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COMMUNITY GORP Trivia

Tune in every other week for a new GORP Trivia question. What do you really know about the world's people, places, and things? The first five correct answers to any question always **win a small bag of GORP.com GORP**. Special bags for creative answers too.

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Seven Wonders of the Ancient World Question by *Ethan Gelber*

The Question:

Chroniclers of the past admired manmade achievements just as much as we do today. The Seven Wonders of the Ancient World (today's Mediterranean and the Middle East) were identified by a series of chroniclers from before the time of Christ, the most prominent of which include the 2nd-century-BC writer Antipater of Sidon and a scholar who may have been mathematician Philon of Byzantium. The list of Seven Wonders as it is remembered today includes the following:

1. The Pyramids of Giza
2. The Hanging Gardens of Babylon
3. The Statue of Zeus at Olympia
4. The Artemision or Temple of Artemis at Ephesus
5. The Mausoleum of Halicarnassus
6. The Colossus of Rhodes
7. The Pharos or Lighthouse at Alexandria

Which of these Wonders is the oldest and which is still standing today?

The Answer:

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1. The Pyramids of Giza - a tomb and temple complex built by the Pharaoh Khufu (Cheops) and his successors between the 27th and 26th centuries BC not far from the banks of the Nile near where Cairo is today. The Pyramids of Giza are the oldest of the Seven Wonders and the only one really still standing.

2. The Hanging Gardens of Babylon - a series of planted roof terraces believed to have been built sometime between the 9th and 6th centuries BC for either Queen Sammu-ramat or King Nebuchadnezzar II. There are no confirmed traces of these once verdant grounds although foundation chambers, vaults, and a deep well in the palace at Babylon (in today's southern Iraq) may have supported this structure.

3. The Statue of Zeus at Olympia - a colossal (39-foot-high) statue of Zeus seated on his throne and sculpted by Pheidias of Athens around 430 BC. All that remains today are the foundation and random structural pieces of the surrounding building that was once the greatest temple to this greatest of the gods. The statue itself was carted off to Constantinople where it was destroyed by fire.

4. The Artemision or Temple of Artemis at Ephesus - an enormous and highly ornate temple originally ordered built (in a smaller form) by Croesus, king of Lydia, in about 550 BC and dedicated to Artemis (known as Diana the Huntress to the Romans). The Wonder itself was (re)built after Herostratus destroyed the original in 356 BC, but not after the Goths did in 262 AD. All that remains today are the outlines of the foundation, fragments of sculpted pillars, and a single column reconstructed of various pieces of other columns and not truly representative of the size and grandeur of the building.

5. The Mausoleum of Halicarnassus - a huge stone tomb constructed in the 4th century BC for King Mausolous by his widow Artemisia. The king himself had designed a monumental white marble tomb with a pyramid on top of it. This achievement immortalized his name since subsequent large stone burial "caskets" are referred to as Mausoleums. The city, today's Bodrum (Turkey) was, at the time, known as Halicarnassus. The tomb stood for over 19 centuries until the Crusaders took it apart to use it as building material for their castle, pirates ransacked the precious items, and the

rest was put in museums.

6. The Colossus of Rhodes - an iron-reinforced, bronze statue of Helios that stood 105 feet tall over Rhodes' artificial harbor to commemorate the end of the 305 BC siege of Rhodes. The statue took 12 years to build (circa 294-282 BC), but only stood for 55 years, until 225 BC, when an earthquake brought it crashing to the ground. The Colossus lay in ruins until AD 654, when the Arabians raided Rhodes, gathered up the pieces, and sold the bronze for scrap.

7. The Pharos or Lighthouse at Alexandria - the most famous lighthouse of the ancient world, and the model on which all lighthouses are based. Originally built for Ptolemy II around 280 BC on an island (this island has since joined with the mainland), the lighthouse stood over 350 feet high, surmounted by a statue of Poseidon (the god of the sea). The Pharos was partially destroyed when the Roman Emperor instructed his spies in Alexandria to spread rumors that the lighthouse was built on top of the lost treasure of Alexander the Great. It eventually fell into even greater ruin after an earthquake in the 14th century. Today's Fort Qait Bey was built around 1480 by the Mamluk sultan Qait Bey on the foundation of the lighthouse using some of its debris.

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