

GREEK ART AND ARCHITECTURE

Athens was considered the cultural center of ancient Greece. The city best exemplifies the typical architecture to be seen in a Greek city-state.

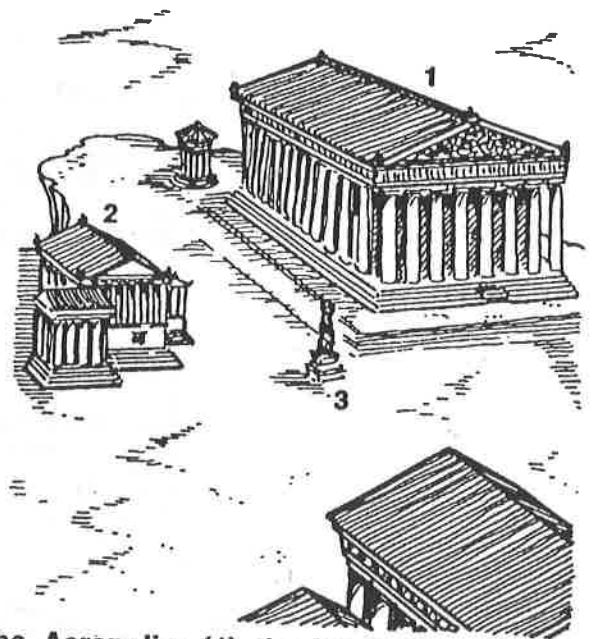
Towering above the city of Athens stood the *Acropolis*, the sacred hill dedicated to the city's patron-goddess, Athena. Below the Acropolis lay the *Agora*, the commercial and political center of the city. During the fifth century B.C. at the peak of Athens' political power, Pericles initiated the construction of many public buildings to replace the ones destroyed during the Persian Wars. These monuments still stand today and are admired by many tourists who visit Greece.

Among the most impressive buildings is the temple dedicated to Athena Parthenos on the Acropolis, the *Parthenon*. In the construction of this temple, perfection in both technical skill and proportion in design was achieved. The Parthenon housed the golden and ivory statue of Athena, which was created by the famous sculptor Pheidias. Other temples in the city included the *Erechtheion* on the Acropolis, dedicated to both Athena and Erechtheus (a legendary king of Athens); the *Hephaisteion* in the Agora, a temple dedicated to the god of crafts, Hephaestus; and the *Olympieion*, the temple dedicated to the almighty king of gods, Zeus. Each city-state had fine temples, but none exemplify Greek architecture better than those of Athens.

The Greek temple was the most important public building in any city. Its purpose was to house the statue of the patron-god or goddess and sometimes to keep the offerings made to the deity. Outside and in front of the temple lay the altar where the worshippers gathered and sacrifices were carried out. The temples were built of big limestone or marble blocks and stood on a low stone platform that could be reached by steps. The standard temple plan was rectangular in shape with a central windowless room, called the *naos*. In this room stood the deity's statue. The naos opened out onto a porch with columns (*pronaos*). The central part of the temple was encircled by a row of columns that formed the *colonnade* or covered walkway. The superstructure of the temple consisted of four main parts: the column, the architrave, the frieze, and the cornice (roof). Traces of color on building blocks indicate that parts of the temple were painted in bright colors such as reds, yellows, and blues.

