

0. Lets Go Back In TIME to the Temple of Artemis by
Raphael Cesaire and Katie Beasley - Story Preface

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Long ago, 800 B.C to be exact, a great temple was born and that was the Temple of Artemis. This temple was a great site for honoring the goddess of fertility. Later that same goddess was a Greek goddess in charge of wild animals, wilderness, childbirth, and virginity.

Her name was Artemis. She became one of the gods of Mount Olympus. Twelve Olympians are the major deities of the Greek pantheon, commonly considered to be Zeus, Hera, Poseidon, Demeter, Athena, Apollo, Artemis, Ares, Aphrodite, Hephaestus, Hermes, and either Hestia or Dionysus.

Let's learn about the Temple of Artemis.

Artemis's history

Artemis was the daughter of Zeus and Leto and twin sister of Apollo. And Artemis was born before Apollo. She was a huntress, goddess of wildlife and patroness of hunters. It is believed that Orion was accidentally killed either by Artemis herself or by Gaia.

She was known as Diana to the Romans. She was described most often as "the archer Goddess."



Temple of Artemis

The Temple of Artemis at Ephesus, also known as the Artemisium, was built to honor the Greek goddess Artemis, goddess of the moon and the hunt, by King Croesus of Lydia. The temple honored all three maiden goddesses of Olympus, Artemis, Athena and Hestia.

This temple was built in Ephesus (an ancient city), which today is near the western coast of Turkey.

The classic Ionic temple was designed and built by Chersiphron, an architect from Crete, along with his son Metagenes. The location of the temple in Asia Minor was at a commercial crossroads, and therefore attracted a great variety of visitors, with varying religious beliefs.

It is because of this that the cult of Artemis that was worshiped here also incorporated elements of worship of other deities, such as Cybele, an earth-mother goddess of the region around Turkey. In fact, the cult statue within the temple was likely reminiscent of this Near-Eastern goddess, featuring several breasts (a symbol of fertility), and portrayed in statuary with legs closed, tapering as a pillar or a sarcophagus (quite unlike Classical Greek statues)

When the great temple built by Chersiphron was destroyed by an arsonist, it was rebuilt of marble. The rebuilt temple was even more beautiful and became known as one of the seven wonders of the ancient world.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:

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Artemis

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