

Buildings and Games

Greek temples, columns, the Statue of Zeus, and the Olympics

The world the Greeks built to honour their gods.

This belongs to **Henry**.

1. Alphabet

2. Gods

3. Myths

4. Buildings and
Games

The big idea

A temple is a house for a god. The Olympic Games were a religious festival for Zeus. Religion ties the gods, the buildings and the games into one world.

How to use this booklet

Two question types matter most here: comparison, and the longer answer.

Comparison questions

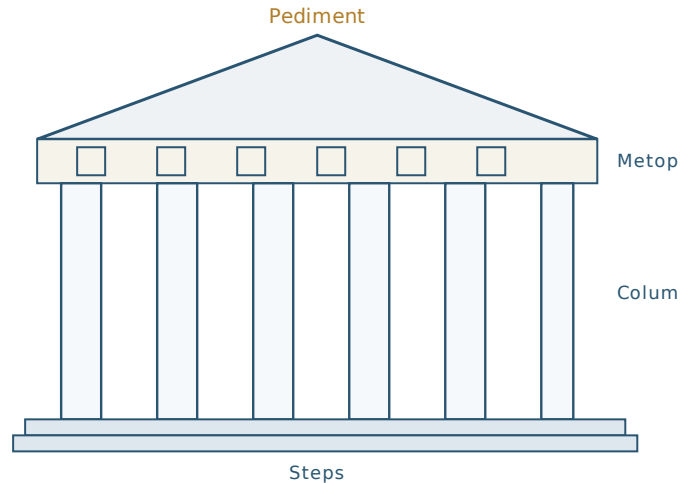
When asked to compare, do not describe one thing then the other. Put them side by side. "Doric is plain, but Corinthian is fancy." Use words like *whereas* and *but*.

Longer answers

Make two or three clear points and add a detail to each. If asked why something was famous, give the reasons, not just a description. Finish with a sentence that answers the question directly.

A Greek temple

The big question: What were the main parts of a temple, and what was it actually for?



The front of a temple. The triangle on top is the pediment. The little squares are the metopes.

Inside and outside

Inside is one main room, the **cella**, which held the god's statue. The **altar**, where people made offerings, stood **outside** the temple, at the front.

What a temple was for

- It was a **house for the god**, built to honour them and to hold their statue.
- People did not gather inside to worship. They made offerings at the altar outside.
- A grand temple showed the city's wealth and its respect for the god.

The three column types

The big question: How do you tell the three kinds of column apart?

The trick is to look at the **top** of the column, the part called the capital. They go from plain to fancy.



Doric

Plainest and sturdiest. A simple top. No base.



Ionic

Taller and slimmer. Scrolls on top, like rolled horns. Has a base.



Corinthian

The fanciest. Carved leaves on top. Tall and showy.

The memory trick

Plain to fancy: **Doric, Ionic, Corinthian**. Plain top, then scrolls, then leaves. The capital tells you which is which.

The Temple of Zeus at Olympia

The big question: Why was this temple so important, and how does it tie everything together?

The temple

- A grand temple at **Olympia**, built to honour **Zeus**, the king of the gods.
- Olympia was the holy place where the Olympic Games were held, in Zeus's honour.
- Inside stood the giant Statue of Zeus (next page).

Hercules

- **Hercules** was the greatest Greek hero, and a son of Zeus.
- He is famous for his **Twelve Labours**, twelve near impossible tasks.
- In legend he was linked to starting the Olympic Games at Olympia.
- So a hero from myth is tied directly to Zeus, to the temple, and to the Games.

Metopes

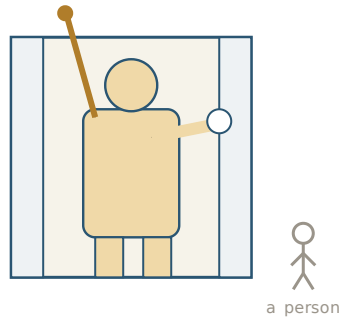
- **Metopes** are the carved square panels near the top of a temple.
- They were used to show scenes in stone, telling stories.
- On the Temple of Zeus, the metopes showed the **Twelve Labours of Hercules**.

The connection to hold on to

Hercules is the bridge. A son of Zeus, a hero of myth, carved on Zeus's temple, and linked to founding the Games. One figure ties the gods, the myths, the building and the games together.

The Statue of Zeus

The big question: What did it look like, and why was it one of the Seven Wonders?



