

Design Like a Greek Project

Made by the Learning team at RIBA

About this pack

This pack is aimed at Key Stage 2 students (ages 7-11) and focuses on the History and English Curriculum they study.

In this PDF you will find:

- Some key information for adults to help understand how this project can be used to supplement and cover aims of school learning.
- Sheets for children to learn about Ancient Greek Architecture in a self-led project.

This is designed to be an in-depth project about life in Ancient Greece. The sheets provides essential information about Greek life and architecture, but encourages children to do further individual research at the same time. Children may work on different sections on different days, or spend a full morning or afternoon working on it.

What the National Curriculum says children should learn:

History

- Ancient Greece – a study of Greek life and achievements and their influence on the western world

English

Oral

- Articulate and justify answers, arguments and opinions
- Participate in discussions, presentations, performances, role play, improvisations and debates

Writing

- Consider what they are going to write before beginning by:
 - Planning or saying out loud what they are going to write about
 - Writing down ideas and/or key words, including new vocabulary
 - Encapsulating what they want to say, sentence by sentence

Design

- Use research and develop design criteria to inform the design of innovative, functional, appealing products that are fit for purpose, aimed at particular individuals or groups
- Generate, develop, model and communicate their ideas through discussion, annotated sketches, cross-sectional and exploded diagrams, prototypes, pattern pieces and computer-aided design

Key Information and Aims

Materials Needed

- Paper (lined & plain)
- Pencil
- Colouring pencils, felt tips
- Ruler
- Internet

Skills Developed

- Reading
- Independent research
- Designing to a brief
- Drawing in 2D
- Writing opinions and for an audience
- Presenting ideas orally

Knowledge Gained

- Ancient Greek life and mythology
- How to identify different architecture styles
- Architecture features in a temple
- What a brief and pitch are

Design Like a Greek: The Challenge

Aeschylus has been asked by the local Ecclesia to design a new temple for the town of Delphi.

Aeschylus, however, has spent a bit too much time watching Greek tragedies at the local amphitheatre, and he is not ready to present a temple design for tomorrow.

Can you travel back in time and help him with his pitch before he gets fired?



Greetings!

My name is Aeschylus and I am most grateful for your help. Over the next few slides we will be exploring a little bit about my local town and Greek temple design so that you can then help me with my pitch.

Whenever you spot a word underlined you will need to research what it means and write it in the keywords sheet on the next page.



Keyword Checklist

Here are a few from the introduction to get you started!

Word	Definition
Ecclesia	<i>A group of male citizens in Ancient Greece who would meet to discuss issues about the running of the local town/state.</i>
Amphitheatre	<i>An open-air venue where Ancient Greeks performed plays. It was usually circular shaped with sloping seats and a flat stage at the bottom.</i>

Word	Definition

Explore

The importance of Delphi



Photo by Luarvick - Own work, CC BY-SA 3.0

Delphi is located on the south mainland of Greece, at the bottom of Mount Parnassus. Not many people live here but we get many visitors from all over Ancient Greece who come to visit the temples and take part in our cultural events.

Most people come to ask the god Apollo for advice or help – he is the god of healing and art who protects our town. The visitors go to a priestess known as a Pythia, who will go into a trance and share messages from Apollo.

Our Pythian Games, held every four years, also attract many visitors, which are like the Olympics but include painting, dancing and acting. These games are held in Apollo's honour and make him very happy!

Explore Greek Mythology

The town's nickname is *The Navel of the World*. Greek mythology tells us that Zeus released two eagles from Mount Olympus – one flying from the east, the other from the west. Where they met would be known as the center of the world, which just so happened to be the land that would become Delphi!

Zeus gave this land to his son Apollo, who wanted it to become a place where humans worshipped him (he was quite a vain god). To make it safe for humans, he killed the dragon named Python who lived there.

He then turned into a dolphin and swam to Crete to find people who could move there and build a temple dedicated to him. Apollo the dolphin jumped onto a boat and directed its passengers to the *Navel of the World*, where they built his temple and named the site Delphi, which means dolphin in Ancient Greek.



Task: Can you find out more information about the gods Zeus and Apollo? Try and find out what their personalities were like, what symbols and animals they were shown with and any other myths they starred in! A good place to start is on BBC Bitesize - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z87tn39/articles/zgt7mp3>

Explore

What is the function of a temple

Each Greek temple is built for an individual god or goddess so that humans can thank them for their help and show their devotion to them.

When a god is happy, they are kind to humans, helping us to win battles, be healthy and have fertile lands. If we anger them, they may punish us with bad health, bad harvests or even death! We build temples so that the gods know we are grateful to them and they are a place we can go to ask them for help or advice.

