



STUDY KIT 3

Title: THE ACROPOLIS OF ATHENS/ THE NEW ACROPOLIS MUSEUM
Topic: Some of the most important buildings of classical Athens
Keywords: Acropolis, Parthenon, Democracy, Golden Age, Temples, Ionian order, Doric order
Subject: HISTORY, ARTS, ARCHAEOLOGY, RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
Cross-curricular Topic: CULTURAL HERITAGE, OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES
Level: Upper secondary
Age:16+
Number of students:30
Duration in minutes: 150
Place (classroom, outdoor etc.): outdoor
Author: Anastasia Keskesiadou, Katerina Christodoulou
School: RALLEIO GENIKO LYKEIO THILEON PEIRAIA
Language: ENGLISH

Overview:

Participants will walk from ancient Agora to the Acropolis and to the Acropolis Museum visiting one of the most important archaeological sites in the world. They will have to stop in order to answer questions and/ or perform tasks at particular points/ monuments on the way.

Objectives:

- To learn about important sites and famous buildings of classical Athens
- To learn about the relationship between ancient Greek religion and Christianity
- To exercise by walking

Learning material and tools:

- Maps of Acropolis
- Picture of the ancient Greek architectural orders
- Pictures of Acropolis museum exhibits
- Summary of the basic information that students need to study before visiting the site.

**Preparation:**

All the material will have been uploaded on Wikiloc application
AND/OR
printed on paper handouts in the form of Worksheets

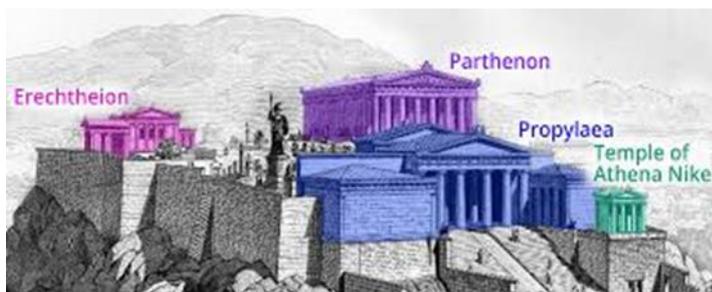
Evaluation:

The answers on the Student's Worksheet

Extra material:
smartphone

Detailed description/instruction:

Students are divided into multinational groups of 3 (2 Greek students, 1 foreign student). Using their smartphones OR their maps they follow the track and stop at each waypoint to answer the relevant questions and do the relevant tasks.

Waypoint 1: THE ACROPOLIS OF ATHENS.

http://odysseus.culture.gr/h/3/eh351.jsp?obj_id=2384

Acropolis is the hill where the greatest sanctuary of ancient Athens, Parthenon, is situated. The temple of Parthenon and the other monuments stand in harmony with the natural settings and combine different styles of classical art. The hill has been inhabited since the Neolithic period (4000-3000BC) and fortification walls were built around it in different periods. It became sacred ground in the 8th century BC with the construction of the temple of Athená Polias. In mid-6th century the city's greatest religious festival was established and



more monuments were erected. In the 5th century BC, the Golden Age of Athens, the Acropolis was a symbol of the city's wealth and power. All the buildings visible today (the Propylaea, the Parthenon, Erechtheion and the Temple of Athena Nike) were constructed at that time.

In subsequent centuries, the buildings of the Acropolis Hill suffered from natural disasters and human intervention. After the establishment of Christianity as the official religion, the ancient temples were turned into churches. In 1687 the Venetians bombarded the Parthenon during the siege of Morozini. In 1801-1802 the British Lord Elgin looted the marble decoration of the temples of Parthenon, Athena Nike and Erechtheion, which have been on display in the British Museum in London since. The Acropolis was handed back to the Greek people in 1822, after the victorious war of independence against the Ottoman Turkish Empire.

- **Match the dates to the events**

a=___, b=___, c=___, d=___, e=___, f=___, g=___

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| a. 4000-3000BC | 1. Bombarded by the Venetian Morozini |
| b. 8th century BC | 2. It was handed back to the Greeks |
| c. mid-6th century BC | 3. It was looted by the British Lord Elgin |
| d. 5th century BC | 4. The hill had been inhabited since then |
| e. 1687 | 5. The city's greatest religious festival was established |
| f. 1801-1802 AD | 6. The Acropolis became sacred ground |
| g. 1822 | 7. The Acropolis was a symbol of the city's wealth and power |

Waypoint 2: PROPYLAEA

http://odysseus.culture.gr/h/3/eh351.jsp?obj_id=2384

It was built during the 5th century BC as entrance gate to the Acropolis rock. Mnesikles was the first architect of the project. Propylaea is a building of Doric order with a few Ionian



columns supporting the roof. The north wing was named Pinakothek, the art gallery with paintings of famous artists. In Christian times Propylaea was converted into a church. Under Frankish rule (13th-14th centuries AD), it became the residence of dukes and in Ottoman times it was used as garrison headquarters and ammunition store.

- **The Propylaea area was used in ancient, medieval and modern times as which of the following?(tick or cross)**

entrance gate ____ art gallery ____ garrison headquarters ____
temple ____ church ____ political building ____
ammunition store ____ home ____

Waypoint 3: THE TEMPLE OF ATHENA NIKE

It stands at the southernmost edge of the hill. The temple was designed by the architect Kallikrates in the 5th century BC. It is a temple of Ionian order dedicated to the victorious goddess Athena. which was converted into a Christian church in the 5th century AD. In Ottoman times it was used as an ammunition store. In 1686, during the siege of Morosini, the Turks demolished it and used the building materials to erect a fortification wall in front of the Propylaea.