A giant seated Zeus on a throne, holding a small figure of Victory in one hand and a sceptre in the other.

The facts

- A huge seated statue of Zeus, about **12 metres** tall, made by the sculptor **Phidias**.
- Made of **gold and ivory** over a wooden frame. Ivory for the skin, gold for the robes.
- It stood inside the Temple of Zeus at Olympia.
- It was one of the **Seven Wonders of the Ancient World**.

Why it was a Wonder

Its enormous size, the precious gold and ivory, and the astonishing skill all left people in awe. It was so grand that it seemed as if the god himself was sitting there.

The early Olympic Games

The big question: Why were the Games held, and how were they different from today?

A religious festival, not just sport

- Held at **Olympia**, in honour of **Zeus**. They were a religious festival with sacrifices, not only a competition.
- Held every **four years**.
- Events included running races, wrestling, boxing, the pentathlon (five events), and chariot racing.
- The prize was a simple **olive wreath** and great honour, not money or medals.

Ancient and modern, side by side

Ancient Games

Modern Games

A religious festival for Zeus.

A sporting event, not religious.

Only free Greek men could take part.

Open to all nations, men and women.

Athletes competed without clothes.

Athletes wear kit.

Prize was an olive wreath and honour.

Prizes are gold, silver and bronze medals.

Always held at Olympia.

Held in a different city each time.

Both: held every four years.

YOUR TURN

Questions: buildings

QUICK CHECK

1. What is the triangular part at the top of a temple called?

2. Where did people make their offerings, inside or outside the temple?

3. What were metopes used for?

4. Who made the Statue of Zeus, and what was it made of?

COMPARISON

Compare the three types of column. How can you tell them apart?

EXAMPLE ANSWER

The easiest way to tell the three columns apart is by the top, the capital. Doric is the plainest, with a simple top and no base, and it looks sturdy. Ionic is taller and slimmer, with two scrolls on top that look like rolled up horns. Corinthian is the fanciest of all, with carved leaves around the top. So they go from plain to fancy: Doric, then Ionic, then Corinthian.

YOUR TURN

Questions: the statue and the games

EXPLAIN

5. Explain why a temple was important to the Greeks.

COMPARISON

6. Give three ways the ancient Olympic Games were different from the modern ones.

EXTENDED ANSWER

Describe the Statue of Zeus and explain why it was one of the Seven Wonders.

How it all connects

This booklet is where the whole subject joins up.

- **Religion ties it together.** A temple is a god's house. The Temple of Zeus is his house at Olympia. The statue is the god inside it. The Games are his festival.
- **Hercules is the bridge.** A son of Zeus and a hero of myth, carved on the temple, and linked to founding the Games.
- **The gods from booklet 2 are everywhere.** Zeus is honoured by the temple, the statue and the Games all at once.

Memory aids

- **Columns, plain to fancy:** Doric, Ionic, Corinthian. Plain, scrolls, leaves.
- **Temple is a house, altar is outside.** Worship happened outside, not in.
- **Statue of Zeus:** giant, gold and ivory, by Phidias, a Wonder.
- **Olympics for Zeus:** a festival, olive wreath, every four years, at Olympia.

What to revise first, and answers

1 The three columns

Tell them apart by the top. A likely comparison question.

2 The Statue of Zeus

What it was, and why it was a Wonder. A likely longer answer.

3 Ancient versus modern Olympics

Three clear differences.

4 Temple purpose

A house for the god, with the altar outside.

The must know floor

- Name the parts of a temple: pediment, columns, steps, metopes, and the cella inside.
- Tell Doric, Ionic and Corinthian apart by the top.
- The Statue of Zeus: giant, gold and ivory, by Phidias, a Wonder.
- The Games were a festival for Zeus, every four years, prize an olive wreath.
- Three differences between the ancient and modern Games.

Answers

1. The pediment.
2. Outside, at the altar.
3. To show scenes and tell stories in stone, such as the Labours of Hercules.
4. Phidias made it, from gold and ivory over a wooden frame.
5. (Comparison) See the model answer. Tell them apart by the capital: plain Doric, scrolled Ionic, leafy Corinthian.

6. (Explain) A temple was a house for the god, built to honour them and hold their statue, and a grand one showed the city's wealth and respect.
7. Any three of: ancient was religious for Zeus; only Greek men took part; athletes wore no clothes; the prize was an olive wreath; always at Olympia.