We often leave gifts and offerings to the god/goddess at the temples. During celebrations we also perform sacrifices at an altar outside to show respect and to honour them.

Look at the pictures of offerings commonly found at temples. Why do you think people chose to leave these types of gifts?



Photo by [Roberta Sorge](#)



Photo by Metropolitan Museum of Art



Photo by [Sonja Langford](#)

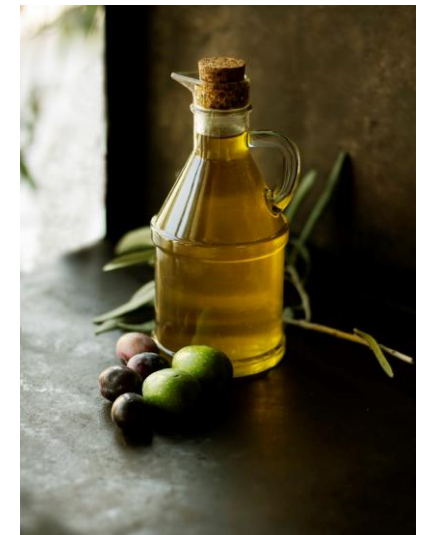


Photo by [Roberta Sorge](#)

Explore What Ancient Greek Temples look like

Temples can be found in a range of sizes, depending upon how much money there is to build them. They can be rectangular or circular in shape, although the circular ones, called Tholos, are usually much smaller.

They are usually located somewhere noticeable (such as in the town centre or on a hill) so that many people can see them. They are made out of stone or marble and are often painted in bright colours.

To make them beautiful we make sure they are symmetrical, and we follow strict style designs which I will tell you more about shortly.



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Photo by public domain photos



RIBApix 20948 by Jules Penel

Explore

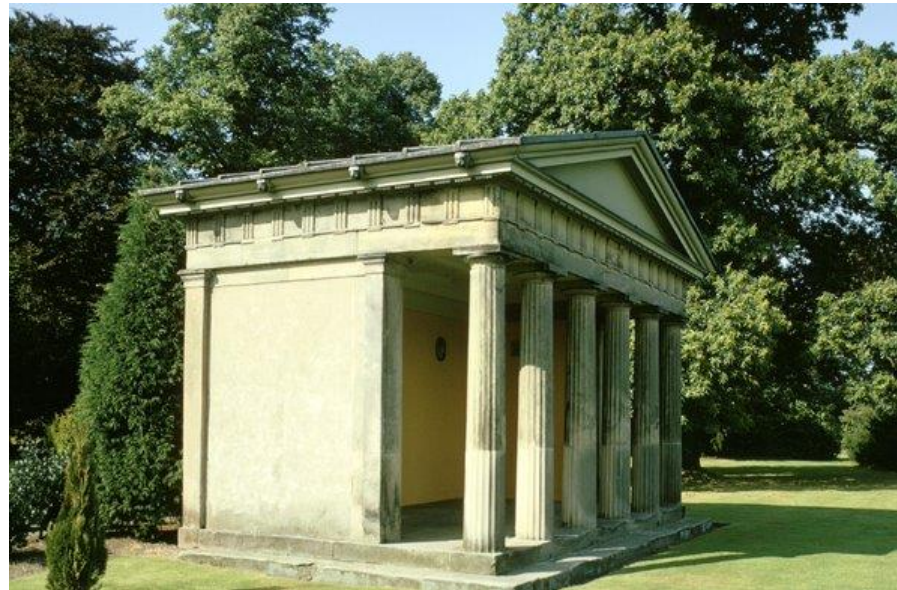
Identifying features of columns

Have a look at the images of columns on the next two slides, focusing on their shapes and decorations.

- What similarities and differences can you spot?
- Do you recognise any of the decorations?
- Can you split them into three groups based on their appearance?