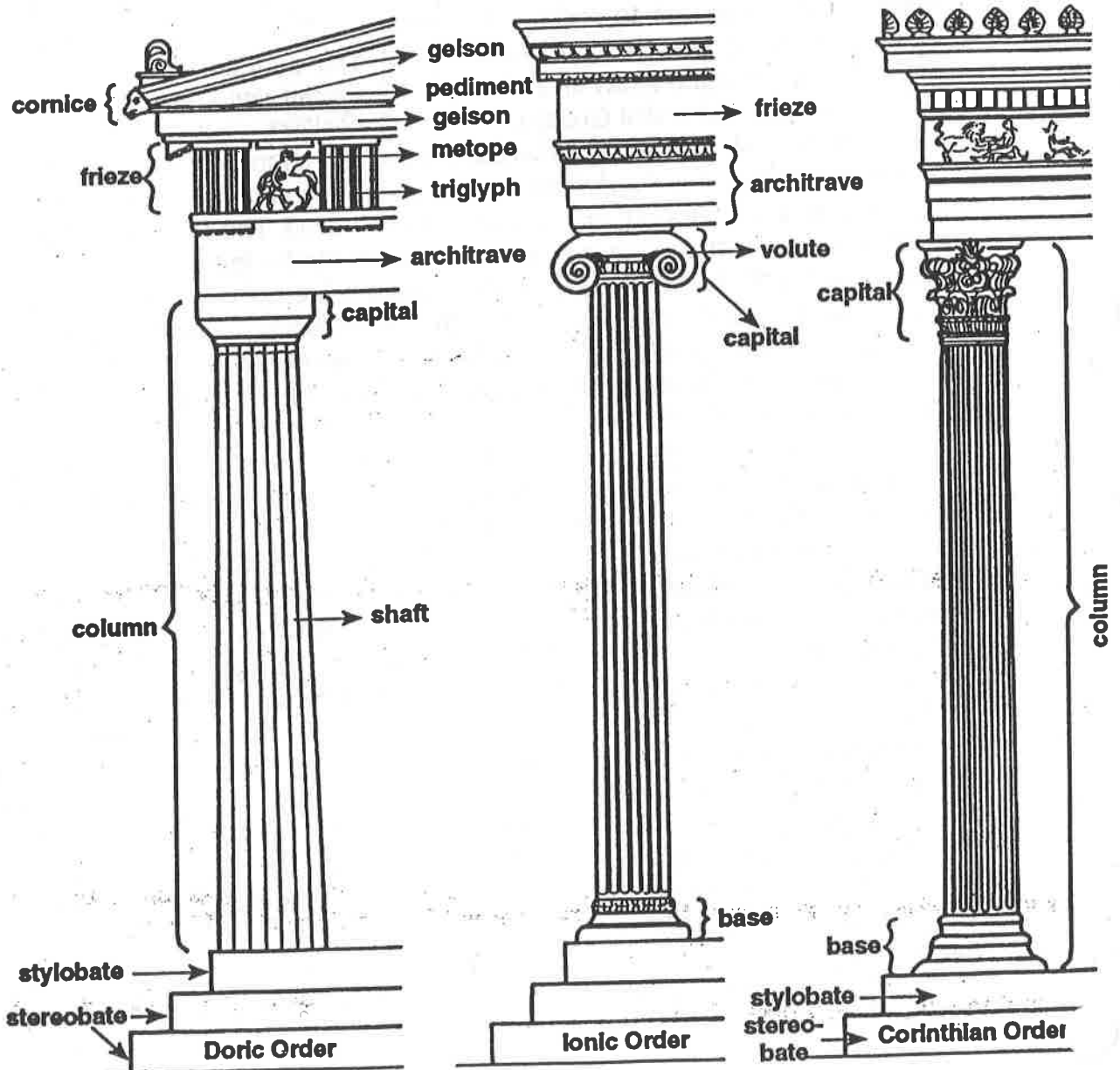
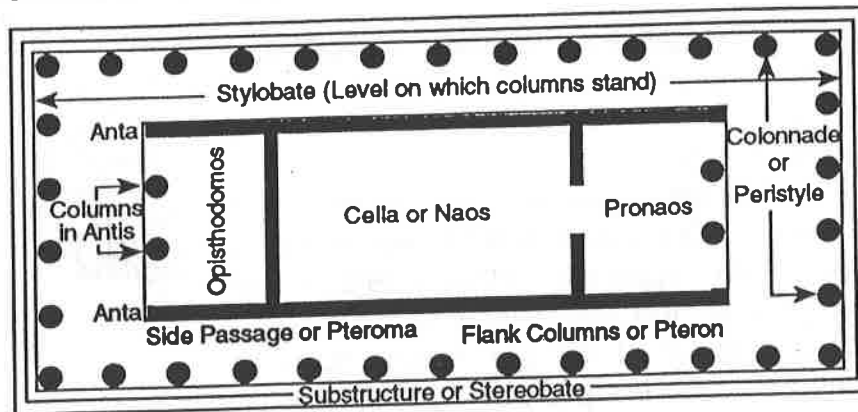
Three different styles of decoration developed in Greek temples throughout the centuries. Temples originated in the seventh century B.C. with the Doric order. About 500 B.C. the Ionic order developed, and in the fourth century B.C., the Corinthian order was introduced. Although the three styles were created in progressive order, one style did not replace the other.

