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# Seven Wonders of the World

## Seven ancient wonders

Being a traveller was rough in Ancient Greece. For starters, there were no cars, trains or planes. Most travellers got around by walking, riding a mule (an animal like a donkey), on ox-drawn carts, or taking ships powered by oars. But the hard conditions didn't stop them. Just like people today, the Ancient Greeks liked to travel to new places and see and do cool things.

About 2,500 years ago, travel writers in Ancient Greece started making lists of the seven must-see 'sights'. The most awe-inspiring of them went down in history as the 'Seven Wonders of the Ancient World'.

The list of ancient wonders included amazing monuments like the Colossus of Rhodes, a 100-foot-high statue of the Greek Titan Helios, and the Lighthouse of Alexandria, a 400-foot-high tower that guided ships into Egypt's largest port. Others included the Hanging Gardens of Babylon and the Statue of Zeus at Olympia. But if you want to see any of these ancient wonders today, you're pretty much out of luck. Six of the seven have been destroyed by earthquakes, floods and fires. The sole survivor is the Great Pyramid of Giza in Egypt.



## New wonders

Since the Ancient Greeks first created the concept of the Seven Wonders of the World, people who love list-making have been writing their own versions. Usually the lists are created by an individual or a panel of experts, but a few years ago a man named Bernard Weber decided to make a new list of Seven Wonders based on a public poll.

Bernard Weber was born in Switzerland and had travelled to nearly every nation on Earth. He wanted more people to know about the amazing monuments he had seen. So he asked people all around the world to vote for their favourites on a website he created. People in some countries—like Brazil and Peru—were very enthusiastic about voting. They really wanted their monuments to win! In the end, more than 10 million votes were cast, and the 'new Seven Wonders' were chosen. The winners were announced on July 7, 2007.

Not all of the 'new' wonders are actually all that new. In fact, some are pretty ancient. But new or old, they are all spectacular, and adventurous travellers can visit every single one.



This text is from *Viking Vik and the Longship* by Shoo Rayner.

# Viking Vik and the Longship

The dragon glowered as Vik, Freya and Wulf stood hypnotised by its hard, staring eyes.

“She’s beautiful,” said Vik, running his hand down the dragon’s long neck. “I wish we could sail on her.”

“Me too,” Wulf and Freya echoed.

Just then, Jarl Magnusson came striding down the jetty. “A Longship is no place for children,” he boomed.

“Oh, Dad!” Freya fluttered her eyelashes. She knew how to get around her father – but it didn’t work this time.

“Longships are definitely not for girls!” he told her firmly.

Vik longed to sail on a Longship. Just like his father, the sea flowed in Vik’s blood.

“Will we ever get to sail on her?” he sighed.

Jarl Magnusson smiled, and spoke gently to Vik. “When you are strong enough and old enough to understand the dangerous ways of the ocean, then you can sail aboard a Longship.”



*The three children want to watch the Dragon set sail, so they go to the ‘skerries’, a group of small islands that reaches out into the sea. It is low tide, and they get to the furthest island, where they wait for the Dragon to sail past.*



“We’re quite far out, aren’t we?” Freya’s voice trembled slightly. “Are you sure we’re safe out here?”

“Not scared, are you?” Wulf taunted.

“No ... just as long as we can get back safely.”

It was a while before the sleek vessel sailed into view.

“Hurray!” the children cheered madly.

Jarl Magnusson stood at the prow. He waved his arms and called to them.

“What did he say?” Vik asked.

“Don’t know,” said Wulf. “I couldn’t hear him.”

“Never mind,” said Vik, as he carried on cheering. “Go, *Dragon*, go!”

The children strained to see the last of the *Dragon* as she sailed over the grey horizon and out onto the big, wide ocean.

When they turned to go home, the three children had the shock of their lives. They had waited so long for the *Dragon* to sail past, they hadn’t noticed that the tide had turned and the sea level had begun to rise. Some of the little islands were already underwater!