Photo by PXFuel



RIBAPix 9200,, Photo by Bernard Hugh Cox

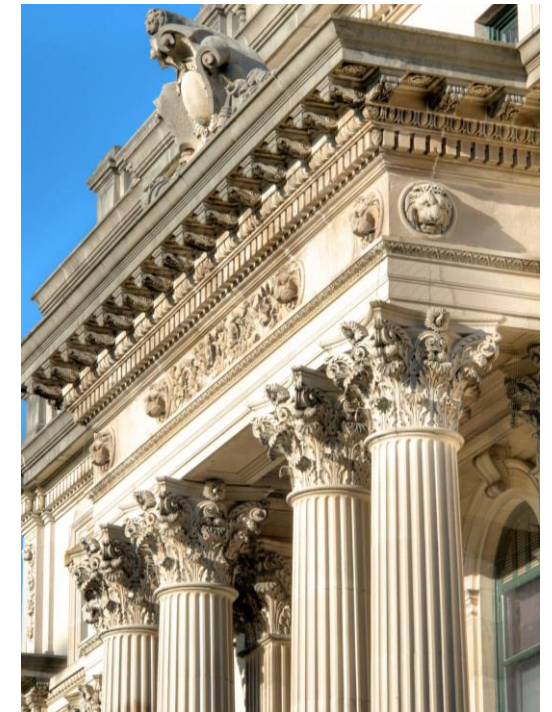


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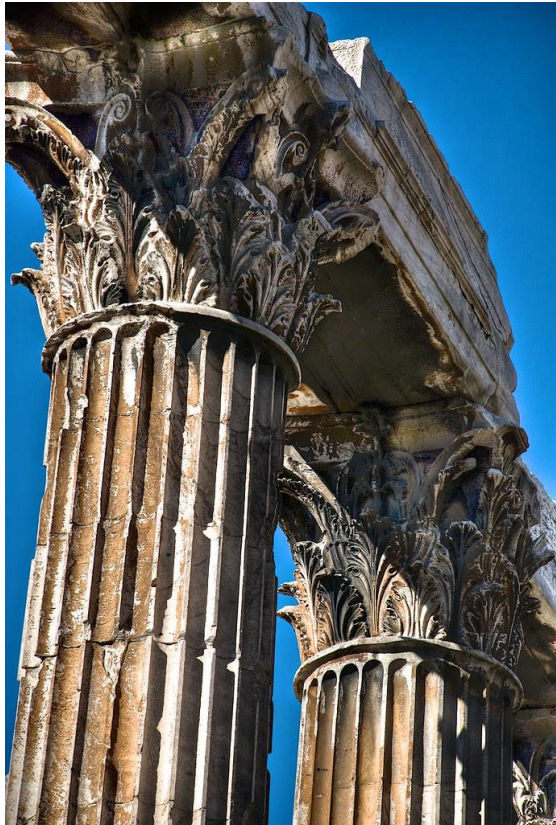
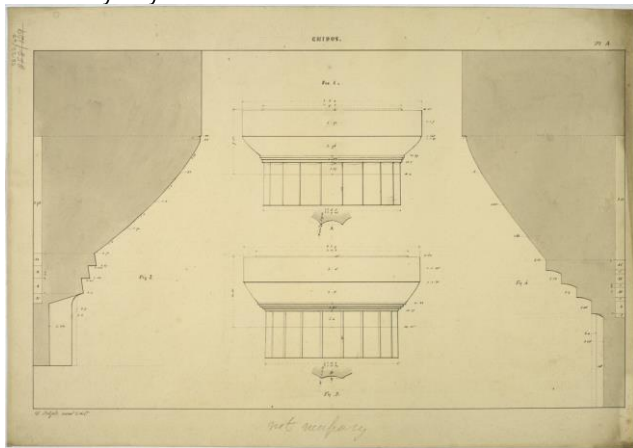


Photo by Jay Carroll Flickr



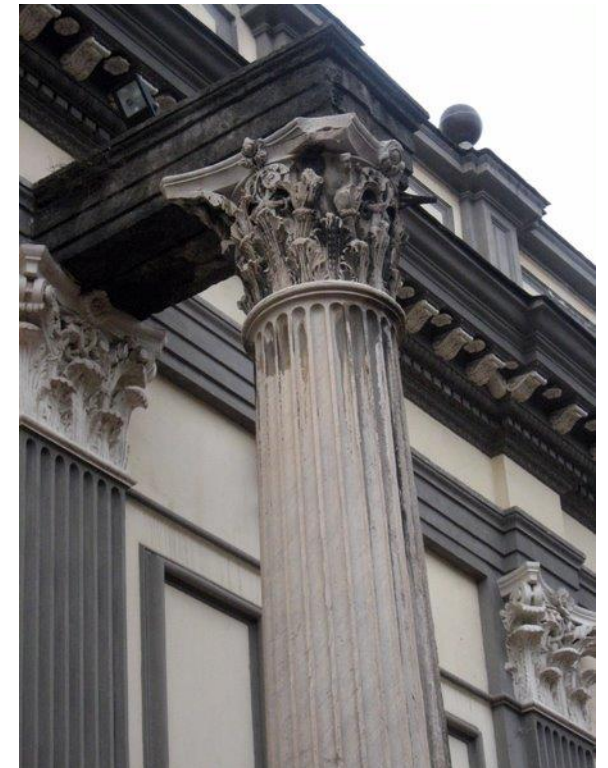
RIBApix 65658. Drawing by Francis Octavius Bedford



Photo by Terence Faircloth Flickr



RIBApix 9249. Photo by Bernard Hugh Cox



RIBApix 45103. Photo by Ruth Camen.



