



The Wonders of the Ancient World

The Temple of Artemis

What is the Temple of Artemis?

- The **Temple of Artemis**,
- was a temple dedicated to Artemis completed in its most famous phase, around 550 BC at Ephesus (in present-day Turkey) .
- It was one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.



Location



- The Temple of Artemis was located near the ancient city of Ephesus, about 50 km south from the modern port city of Izmir, in Turkey.
- Today the site lies on the edge of the modern town of Selçuk.



- Artemis was a Greek goddess, the virginal huntress and twin of Apollo, who supplanted the Titan Selene as goddess of the Moon.



Cult and influence



- The Temple of Artemis was located at an economically developed region, attracting merchants and travellers from all over Asia Minor.
- The temple was influenced by many beliefs, and can be seen as a symbol of faith for many different peoples.
- The cult of Artemis attracted thousands of worshipers from far-off lands.

Herostratus

- The Temple of Artemis at Ephesus was destroyed on July 21, 356 BCE in an act of arson committed by Herostratus. He dreamed to be famous.
- Herostratus planned the burning of the temple of Artemis so that through the destruction of this most beautiful building his name might be spread through the whole world.
- The Ephesians, outraged, announced that Herostratus' name never be recorded.





The ruins of the Temple



- The temple was restored in 323 BCE.
- This reconstruction was itself destroyed during a raid by the Goths in 262, in the time of emperor Gallienus.
- The Ephesians rebuilt the temple again.
- In the fourth century, perhaps the majority of Ephesians did convert to Christianity; all temples were declared closed by Theodosius I in 391.
- In 401, the temple was finally destroyed by a mob led by St. John Chrysostom, and the stones were used in construction of other buildings.
- Some of the columns in Hagia Sophia originally belonged to the temple of Artemis.

Rediscovery

- After sixty years of patient searching, the site of the temple was rediscovered in 1869 by an expedition sponsored by the British Museum led by John Turtle Wood; excavations continued until 1879. A few further fragments of sculpture were found during the 1904-06 excavations directed by D.G. Hogarth. The recovered sculptured fragments of the fourth-century rebuilding and a few from the earlier temple, which had been used in the rubble fill for the rebuilding, were assembled and displayed in the "Ephesus Room" of the British Museum.
- Today the site of the temple which lies