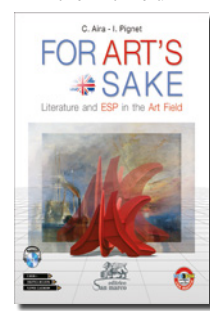




An inspiring architecture: Hagia Sophia

Hagia Sophia, also referred to as 'Divine Wisdom', was commissioned by Justinian in Constantinople (now Istanbul) in 537 A.D. and it is considered the model structure of Orthodox and Islamic religious buildings. It was originally a Christian church and later it was the seat of the Greek-Orthodox Patriarch of Constantinople. In 1453 it became a mosque and minarets were built at each of the four corners. Since 1935 it has become a museum. It remained the world's largest cathedral for nearly a thousand years, until Seville Cathedral was built. Hagia Sophia is famous in particular for its wide, flat dome, 56 metres high, resting over a row of small windows. The interior is embellished with multi-coloured marble and gold mosaics. The church was designed by the Greek architects Isidore of Miletus and Anthemius of Tralles.

C. Aira - I. Pignet
**FOR ART'S
SAKE**
Literature and ESP in
the Art Field



ACTIVITIES

- 1 Answer the following questions.
 - 1 What is the meaning of Hagia Sophia?
 - 2 Where was Hagia Sophia built?
 - 3 When did it become a mosque?
 - 4 What is it nowadays?
 - 5 Why is it famous?
 - 6 How high is it?
 - 7 How is the interior embellished?
 - 8 Who designed Hagia Sophia?