RIBApix 59075. Photo by John Donat.

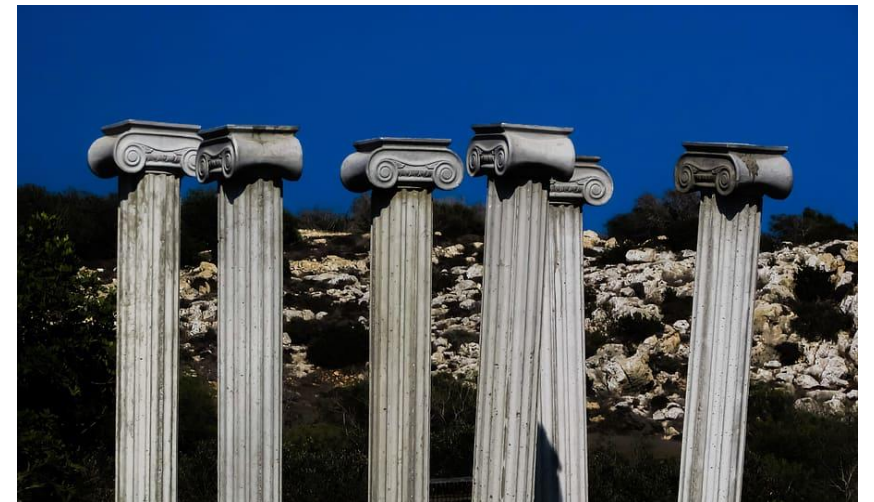
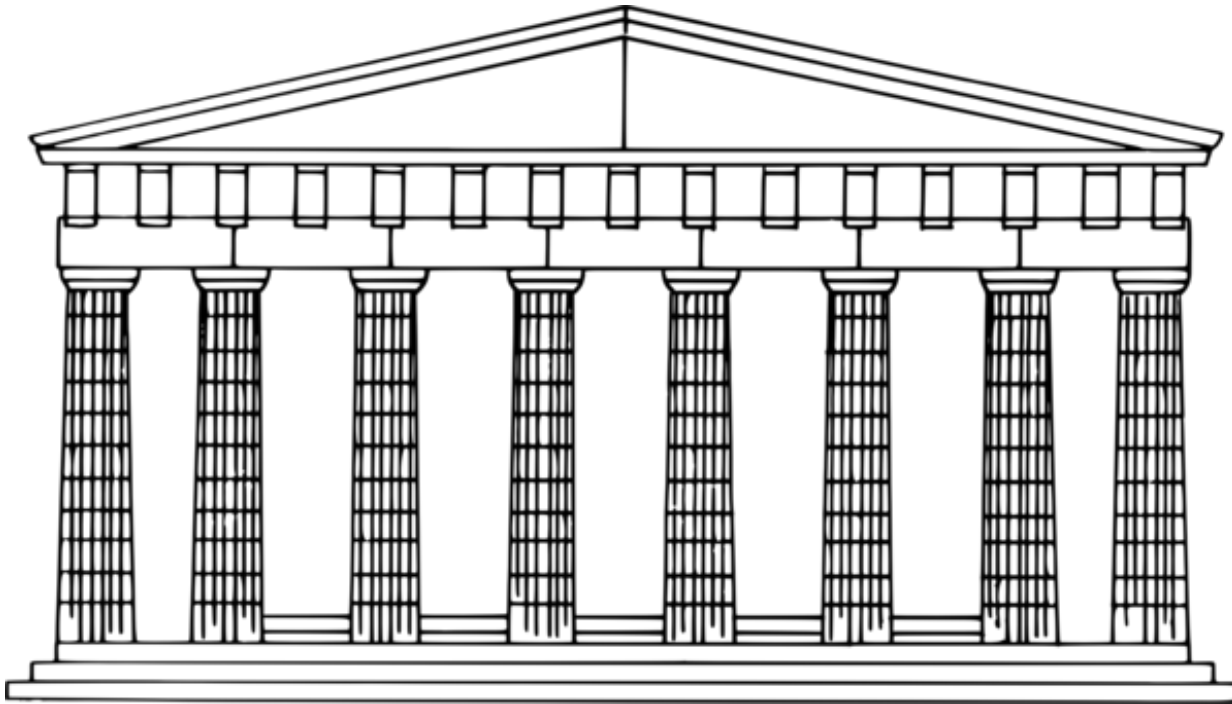


Photo by PXFuel

Explore

The three orders of Greek Architecture

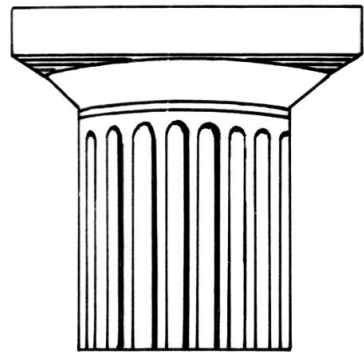
All Ancient Greek temples are designed in one of three styles (known as an order). Each order has strict rules for how a temple may look, with the columns being the easiest feature to identify which order has been used.



