

Colossus of Rhodes

SEVEN WONDERS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD



Back in the good old days of Ancient Greece, one victory on the battlefield often equaled one statue for the victorious city. When the city of Rhodes successfully threw off a siege from the city of Cyprus, they celebrated by making a statue of the Greek Titan Helios. Helios was the Greek personification of the sun, and the massive figure of him was supposed to remind Rhodes' enemies of their supreme power and influence.



Colossus is a word for a statue that is much larger than life size. The statue of Helios is rightfully categorized as a colossus. Historians estimate that the figure of Helios stood at well over 100 feet. Any visitors to Rhodes could not miss the towering presence of the Greek Titan.

The Colossus of Rhodes was destroyed by an earthquake in 226 BC, a mere 56 years after its construction. However, for a long time, the broken remains of Helios were still a popular tourist destination. Sadly, all of these parts were eventually sold off.



Why do you think the people of Rhodes chose Helios to represent their victory? What is it about the sun that appealed to them?

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Helios can be seen as something of a mascot for the city of Rhodes. Think about your school's mascots or the mascots of your favorite sport teams. How do those mascots represent your school or your team?

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WORD SCRAMBLE

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SHEDRO FO SOSLCOUS

It was built as a celebration of victory and freedom.

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KQEAUHTAR

This natural disaster caused the statue to be destroyed.

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LHEOIS

Titan god of the sun

DID YOU KNOW?

- * The word helium, a gas first discovered in the solar atmosphere, came from the name of the Greek god Helios.
- * The creation of the Statue of Liberty in New York was inspired by this ancient World Wonder.
- * The Colossus of Rhodes is the shortest lived of the ancient Seven Wonders of the World. It only lasted for 56 years.

Word Scramble answers: Colossus of Rhodes, earthquake, Helios