

# The Great Pyramid of Giza

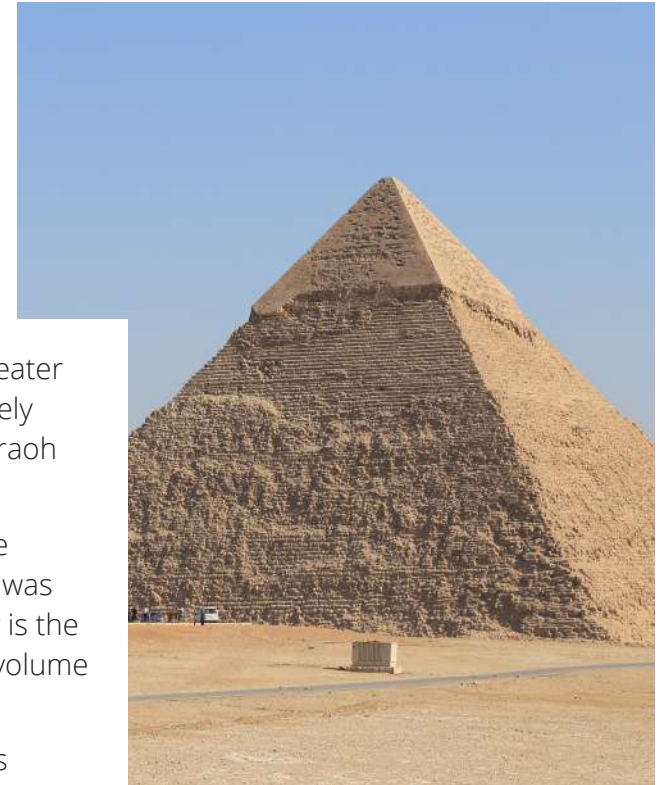
The **Great Pyramid of Giza** is the oldest and largest of the pyramids in the Giza pyramid complex in Greater Cairo, Egypt. It is the oldest of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, and the only one to remain largely intact. Egyptologists conclude that the pyramid was built as a tomb for the Fourth Dynasty Egyptian pharaoh Khufu and estimate that it was built in the 26th century BC during a period of around 27 years.

Initially standing at 146.5 metres (481 feet), the Great Pyramid was the tallest man-made structure in the world for more than 3,800 years. Throughout history the majority of the smooth white limestone casing was removed, which lowered the pyramid's height to the present 138.5 metres (454.4 ft). What is seen today is the underlying core structure. The base was measured to be about 230.3 metres (755.6 ft) square, giving a volume of roughly 2.6 million cubic metres (92 million cubic feet), which includes an internal hillock.

The Great Pyramid was built by quarrying an estimated 2.3 million large blocks weighing 6 million tonnes total. The majority of stones are not uniform in size or shape and are only roughly dressed. The outside layers were bound together by mortar. Primarily local limestone from the Giza Plateau was used. Other blocks were imported by boat down the Nile: White limestone from Tura for the casing, and granite blocks from Aswan, weighing up to 80 tonnes, for the King's Chamber structure.

## Questions:

1. What continent is Egypt in?
2. What are the other six Wonders of the World?
3. What does pharaoh mean?
4. What does BC mean and roughly how long ago was this?
5. Is the pyramid taller or shorter than Salisbury Cathedral?
6. Why is the pyramid shorter now than when first built?
7. Write out 2.6 million in full.
8. Blocks were transported down the Nile to build the pyramid. Which sea does the Nile flow into?
9. Pyramids were built as tombs; what does this mean?
10. How many kilograms are in a tonne?



# The Great Wall of China



The **Great Wall of China** is an ancient wall in China. The wall is made of cement, rocks, bricks, and dirt. It was finished in 1878 and it was meant to protect the north of the empire of China from enemy attacks. It is the longest structure humans have ever built. It is about 21,196 kilometers long, 9.1 metres (30 feet) wide and 15 metres high. The earlier sections on the wall are made of compacted dirt and stone. Later in the Ming Dynasty they used bricks. There are 7,000 watch towers, block houses for soldiers and beacons to send smoke signals.

Nineteen walls have been built that were called the Great Wall of China. The first was built in the 7th century BC. The most famous wall was built between 226–200 BC by the first Emperor of China, Qin Shi Hong (Qin Pronounced as Chin) , during the Qin Dynasty. Not much of this wall remains as people have been stealing from it. It was much farther north than the current wall. The current wall was built during the Ming Dynasty.

It was made over the course of hundreds of years, the wall was built by over 6 different Chinese dynasties, and is over 2,300 years old. The wall was built to help keep out northern invaders like the Mongols. Smaller walls had been built over the years, but the first Emperor of China, Qin Shi Huang, decided that he wanted a single giant wall to protect his northern borders. The most well-known sections of the wall were built by Ming Dynasty. Genghis Khan, the founder of the Mongol Empire, was the only one who breached the Great Wall of China in its 2,700-year-history.



## Questions:

1. When was the wall finished? How long ago is this?
2. How long is it? What is this in m?
3. Why was the wall built?
4. How many watch towers has the wall got?
5. When was the building of the wall started?
6. The wall was built by six different Chinese dynasties. What is a dynasty?
7. Who was the first emperor of China?
8. Who was Genghis Khan?
9. What did Genghis Khan manage to do?
10. Where is the most famous bit of the Great Wall? Why is it that not much of this part of the wall is left?

