

THE SEVEN WONDERS

Great feats of engineering and architecture captured the imaginations of people in ancient times - just as they do today. The greatest of these were the famous monuments which the Greeks called 'the Seven Wonders of the World'. Only one of the seven survives, so we have to rely

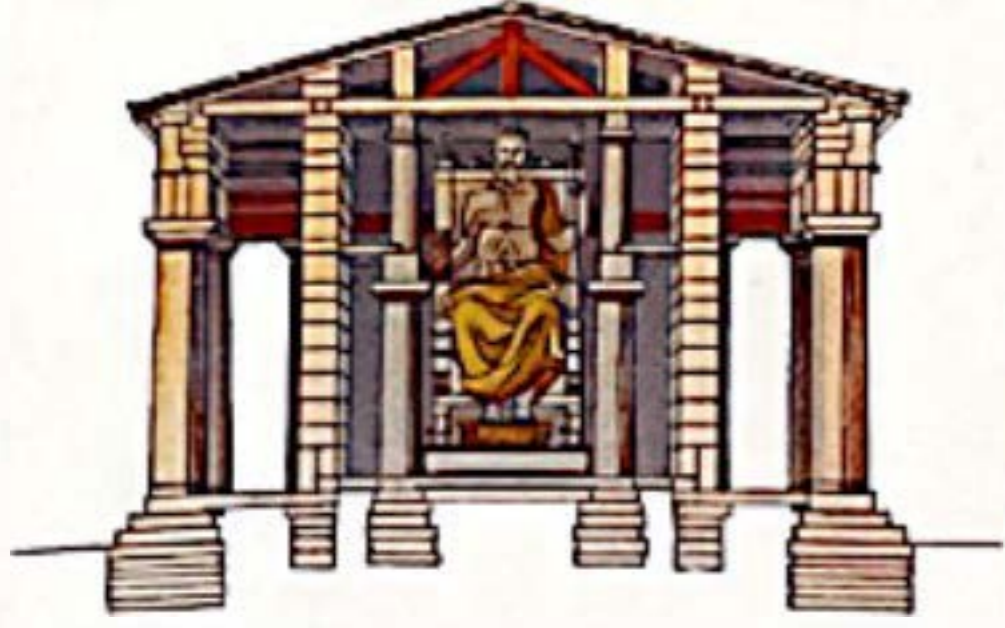
to some extent on written accounts to give an impression of what they looked like.



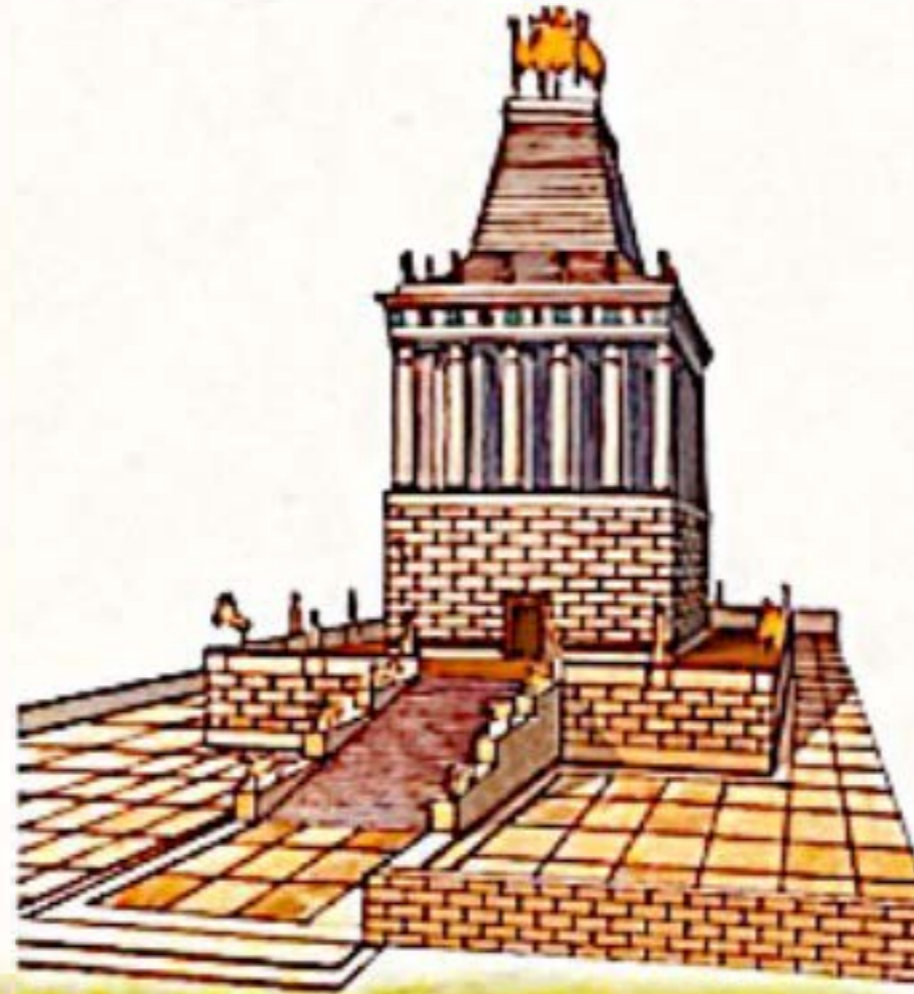
INTERNET LINK

For links to websites where you can watch underwater discoveries in Alexandria and play a game about the Seven Wonders, go to www.usborne-quicklinks.com

The Seven Wonders of the Ancient World



2 The Temple of Artemis at Ephesus – a marble temple, which was left to decay, due to the rise of Christianity. It was pulled down in AD401.



