Wonders of the World
www.new7wonders.com/
www.history.com/minisites/sevenwonders
www.panoramas.dk/7-wonders/

The Taj Mahal

National Council for Social Studies Standards Addressed

People, Places, and Environments

• Learners create, interpret, use, and distinguish various representations of the earth, such as maps, globes, and photographs
• Learners describe ways that historical events have been influenced by, and have influenced, physical and human geographic factors in local, regional, national, and global settings

Power, Authority, and Governance

• Learners analyze and evaluate conditions, actions, and motivations that contribute to conflict and cooperation within and among nations

Global Connections

• Learners explain how language, art, music, belief systems, and other cultural elements can facilitate global understanding or misunderstanding
• Learners describe and evaluate the role of international and multinational organizations in the global arena
• Learners illustrate how individual behaviors and decisions connect with global systems
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Worksheet 1: Background Information

On July 7, 2007 in Lisbon, Portugal, the results of the world's first-ever global vote were announced, determining the Seven Wonders of the World. Choosing world wonders has been a rather “loose” process that began more than 2,200 years ago. In ancient Greece, several writers drew up lists boasting of architectural marvels. Known today as the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, the Greek’s lists were limited to beautiful monuments built in close proximity to the Mediterranean Sea. In other words, they were the seven wonders of their world.

The following list was generally agreed upon to encompass the ancient wonders:

- The Great Pyramid of Egypt
- The Hanging Gardens of Babylon
- The Statue of Zeus at Olympia
- The Temple of Artemis at Ephesus
- The Mausoleum at Halicarnassus
- The Colossus of Rhodes
- The Lighthouse of Alexandria

In the tradition of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, many other lists naming “wonders” have been proposed. There are lists of Natural Wonders, Engineering Wonders, Travel Wonders, and so on. Lists are published by such well-known groups as The United Nations and The American Society of Civil Engineers. These lists truly reflect a global perspective. However, like the Ancient Greeks, the criteria for these lists are rather informal. Plus, there has not been agreement on the selections themselves.

In 1999, an idea came to Swiss adventurer Bernard Weber. He began a global campaign to revisit the Seven Wonders. He started a foundation to promote cultural diversity by supporting, preserving, and restoring man-made monuments while bringing together the people of the world. The process of determining the new list of wonders was established by the New7Wonders foundation. The organization collected more than 200 nominees from all over the world, from structures built by the first humans to modern monuments from the year 2000. The foundation posted the nominees on its web site and opened the vote to the public, narrowing the list to 77 candidates in 2006. Next, a panel of world-renowned architects narrowed the list even further to 21 Wonders.

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Worksheet 1: Background Information, continued

With the list of 21 finalists made public, another worldwide campaign ensued. Anyone with access to the Internet or a phone was able to place a vote. Votes were cast through July 6, 2007. The following day, the seven winners were announced, quite appropriately, on the seventh day of the seventh month in the year 2007.

More than 100 million votes were cast by people from around the world. These are the New Seven Wonders of the World:

- Great Wall of China
- Petra
- Christ the Redeemer Statue
- Machu Picchu
- Chichen Itza
- The Roman Colosseum
- Taj Majal

Learn more about the Seven Wonders of the World—both Ancient and Modern—by using the information sheets provided by your teacher.
**Wondering About the New Seven (Man-Made) Wonders of the World**

**Worksheet 2: Seven Wonders of the World Profile**

Use the chart below to gather information about each Wonder.

| Ancient Wonder: ______________________________ |
| --- | --- |
| Year built: |  |
| Location: |  |
| Who built it: |  |
| Purpose/use: |  |
| Does it still stand? If not, why not? |  |

| Additional information: ______________________________ |
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| Resources and references used: ______________________________ |
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Wondering About the New Seven (Man-Made) Wonders of the World

Worksheet 2: Seven Wonders of the World Profile, continued

Use the chart below to gather information about each Wonder.

New Wonder: ________________________________

| Year built:                                      |
| Location:                                       |
| Who built it:                                   |
| Purpose/use:                                    |
| Does it still stand? If not, why not?           |

Additional information: ____________________________________________
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Resources and references used: ________________________________
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Wondering About the New Seven (Man-Made) Wonders of the World

Worksheet 3: Wonder Where the Wonders Are?

Think about the information you’ve learned about the Seven Wonders of the World. Use the maps provided to mark the location of each Wonder.

- What observations do you have?
- What conclusions can you draw based on the locations of the Wonders?
- Compare and contrast the locations.

