

Discover other ancient building techniques with the Arch-Kid-Tech® series.



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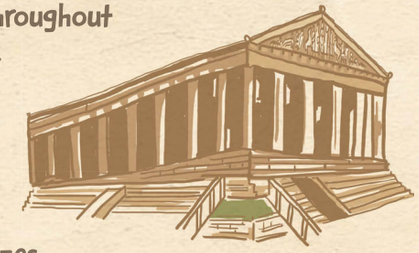
Updated digital version – October 2026
Some earlier printed copies contain factual inaccuracies. This downloadable version has been reviewed and updated to correct those points.

Before people had scientific explanations for many natural phenomena, the ancient Greeks used myths to make sense of nature and human life. Why does thunder roar? What makes the sea rise and fall? Why do people go to war, and what happens after death?

Their stories associated different gods with different aspects of the world and human life: Zeus with the sky and thunder, Poseidon with the sea, Ares with war, Apollo with music and prophecy, and Hades with the underworld.



Ancient Greeks built temples as sacred homes for their gods. Inside stood an image of the deity, while worship and offerings took place throughout the surrounding sanctuary.



The façade—the front face of the building—was carefully composed from columns and the structure above them. Pediments, friezes, and other surfaces could be decorated with carved scenes of gods, heroes, and myths.



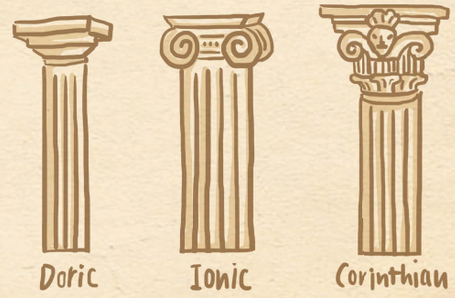
The Greek temple façade became an enduring model that influenced later Western art and architecture.

Greek builders shaped stone with careful measurement, skilled cutting, and precise assembly. Many columns were not carved from a single block. Instead, the shaft was built from cylindrical sections called drums. Each drum was carefully cut and aligned, then stacked to form the column.



Column Drums

Three famous orders of ancient Greek architecture are Doric, Ionic, and Corinthian. Their different proportions and capitals became enduring models that later architects adapted in buildings around the world. You can often recognize them by their capitals: Doric capitals are simple, Ionic capitals have scroll-like volutes, and Corinthian capitals are richly decorated with acanthus leaves.



Greek sculptors transformed marble using hammers, chisels, rasps, drills, and abrasives. They worked in stages, from rough shaping to fine carving and polishing. Creating a figure from stone demanded careful observation, control, patience, and remarkable craftsmanship.



Ready to build your own Greek-inspired façade?

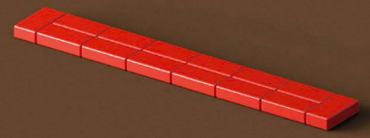
Find these pieces and let's start building!

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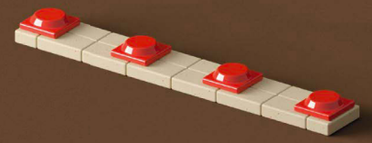
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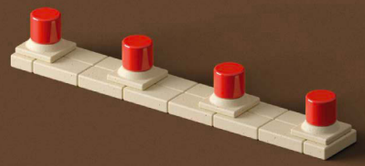
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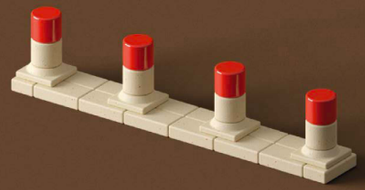
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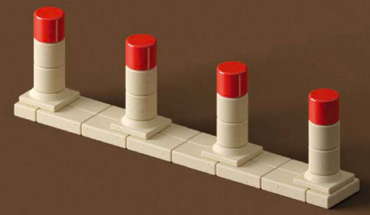
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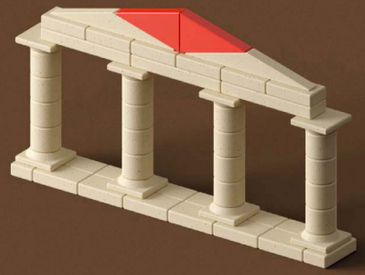
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11

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12

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13

2X



