



Teacher's Guide

The Colossus of Rhodes & The Pharos of Alexandria **14 Wonders of Our World Series**

Grade Levels:

6-12

Subject Areas:

Social Studies

World History

World Geography & Cultures

Synopsis:

Depicts the construction of the Colossus of Rhodes and its importance as a symbol of freedom from oppression. Modern engineers describe the forces that must have stressed this 120-foot, hollow bronze statue until it finally gave way. The statue is viewed as a prototype for the Statue of Liberty. The construction, design and historical importance of the Pharos of Alexandria are also depicted in re-enactments and computer animations. The past is brought to the present as the remains of the Pharos are shown being lifted to the surface by a modern crew of marine archaeologists.

Learning Objectives: Students will:

- Appreciate the cultural significance of these Wonders of the World.
- Describe ancient technologies used to build the Colossus and the Pharos.
- Compare the Colossus of Rhodes to the Statue of Liberty.
- Explain why there is a renewed interest in the Pharos of Alexandria.

Vocabulary:

talents (money), riveted, Gurley ramp, Renaissance, armature bars, oracle, metropolis, Pharos, mosque, generic, mausoleum, toppled, lintel, icons, antiquity

Pre-Viewing Discussion:

Why do larger-than-life statues fascinate most people? Can you imagine the effect of a statue 120 feet tall? What if this statue depicted a god that everyone worshiped? What effect would the statue have?

What statue is the most famous statue in the United States? What does it depict? What does it symbolize?

Why do people build lighthouses? How far out to sea can their light beams usually be seen? Can you imagine a lighthouse that sends its beams 50 miles out to sea? How tall would it have to be? How would it be constructed?

What forces of nature destroyed many of the ancient wonders of the world? Can you imagine if an ancient enormous lighthouse were to crash into the sea? Would its remains ever be found?

Post-Viewing Discussion:

Why was the Colossus of Rhodes completely destroyed by an earthquake? What details of its design made it vulnerable to the forces of nature? Why did the people of Rhodes believe the Colossus would never be destroyed?

Why was the Colossus built? What did it symbolize? How does the Statue of Liberty resemble the Colossus of Rhodes?

How were the people of Alexandria able to build a lighthouse as tall as the Pharos? What materials did they use? As the building got taller and taller, how did the building stones get lifted to the top?

What was used to fuel the light that shone so far out to sea? Why was the lighthouse vulnerable to earthquakes? What do you think marine archaeologists will discover when they bring more of the building blocks to the surface?

Further Activities:

Further investigate why the Statue of Liberty was constructed and how the architect was chosen.

Further investigate how the interior construction of the Statue of Liberty compares with that of the Colossus of Rhodes.

Find a detailed plan or drawing of the three sections of the Pharos of Alexandria.

Investigate the controversy about the statues that were placed on the top of the Pharos. Determine the god or gods they likely portrayed.

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