3 The Mausoleum at Halicarnassus – a grandiose tomb built by King Mausolus of Caria. It survived until 1522, when the stones were used for a Crusader castle.

1 Statue of Zeus at Olympia – a masterpiece in gold and ivory, eventually taken to Constantinople, where it was destroyed in a fire in AD462.



2 Ephesus

3 Halicarnassus

1 Olympia

7 Rhodes

4 Alexandria

6 Giza

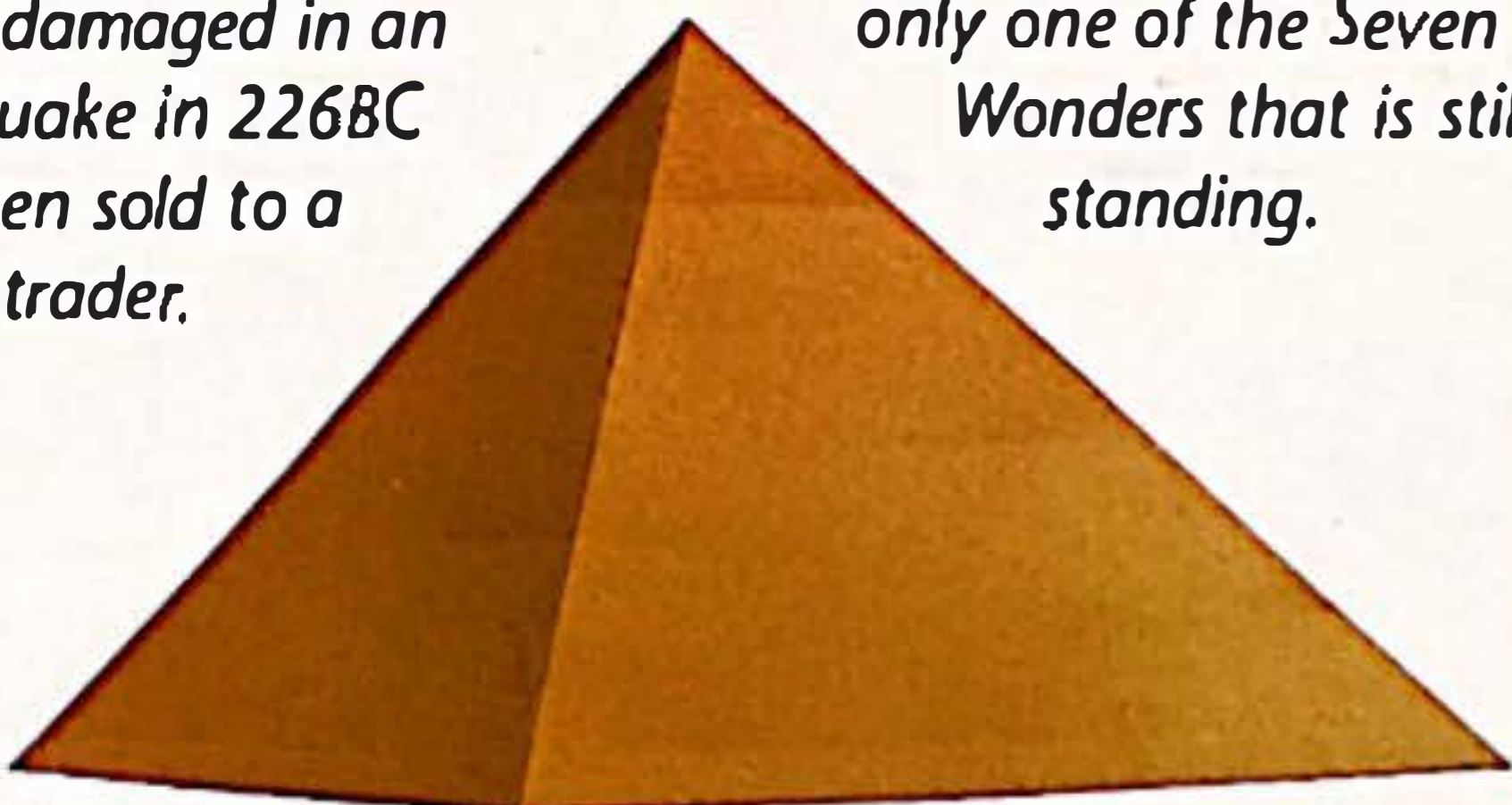
5 Babylon

4 The Pharos of Alexandria – the famous lighthouse which acted as a beacon for ships sailing into the busy trading port.



7 The Colossus of Rhodes – a huge statue, of legendary dimensions, that straddled the entrance to the port. It was damaged in an earthquake in 226BC and then sold to a Syrian trader.

6 The Great Pyramid at Giza (see pages 104-105). Built as a tomb for Egyptian Pharaoh Khufu, this is the only one of the Seven Wonders that is still standing.



5 The Hanging Gardens of Babylon (see pages 38-39) – beautiful terraced gardens that adorned the city of Babylon in the 6th century BC.

IN SEARCH OF THE LIGHTHOUSE

In 1994, a team of archaeologists began to explore the port of Alexandria, hoping to find evidence of the celebrated lighthouse. Divers examined huge piles of debris, and made an accurate map of the seabed.

Most of the underwater discoveries predated the Greek arrival in Egypt. But there was a giant statue and some massive blocks of stone that were from the right era.

Archaeologists believe the statue is very likely to be Ptolemy II, and that the stone blocks could be all that is left of the illustrious lighthouse, lost to the world for five centuries.

This diver may be gazing into the eyes of a statue of Ptolemy II.