Name:	Class:	Date:
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# Seven Wonders of the World

1 What was *rough* about being a traveller in Ancient Greece?

\_\_\_\_\_

1 mark AF2

2 Look at the second paragraph.

*The most awe-inspiring of them went down in history...*

What does *went down in history* mean in this sentence? Tick **one**.

- were knocked down by people
- were pretty ancient and damaged
- were remembered by everyone
- were new, cool and exciting

1 mark AF3

3 Look at the third paragraph.

*The sole survivor is the Great Pyramid of Giza in Egypt.*

What does the phrase *the sole survivor* mean here?

\_\_\_\_\_

1 mark AF3

4 a) Why did Bernard Weber want to create a new list of Seven Wonders?

\_\_\_\_\_

1 mark AF2

b) How was Bernard Weber's list of Seven Wonders different from the usual lists?

\_\_\_\_\_

1 mark AF2

1 mark / 5  
Total for this page

5 Tick to show whether, **according to the text**, the following sentences are about people in **Ancient Greece**, **modern times**, or **both**. One has been done for you.

	Ancient Greece	Modern times	Both
travel by mule or ox-drawn cart			
like to see new places			✓
make lists of amazing places to visit			

AF2  
1 mark

6 Draw lines to **match** the number with the fact. One has been done for you.

Number	Fact
100	number of ancient wonders destroyed
2500	height (feet) of Lighthouse of Alexandria
six	height (feet) of statue of Helios
10 million	number of years ago people started making lists
400	number of people who voted for new wonders

AF2  
1 mark

7 Look at the last paragraph beginning: *Not all of the...*

What points does the writer make about the new Seven Wonders?

Tick **three**.

- Only the old ones are worth visiting.
- Some of them are actually very old.
- All of them are very impressive.
- Some of them are on Bernard's list.
- The ancient ones have not survived.
- None of them have been destroyed.

AF6  
2 marks

8 Think about the whole text. The writer uses words like *must-see*, *awe-inspiring* and *spectacular* to describe the wonders on the lists. What is the effect of this?

\_\_\_\_\_

AF6  
1 mark

/ 10  
Total for this test

Name:	Class:	Date:
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# Viking Vik and the Longship

1 What is the *Dragon*?

\_\_\_\_\_

AF2  
1 mark

2 Look at the first five lines of the text. What do you find out about the *Dragon's* appearance? Write **two** things.

1 \_\_\_\_\_

2 \_\_\_\_\_

AF2  
1 mark

3 Think about the whole text. What does Vik think and feel about the *Dragon*? Explain and support your answer fully, using the text to help you.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

AF3  
2 marks

4 Freya flutters her eyelashes to *get around her father*. In what way is she trying to *get around* him?

\_\_\_\_\_

AF3  
1 mark

/ 5  
Total for this page

- 5 Look at this section of the text. **Find** and **copy one sentence** which shows that sailing runs in Vik's family.

"Oh, Dad!" Freya fluttered her eyelashes. She knew how to get around her father – but it didn't work this time.  
 "Longships are definitely not for girls!" he told her firmly.  
 Vik longed to sail on a Longship. Just like his father, the sea flowed in Vik's blood.  
 "Will we ever get to sail on her?" he sighed.

\_\_\_\_\_

AF3  
1 mark

- 6 Why does Vik need to be older before he is ready to sail on a longship?

\_\_\_\_\_

AF2  
1 mark

- 7 **Tick** to show whether the following sentences about Jarl Magnusson are **true** or **false**. The first one has been done for you.

	True	False
He doesn't think the <i>Dragon</i> is a place for children.	✓	
He is unkind to Vik.		
He knows a lot about sailing on the ocean.		

AF3  
1 mark

- 8 a) What was Freya worried about?

\_\_\_\_\_

AF2  
1 mark

- b) Was she right to be worried? Explain your answer as fully as you can, using the text to help you.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

AF3  
1 mark

/ 10  
Total for this test