DORIC ORDER

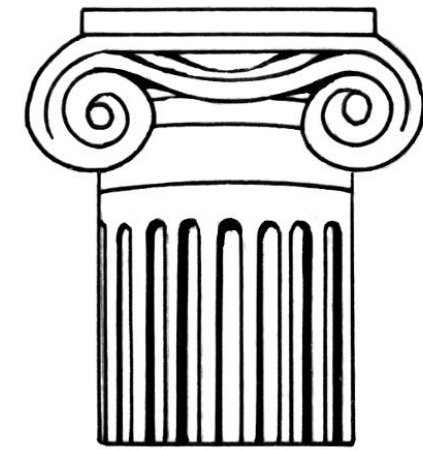
This is the simplest style you see on temples and the oldest.

- The columns are usually wider at the bottom and have no base – they sit on top of the floor.
- The tops of the columns have no decoration and are usually a simple shape
- The roof is usually sloped.
- The frieze (see slide 18) is a simple repeating pattern which always has three bands on it.



Explore

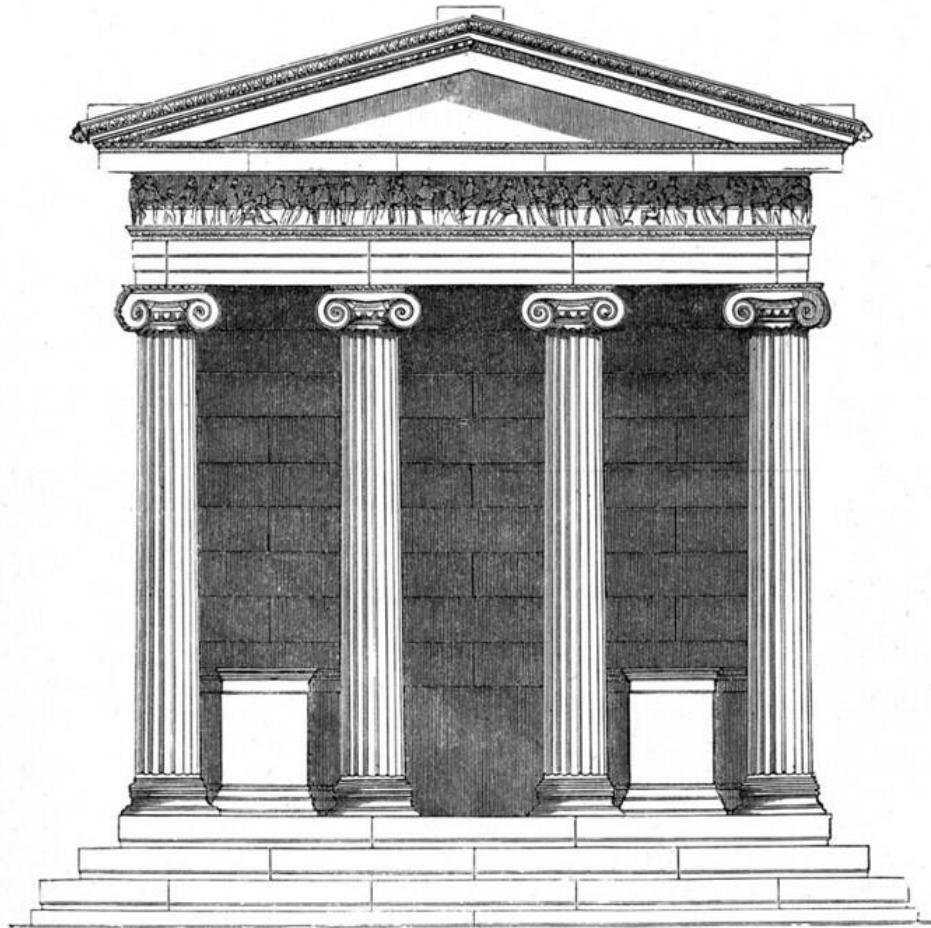
The three orders of Greek Architecture



IONIC ORDER

This is the curliest style you see on temples and one of the most popular.

