

# The New Seven Wonders of the World

The *Seven Ancient Wonders of the World* is a much-celebrated list of seven famous monuments built in ancient times. Sadly, the Egyptian pyramid complex at Giza is the only monument from that list that still exists. In 2000, a campaign started to choose seven new, still existing wonders of the world. Explore the seven remarkable sites below!

Research the name, location, and purpose of each monument. Fill in the cards below.

1.



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This ancient city was built over 2,100 years ago. It is called the “Rose City” because the stone it was carved from has red and pink accents.

Name: Petra (originally called Raqmu)

Location: Jordan

Why was it built? Petra was the capital city and regional trading hub of nomadic Nabataean Arabs. Archaeological studies suggest that careful control of the water supply allowed this desert city to thrive.

2.



This regional capital reached its height of power around 600 CE. Pyramid temples were just one of the many architectural styles found in the vast city.

Name: Chichén Itzá

Location: Central Mexico

Why was it built? Chichén Itzá was a large Maya city home to people from across the region. Historians believe that from around 550 CE to 800 CE the site hosted many important Maya ceremonies.

3.



This is the world’s oldest and largest amphitheater. The building’s remains include an underground section where animals were once caged.

Name: Colosseum (part of the ancient Roman Forum)

Location: Rome, Italy

Why was it built? The Colosseum was an entertainment complex. It hosted gladiator fights to the death and animal shows that featured wild beasts imported from Africa.

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4.



This series of many walls stretches over 4,000 miles from the Gobi Desert to the Yellow Sea.

Name: Great Wall of China

Location: multiple locations across ancient China's northern border

Why was it built? Chinese emperors built various sections of the wall to defend the empire against invaders from the north, particularly the Mongols.

5.



Many archaeologists believe this emperor's retreat, narrowly tucked between two mountain peaks, was built around 1450 CE.

Name: Machu Picchu

Location: Southern Peru

Why was it built? Many archaeologists believe Machu Picchu was the Inca emperor Pachacuti's retreat. It is often referred to as the "Lost City of the Incas."

6.



This marble mausoleum was built in 1643 CE. It took over ten years to create what some people believe is the most beautiful building in the world!

Name: Taj Mahal (translated as "Crown of the Palace")

Location: Agra, India

Why was it built? The Mughal emperor Shah Jahan had the Taj Mahal mausoleum and palace built as a tribute to his deceased wife.

7.



Constructed in the 1920s, this statue weighs 635 metric tons and is perched at the peak of a 2,300-foot mountain.

Name: Christ the Redeemer

Location: Rio De Janeiro, Brazil

Why was it built? A group of Catholics in Brazil raised money in the 1920s to build a statue depicting Christ, the central figure of the Christian religion. The statue's open arms are a symbol of peace.