Find where the Ancient Wonders are located. Mark and label each location.
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Worksheet 3: Wonder Where the Wonders Are? continued

Find where the Seven New Wonders of the World and the Ancient Wonders of the World are located. Mark and label each location.
ANCIENT WONDERS

The Lighthouse of Alexandria
Year built: third century B.C.E.
Location: Pharos, an island off the coast of Alexandria, Egypt
Who built it: Egyptians
Purpose/Use: Lighthouse
Does it still stand? If not, why not? No, it was destroyed by two earthquakes between 1303–1480 C.E.

The Temple of Artemis
Year built: 550 B.C.E.
Location: Ephesus (modern day Turkey)
Who built it: Lydians, Persians and Greeks
Purpose/Use: a temple dedicated to the goddess Artemis
Does it still stand? If not, why not? No, it was intentionally burned to the ground by Herostratus.

The Statue of Zeus
Year built: 435 B.C.E.
Location: Olympia, Greece
Who built it: Greeks
Purpose/Use: honor the Greek god
Does it still stand? If not, why not? No, it was destroyed by an unknown cause.

The Colossus of Rhodes
Year built: 292–280 B.C.E.
Location: the Greek island of Rhodes
Who built it: Greeks (Chares of Lindos)
Purpose/Use: statue to honor the Greek god, Helios
Does it still stand? If not, why not? No, it was destroyed in 224 B.C.E. by an earthquake.

The Hanging Gardens of Babylon
Year built: 600 B.C.E.
Location: Babylon, near present-day Al Hillah, Iraq
Who built it: Babylonians
Purpose/Use: a gift from Nebuchadnezzar II to his wife, Amytis of Media
Does it still stand? If not, why not? No, destroyed in an earthquake after the first century B.C.E.

The Mausoleum of Halicarnassus
Year built: 351 B.C.E.
Location: modern-day Turkey
Who built it: Persians and Greeks
Purpose/Use: tomb for Mausolus, a satrap in the Persian Empire, and Artemisia II of Caria, his wife and sister
Does it still stand? If not, why not? No, it was damaged by an earthquake and eventually destroyed by European Crusaders in 1494 C.E.

The Pyramids of Egypt
Year built: 2650–2500 B.C.E.
Location: Giza, Egypt
Who built it: Egyptians
Purpose/Use: tomb of Pharaoh Khufu
Does it still stand? If not, why not? Yes

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NEW WONDERS

Great Wall of China
Year built: between fifth century B.C.E. and the sixteenth century
Location: China (spans from Shanhaiguan to Lop Nur on the southern edge of Inner Mongolia)
Who built it: Chinese
Purpose/Use: protection of the borders from invading Mongols
Does it still stand? If not, why not? Yes

Petra
Year built: uncertain, from about 800 B.C.E. to 100 C.E.
Location: modern-day Jordan
Who built it: Nabatean Arabs
Purpose/Use: originally temples and tombs, and expanding into a small city
Does it still stand? If not, why not? Yes

Christ the Redeemer Statue
Year built: 1926 to 1931
Location: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Who built it: Heitor da Silva Costa designed the statue; it was sculpted by Paul Landowski.
Purpose/Use: monument honoring Jesus and Brazil’s Christian roots
Does it still stand? If not, why not? Yes

Machu Picchu
Year built: around 1450 C.E.
Location: Peru
Who built it: Incas
Purpose/Use: a settlement and citadel
Does it still stand? If not, why not? Yes

Chichen Itza
Year built: beginning about 600 C.E.
Location: the Yucatán Peninsula, present-day Mexico
Who built it: the Mayans
Purpose/Use: a settlement/city
Does it still stand? If not, why not? Yes

The Roman Colosseum
Year built: between 70 and 72 C.E. to 80 C.E.
Location: Rome, Italy
Who built it: Romans
Purpose/Use: public spectacles
Does it still stand? If not, why not? Yes

Taj Majal
Year built: 1631 C.E.
Location: Agra, India
Who built it: Indians and Persians
Purpose/Use: a mausoleum built by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his favorite wife, Mumtaz Mahal
Does it still stand? If not, why not? Yes

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Worksheet 3: Wonder Where the Wonders Are?

Seven Ancient Wonders

1. The Statue of Zeus
2. The Temple of Artemis
3. The Mausoleum of Halicarnassus
4. The Colossus of Rhodes
5. The Lighthouse of Alexandria
6. The Pyramids of Egypt
7. The Hanging Gardens of Babylon

(continued)
Worksheet 3: Wonder Where the Wonders Are?

Seven Modern Wonders

1. Great Wall of China
2. Petra
3. Christ the Redeemer Statue
4. Machu Picchu
5. Chichen Itza
6. The Roman Colosseum
7. Taj Majal