Wonders of the World

Please note: this course mentions records such as the world’s tallest building, etc. These records are continually being challenged and broken, and we encourage students to explore who holds the records they learn about as of this moment in history.

Here is a suggested outline of how you may wish to move through this study, but please adapt this course to fit your family’s needs!

Week One:
- The Colossus of Rhodes
- The Colossus of Rhodes Activity
- The Hanging Gardens of Babylon
- The Hanging Gardens of Babylon Activity
- The Great Pyramid at Giza
- The Great Pyramid at Giza Activity

Week Two:
- The Lighthouse of Alexandria
- The Lighthouse of Alexandria Activity
- The Mausoleum of Halicarnassus
- The Mausoleum of Halicarnassus Activity
- The Temple of Artemis in Ephesus
- The Temple of Artemis in Ephesus Activity

Week Three:
- The Statue of Zeus at Olympia
- The Statue of Zeus at Olympia Activity
- The Channel Tunnel
- The Channel Tunnel Activity
- CN Tower
- CN Tower Activity

Week Four:
- The Empire State Building
- The Empire State Building Activity
- Golden Gate Bridge
- Golden Gate Bridge Activity
- Itaipu Dam
- Itaipu Dam Activity

Week Five:
- Deltaworks
- Deltaworks Activity
- Panama Canal
- Panama Canal Activity
- Review Activities
Wonders of the World

Have you heard of the Seven Wonders of the World? Did you know that there is more than one list of “Seven Wonders”? Let’s learn about the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World and the Seven Wonders of the Modern World. These are amazing places and objects that are so much fun to learn about! Come and discover fourteen wonders.

The Seven Wonders of the Ancient World

The Colossus of Rhodes

The Colossus of Rhodes was a statue that sat in the harbor of the island of Rhodes. Rhodes is a Greek island about 11 miles southwest of Turkey.

The statue was created to commemorate the victory that Rhodes had won in a battle. In 305 B.C., Rhodes was attacked after the island could not be convinced to join Antigonus the One-Eyed in a war against Egypt. Egypt was the biggest trading partner that the island of Rhodes had, so it would not have been a smart move to engage in battle with them.

Antigonus retaliated by sending 40,000 soldiers to attack the island. This army was bigger than the entire population of Rhodes! His son, Demetrius Poliorcetes, led the army and was very adept at using catapults and battering rams, making it appear that the island had very little chance of winning the war.

The people on the island were not going to give up without a fight. With the help of the king of Egypt, King Ptolemy, Rhodes spent almost a year fighting with the enemy army. They held their own and eventually caused the army to crumble. After seeing that he could not win this battle, Antigonus ordered that the army retreat from the island.

To celebrate their victory, the Rhodians wanted to build a statue. Since they had been praying to their patron god, Helios, that is who they chose to portray. Taking twelve years to complete, the statue was 110 feet tall, which is close to the height of the Statue of Liberty (from head to feet).

The statue didn’t survive for very long, unfortunately. The Colossus only stood for about 56 years before it crumbled during an earthquake.

The Colossus of Rhodes Activity

If you were going to build a statue to represent freedom, what would it look like? Would the statue represent freedom for you, your family, or the whole nation? Would it be any special colors or made of any materials that are important to you? On the Statue Drawing Worksheet, write about your statue and how it should be built. Draw a picture of what the finished statue would look like.
The Hanging Gardens of Babylon

The Hanging Gardens of Babylon have been a source of mystery for historians. It has been difficult to pinpoint where the gardens were, how they were watered, and even if they truly existed!

It is said that King Nebuchadnezzar built the gardens to help his wife because she missed the beautiful gardens of her homeland, Persia. When Nebuchadnezzar married his wife, she moved away from lush plants, tall mountains, and green trees to an area that was dry, flat, and hot. She was very homesick for her old country, and it was thought that the gardens would cheer her up.

The gardens were impressive for several reasons. First of all, they were up high, and everyone could see them. Even though they are called the “Hanging” Gardens, it is not likely that the plants were actually suspended on cables of ropes. They were probably given that name because they had the impression of hanging since the plants were up on the rooftops overlooking the city.

Another reason that the gardens were so impressive is that it rarely rains in Babylon, making it nearly impossible to keep beautiful plants and trees green and alive. There had to be a way to get water from the Euphrates River high up to the tops of the roofs in order to keep the garden from dying off. Archaeologists think a type of chain pump was used. This was a device that would take the water up to the roof and pour it into an irrigation system for the plants.

The Hanging Gardens of Babylon Activity

Have you ever had a garden of your own? It is really simple to create your own small garden with an egg carton and a few other materials. Give it a try!

**Materials:** Egg carton (I like the ones made from recycled cardboard the best), potting soil, seeds (pansies and marigolds are good choices), and water.

**Directions:**
Cut the top of the egg carton off and throw it away.
Carefully spoon soil into each of the egg cups in the other piece of the carton (enough to fill each space).
Bury a couple of seeds right in the middle of each egg cup.
Place the carton in a sunny window.
Water the soil.

In no time at all you will have your very own beautiful garden!
The Great Pyramid at Giza

There is only one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World still around today, and that is the Great Pyramid at Giza. It is thought to have been built as a burial tomb for Fourth Dynasty Egyptian King Khufu.

The Great Pyramid is the largest pyramid ever built. The mass of the Great Pyramid is thirty times the mass of the Empire State Building. The approximate weight of all of the stone used to build the pyramid is 6.5 million tons. Now that’s a lot of stone!

It is unknown exactly how a pyramid of this size was built. The most reasonable explanation is that the giant stones were dragged from quarries and lifted into place.

This pyramid, like others, was built for the king to be buried in after death. Before being placed in their tombs, the dead went through a process to turn them into mummies. Did you know that you can make your own real mummy?

The Great Pyramid at Giza Activity

With a parent’s permission and assistance, search online for your own mummy-making activity. There are dozens to choose from! Have fun.

The Lighthouse of Alexandria

Alexander the Great founded many cities in the third century B.C., and many (at least 17) had one thing in common—they were named Alexandria. Most of them disappeared through the years, but one remains even today—Alexandria, Egypt.

Alexander chose an area 20 miles west of the Nile delta to build this city. He wanted it to be far enough away from the delta to prevent the silt and mud of the river from blocking the harbor. The city was constructed to have two harbors: one for the traffic from the Nile River and one for the trade coming in from the Mediterranean Sea.

Alexander the Great did not live to see the completion of the city; he died in 323 B.C. The city was completed by Ptolemy Soter, the new ruler of Egypt. After the city had been finished, it didn’t take long for it to become a very wealthy city.

One thing that was missing from the city was a symbol of this wealth. Also, Ptolemy knew they needed a way to guide the many trade ships into the harbor. One solution was to build a lighthouse, the Lighthouse of Alexandria.

This lighthouse was the first lighthouse in the world. It took approximately 20 years to completely build, and, when it was finished, the only building that was taller than it was the Great Pyramid of Giza. There is no way to know exactly how tall the lighthouse was, but it has been estimated to have been between 450 feet and 600 feet high (probably closer to 450 feet).