# The Colosseum

The Colosseum is an oval amphitheatre in the centre of the city of Rome, Italy, just east of the Roman Forum. It is the largest ancient amphitheatre ever built, and is still the largest standing amphitheatre in the world today, despite its age. Construction began under the emperor Vespasian (r. 69–79 AD) in 72 and was completed in 80 AD under his successor and heir, Titus (r. 79–81). Further modifications were made during the reign of Domitian (r. 81–96). The three emperors that were patrons of the work are known as the Flavian dynasty, and the amphitheatre was named the Flavian Amphitheatre by later classicists and archaeologists for its association with their family name (Flavius).

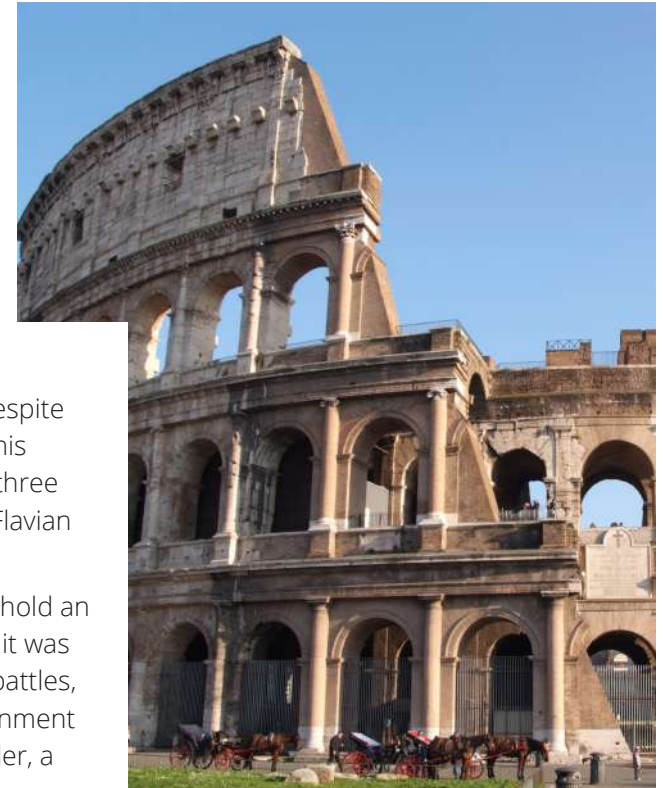
The Colosseum is built of travertine limestone, tuff (volcanic rock), and brick-faced concrete. The Colosseum could hold an estimated 50,000 to 80,000 spectators at various points in its history having an average audience of some 65,000; it was used for gladiatorial contests and public spectacles including animal hunts, executions, re-enactments of famous battles, and dramas based on Roman mythology, and briefly mock sea battles. The building ceased to be used for entertainment in the early medieval era. It was later reused for such purposes as housing, workshops, quarters for a religious order, a fortress, a quarry, and a Christian shrine.

Although substantially ruined because of earthquakes and stone-robbers, the Colosseum is still an iconic symbol of Imperial Rome and was listed as one of the New 7 Wonders of the World. It is one of Rome's most popular tourist attractions and also has links to the Roman Catholic Church, as each Good Friday the Pope leads a torch lit "Way of the Cross" procession that starts in the area around the Colosseum.

The Colosseum is also depicted on the Italian version of the five-cent euro coin.

## Questions:

1. The Colosseum is oval-shaped. Draw an oval.
2. When did building the Colosseum start? What does AD mean?
3. How long did it take to build the Colosseum?
4. Where is the Colosseum? Which city and which country?
5. Why did it become known as the Flavian Colosseum?
6. How many spectators could fit into the Colosseum?
7. It was used initially for contests and spectacles. Give two examples.
8. It is substantially ruined for two reasons, what are they?
9. What does the term 'Imperial Rome' mean?
10. What happens in the 'Way of the Cross' procession and when does it take place?



# Brooklyn Bridge



The Brooklyn Bridge looms majestically over New York City's East River, linking the two boroughs of Manhattan and Brooklyn. Since 1883, its granite towers and steel cables have offered a safe and scenic passage to millions of commuters and tourists, trains and bicycles, pushcarts and cars. The bridge's construction took 14 years and cost \$15 million (more than \$320 million in today's dollars). At least two dozen people died in the process, including its original designer. Now more than 125 years old, this iconic feature of the New York City skyline still carries roughly 150,000 vehicles and pedestrians every day.

John Augustus Roebling, the Brooklyn Bridge's creator, was a great pioneer in the design of steel suspension bridges. Born in Germany in 1806, he studied industrial engineering in Berlin and at the age of 25 immigrated to western Pennsylvania, where he attempted, unsuccessfully, to make his living as a farmer. He later moved to the state capital in Harrisburg, where he found work as a civil engineer. He promoted the use of wire cable and established a successful wire-cable factory.

On May 17, 1884, P. T. Barnum led 21 elephants over the Brooklyn Bridge to prove that it was stable.

Meanwhile, Roebling earned a reputation as a designer of suspension bridges, which at the time were widely used but known to fail under strong winds or heavy loads. Roebling addressed these problems by combining structural elements from previous bridge designs—including cable arrays and stiffening trusses. Using this model, Roebling successfully bridged the Niagara Gorge at Niagara Falls, New York, and the Ohio River in Cincinnati, Ohio.

## Questions:

1. Where is Brooklyn Bridge? Which city, country and continent?
2. Which two boroughs does Brooklyn Bridge connect?
3. When was it built? Roughly how long ago is this?
4. How much did it cost to build? Write the amount out in full.
5. Who designed the bridge?
6. Who is P. T. Barnum? Why would he have had 21 elephants?
7. What does suspension mean?
8. Draw a simple diagram of a suspension bridge.
9. What did Roebling do to strengthen the suspension bridges that he designed?
10. He then bridged the Niagara Falls. Where are they?