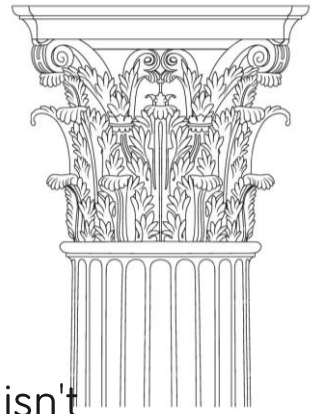
- The columns are the same width at the top and bottom.
- The base is usually made of stacked disks.
- The top of the column always has a distinct scroll decoration.
- The roof is usually sloped.
- The frieze (see slide 18) is usually a more complex design without the repeating bands.



3. Temple of Victory, Athens. (Abt. 460 B. C.) Tetrastyle.

Explore

The three orders of Greek Architecture



CORINTHIAN ORDER

This is the fanciest style you see on temples, but it isn't as popular as the other two orders.

- The columns are similar to Ionic columns but are usually a bit thinner and have more lines running down the column (known as flutes).
- The top of the column is very decorative, with lots of acanthus leaves carved into the top.
- The roof is often flat, though some still had a sloped roof.
- The frieze can be very complex, showing people and mythological scenes (see slide 18).



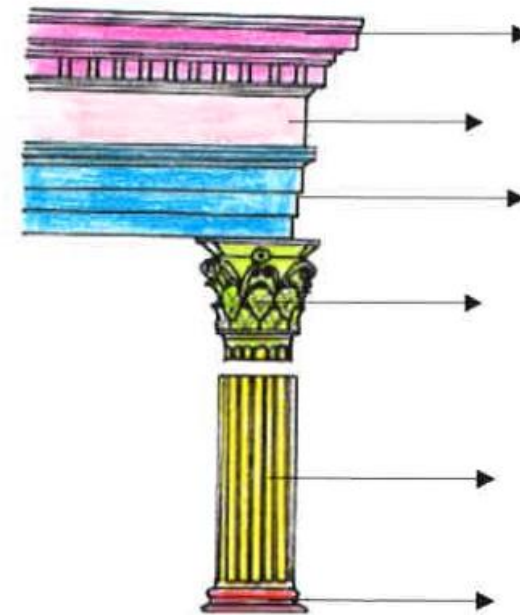
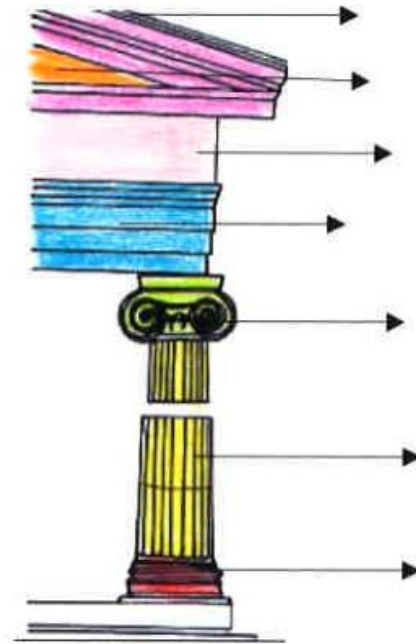
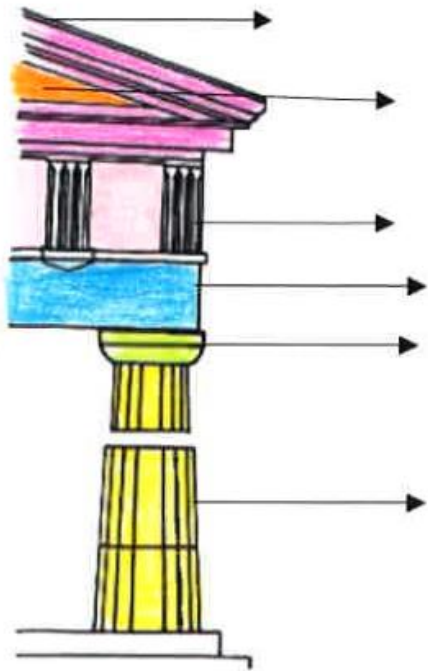
Image by Carole Raddato

Task: Go back to the images of the columns on slides 12 & 13. Can you identify which order they belong to?

Explore

The architecture features of a temple

Ancient Greek temples are made up of the same key architecture features. Using the definitions in the box below, can you correctly label each temple feature on the three drawings? *Hint: some styles may not have all the features listed!* Can you also identify which order each drawing belongs to?



Shaft: The tall part of a column

Base: The bottom part of a column

Architrave: The slab of stone between the *capital* and *frieze*

Pediment: A triangular part in the middle of the *cornice*, usually carved with complex pictures

Capital: The top of the column, often decorated

Cornice: The roof

Frieze: The part under the *cornice*, often decorated with simple shapes or figures

Explore What a frieze is

A frieze is a decorative band found above the architrave and below the cornice of temples. Doric friezes always have a repeating pattern of several stripes, with either blank spaces or simple images between them. Ionic and Corinthian friezes are much more complex, with one continuous scene carved into them. They often show battles and scenes from mythology.

