## editrice



#### **GREEK TEMPLES**

The temple was the dwelling place of the god or goddess to whom it was dedicated and housed his or her statue.

Temples were thought to represent the architectural ideal and merged structural simplicity with harmonious proportions. The proportions were governed by the module - the average radius1 of the column which determined the height of the temple. The horizontal entablatures were slightly bowed making the centre slightly higher than the ends.

The sculpted figures, which often had a didactic purpose, were placed on the secondary architectural features: the tympanum on the pediment and the metopes on the architrave.

The temples were painted: the background was generally red with the prominent features in blue to form a contrast.

The chief building material was stone: limestone tufa (often shell limestone) and marble from the quarries of Pentelikon, Thassos and Naxos. The stone blocks were quarried with a pickax2 and extracted with the aid of metal or wooden wedges<sup>3</sup>. These blocks were often shaped on the spot into architectural elements: columns, capitals, models of statues.

the blocks of stone were cut and placed in various ways according to the purpose of the building and the means and time available. No bonding material was added.

The temple was intended as a sculptural unit. Its small in-

terior was not a place for public worship but housed

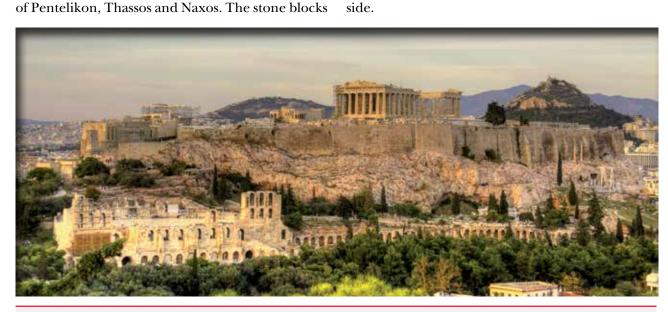
the cult statue of a deity. Ceremonies took place out-

In large scale construction

thick at one end and narrows at the other to a sharp edge, used to split wood or rock



- 1 straight line from the centre of a circle to any point on its circumference
- 2 a pick, especially with one end of the head pointed and the other end with a chisel edge
- 3 pieces of wood or metal that is



#### **DEFINITIONS**

- The following terms are all related to the semantic field "Greek temples". Match each term with the correct definition, then find the English equivalents.
- 1 Fregio
- 2 Architrave
- 3 Metopa
- 4 Timpano
- 5 Capitello
- 6 Fusto
- 7 Triglifo

- A Parte superiore della colonna, su cui poggia l'architrave, avente funzione decorativa
- B Fusto della colonna
- © Fascia orizzontale ornamentale compresa fra l'architrave e la cornice
- Decorazione del fregio nell'ordine dorico, posta tra metopa e metopa
- © Spazio compreso tra i triglifi del fregio generalmente decorato
- © Spazio triangolare compreso tra la cornice e i due spioventi del frontone di un tempio
- © Elemento della trabeazione che poggia sopra i capitelli delle colonne

**ACTIVITIES** 

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### T

TEX	CT COMPLETIO	N ACTIVITIES
	1 0	e text about the Parthenon with the words given: long – roof – opened – emies – gods – painted – hill – church – marble – details.
the patron goddess of Athens. This building, completed in 432 B		
t n	Greek ideals of harr he architects Ictinu nore than a ton of g	mony and balance. Made of 20,000 tons of marble, the Parthenon was designed by s and Callicrates to house a huge
a	Originally, sculpted nd maidens to hor	rs were
I r s a	n temple design the efined theurpassed. In the la nd from about 120	e Greeks sticked to a basic format developed in wood structures. Yet they constantly ① until, in the Parthenon, they achieved a golden mean that has never been ate sixth century, the Parthenon was converted into a Christian
Т 	Coday, only its skeler	e Turkish conquerors into a
(Adapted from <i>The Annotated Arch</i> , by Carole Strickland, Andrews McMeel		
FIL	L IN THE CHA	RT
• I	fill in the following ch	art with information about the Parthenon.
1	BUILDING TYPE	
2	LOCATION	
3	DATE	
4	ARCHITECTS	
5	MATERIALS	
6	STYLE	
7	SCULPTURES	
8	LATER USES	
9	REMAINS	

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