The orders are distinguished mainly by their columns. A column was made up of the shaft and the capital. In the Doric order, the capital was plain. The capital of the Ionic order



The Acropolis: (1) the Parthenon; (2) the Erechtheion; (3) statue of Athena Promachos by Pheidias

Architectural Orders and Parts of a Greek Temple

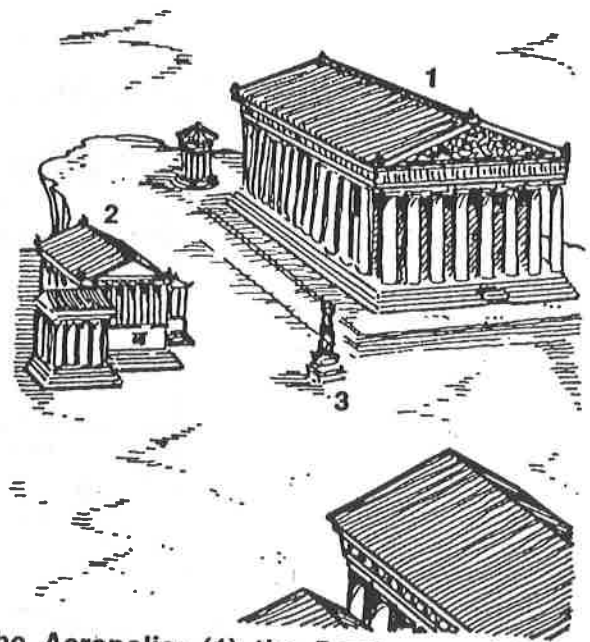


GREEK ART AND ARCHITECTURE

Athens was considered the cultural center of ancient Greece. The city best exemplifies the typical architecture to be seen in a Greek city-state.

Towering above the city of Athens stood the *Acropolis*, the sacred hill dedicated to the city's patron-goddess, Athena. Below the Acropolis lay the *Agora*, the commercial and political center of the city. During the fifth century B.C. at the peak of Athens' political power, Pericles initiated the construction of many public buildings to replace the ones destroyed during the Persian Wars. These monuments still stand today and are admired by many tourists who visit Greece.

Among the most impressive buildings...



The Acropolis: (1) the Parthenon; (2) the Erechtheion; (3) statue of Athena Promachos by Pheidias

Name: _____ # _____

Greek (Classical Revival) Architecture

Your challenge:



Brandenburg Gate, Berlin Germany

1. Find min. 3 visual examples of important buildings with differing column types. Import your examples into a Word document

[How? MBrown's way: Google Earth -> Streetview -> Screen Print -> Paint -> save. Import.]

2. Describe each picture with:

- kind or 'order' of column
- name of building (if possible)
- location (town, neighbourhood, address if possible)

3. Summary: well-crafted paragraph(s) [Gr.7s] or sentences [Gr.6s] that respond to this question: how can you tell Classical Revival architecture? Sample starters:

"Greek architecture is different from other building because..." / "Greek classical architecture is unique because..." / "Greek revival architecture is important because..."