Have a look at the images below. Which do you think are the Doric Friezes?



Photo by Egisto Sani, Flickr



Photo by Roger Ulrich, Flickr

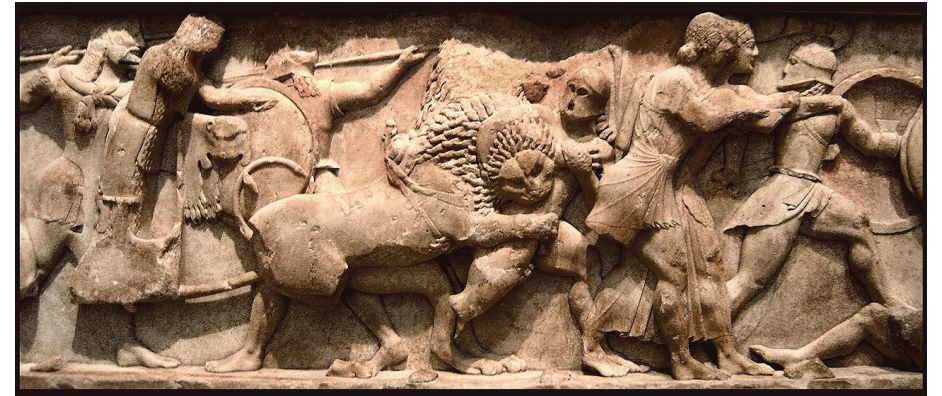


Photo by Ricardo Andre Frantz



Photo by PXhere

Explore The layout of a temple

Temples are usually elevated to show that it is a building belonging to someone very important. The outsides are made up of columns/pillars, which have space for you to walk around and leave offerings.

In the center is a room called a cella or naos. This room is the part the god or goddess enters and so only priests are allowed in here. The cella usually has a beautiful statue of the god or goddess, often made of ivory, gold or marble.



Photo by MatthiasKabel, own work, 2005, CC BY-SA 3.0



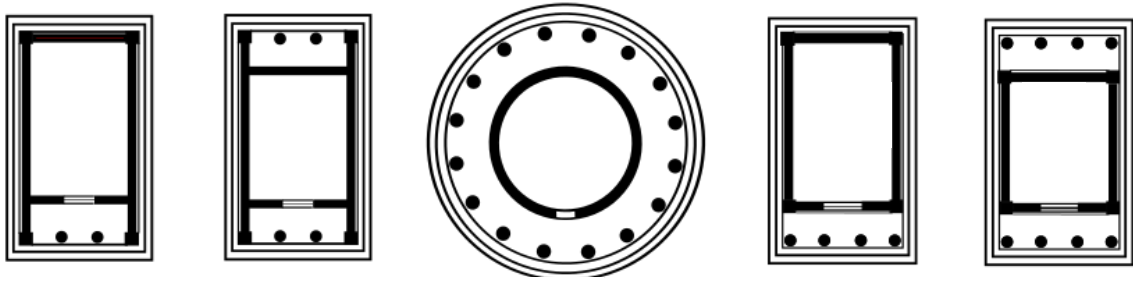
Photo by Dean Dixon. A reproduction of the cult statue of Athena which would have been found in the Parthenon.



Photo by Carole Raddato. Temple of Apollo with an altar.

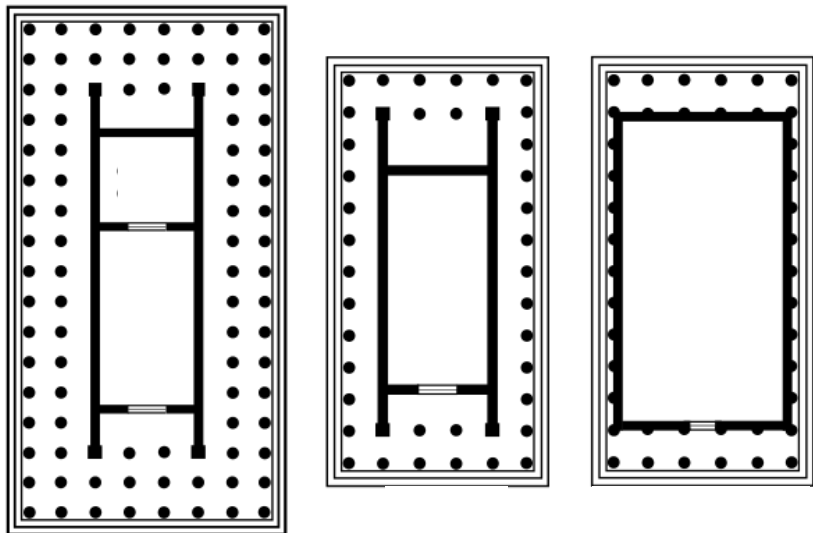
Explore

The layout of a temple



A plan is a type of drawing used in architecture which shows the layout of a building if we take the roof off and look at it from above.

The image to the right shows 8 plans for the most common Ancient Greek temple layouts.



1. Can you find the Tholos temple? **Label it.**
2. What do you think the black dots are?
3. What do you think the thick black lines are?
4. What do you think the double lines going round the outside are? (*Hint: if the building is elevated what might be needed to get up to the temple?*)
5. Can you find the cella/naos in each temple? **Colour it in yellow.**
6. Can you find the entrance to the naos on each one? **Circle it.** (*Hint: it should be a symbol on each drawing that looks the same.*)
7. Which do you think was the most expensive to build, why?

By B. Jankuloski

Design

A temple brief

Now that you are an expert on Delphi and Ancient Greek temples, we need to get to work so we are ready to present to the Ecclesia!

To get started here are some things you must decide;

1. Who do you want to build a temple for? It could be Apollo, Zeus or any other Greek god or goddess you think deserves a temple at Delphi.
2. Is it going to be a regular temple or a Tholos?
3. What order will it be designed in? Or would you like to make up your own temple style?
4. What decorations will you include in the friezes and pediment?



Task: Write a couple of sentences which describe what temple you will be designing and what things the design must include e.g. *be designed in the Corinthian style, have twelve pillars at the entrance, have a relief showing Zeus*. This is known as a design brief.

Design Your temple

To help communicate your ideas to the Ecclesia you need to draw what your temple will look like. On a piece of A4 draw the front of your temple, making sure to label important features.

You will need to think about;

- How will you make it clear that this temple belongs to your chosen god/goddess?
- Are there any symbols or myths connected to your god/goddess you can include in the decoration?
- What colours will you use?
- What materials will it be made from?
- What scenes or patterns will you include in your friezes and the pediment?
- What impression do you want your temple to have e.g. *expensive, important, scary, welcoming*



Present Your temple ideas in a written pitch

Congratulations on creating a beautiful Greek Temple Design!

The last thing we need to do is prepare a short presentation called a pitch. This is where we explain what our ideas are and why they are so good; we need to persuade the Ecclesia that they should build our temple design and not someone else's.

To deliver a good pitch we must do the following things;

1. Speak confidently and clearly about the design
2. Talk directly to our audience *e.g. good morning sirs, you will be amazed, this is important for you*
3. Use persuasive language
4. Explain why what we have designed is important *e.g. it shows how important a god/goddess is, it is big enough to impress visitors, it follows the rules of temple design*
5. Reference the design *e.g. as you can see, there are 12 beautiful columns at the entrance...*



Task: Write a short pitch which will convince the Ecclesia to build your temple design. It will need to be a couple of paragraphs long and be polite and convincing. You can use the template on the next slide or have a go at writing your own.

Present Your temple ideas in a written pitch

Introduction:

Good morning kind gentlemen. Thank you for giving us some time to tell you about our brilliant temple design, which I am sure you will agree, is just what the town of Delphi needs.

We have chosen to design a temple for (*god/goddess*). This is because (*explain why this god/goddess is important or needs a temple*).

Explain your Design

As you can see, our temple is a beautiful example of..... (*state the order used or explain about a new one you have created*).

The most impressive features are (*describe the key architecture features and why they are so good – use lots persuasive opinions and adjectives e.g. these are the most beautiful columns you will see*)

Our favourite part of the design is..... (*pick your favourite feature and give a reason why e.g. the relief as it tells a story about him using beautiful colours that will amaze visitors*)

We think our design is better than others you may see because... (*give a reason, for example, it is more beautiful, it is bigger, it has more features, it has a unique capital*)

Conclusion:

In conclusion we believe our temple will be a brilliant addition to the town, which will please both visitors and the gods. We hope you like our ideas as much as we do and look forwards to hearing from you.

Share Your pitch

Practice reading your speech a few times. When you are ready, have a go at presenting it to your family! If they were the Ecclesia would they build your temple?

RIBA and our architect friends would also love to see what you have done. Why not get someone to record your pitch and upload it to twitter, tagging us @RIBAlearning **#ArchitetcureAtHome** or email us your design and written pitch (Learning@riba.org) with the subject **Greek Temple**).

Good luck, and happy creating!



George our Learning Mascot would really like to see your ideas too!