- **What does the name of the temple (Athena Nike) mean?**

Waypoint 4: THE PARTHENON

It was dedicated to Athena Parthenos (the Virgin), the goddess protector of the ancient city of Athens. It is the finest monument on the Acropolis in terms of conception and execution. Built between 447 and 438 BC, it replaced earlier temples. It is of Doric order. This building was designed by the architects Ictinus and Kallikrates and the sculptor Phidias supervised the entire building program and conceived the temple's sculptural decoration. He also created the statue of Athena in full armor carrying Victory to Athens in her right hand, made of gold and ivory. Apart from the golden ivory statue, in the western room of the temple the city's treasures were kept. The Parthenon remained unchanged until the 5th century AD, when it was converted into two Christian churches. Under Turkish rule it was converted into a mosque. It was bombarded in 1687, during the siege of the Acropolis by Morozini. Further serious damage was caused in the early 19th century by Lord Elgin, who looted much of the



temple's sculptural decoration and sold it to the British Museum.

- **How are the following persons connected to the Parthenon?**

Ictinus Kallikrates Phidias Morozini Elgin

Waypoint 5: ERECHTHEION

It is a cluster of two temples with Ionian elements. The eastern end of the temple was dedicated to goddess Athena and the western part was devoted to Poseidon, god of the sea. This part of the temple sheltered the marks on the rock where Poseidon struck the rock with his trident. On the south façade was the porch of Karyatides, six statues of young women instead of columns to support the roof. Five of them are in the Acropolis museum. The sixth Karyatis was removed by Lord Elgin in the early 19th century and is displayed in the British Museum. This temple was also converted into a Christian church in the early Christian period. It became a palace under Frankish rule and in the ottoman period it was used as the residence of the Turkish commander's harem. It was bombarded during the Greek War of Independence.

- **Are the statues of young women used only as decoration?**
- **Look at the reproductions of Karyatides in the temple. Find the ancient ones in the Acropolis Museum later.**

Waypoint 6: THE ACROPOLIS MUSEUM

<http://www.theacropolismuseum.gr/en>

The monuments of the Acropolis have withstood the ravages of past centuries, both of ancient times and those of the Middle Ages. Until the 17th century, foreign travelers visiting the monuments depicted the classical buildings as being intact. This remained the case until the middle of the same century, when the Propylaea was blown up while being used as a gunpowder store. Thirty years later, the Ottoman occupiers dismantled the neighboring Temple of Athena Nike to use its materials to strengthen the fortification of the Acropolis. The most fatal year, however, for the Acropolis, was 1687, when many of the building's architectural members were blown into the air and fell in heaps around the Hill of the Acropolis, caused by a bomb from the Venetian forces. Foreign visitors to the Acropolis would search through the rubble and take fragments of the fallen sculptures as their souvenirs. It was in the 19th century that Lord Elgin removed intact architectural sculptures from the frieze, the metopes and the pediments of the building.



In 1863, it was decided that a Museum be constructed on a site to the southeast of the Parthenon and foundations were laid on 30 December 1865. By the 1970s, the Museum could not cope satisfactorily with the large numbers of visitors passing through its doors. In the year 2000, the Organization for the Construction of the New Acropolis Museum announced an invitation to a new tender, which was realized in accord with the Directives of the European Union. It is this Tender that has come to fruition with the awarding of the design tender to Bernard Tschumi with Michael Photiadis and their associates and the completion of construction in 2007.

Today, the new Acropolis Museum has a total area of 25,000 square meters, with exhibition space of over 14,000 square meters, ten times more than that of the old museum on the Hill of the Acropolis. The new Museum offers all the amenities expected in an international museum of the 21st century.

- **Find the exhibits in the museum and write down the basic information about them**





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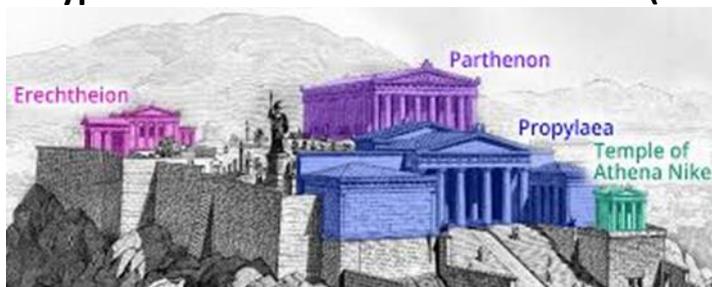
STUDENT WORKSHEET

ACROPOLIS STUDENTS' WORKSHEET

STUDENT NAMES

NAME	NATIONALITY

Waypoint 1: THE ACROPOLIS OF ATHENS (At the foot of the hill)



Acropolis is the hill where the greatest sanctuary of ancient Athens, Parthenon, is situated. The temple of Parthenon and the other monuments stand in harmony with the natural settings and combine different styles of classical art. The hill has been inhabited since the Neolithic period (4000-3000BC) and fortification walls were built around it in different periods. It became sacred ground in the 8th century BC with the construction of the temple of Athená Polias. In mid-6th century the city's greatest religious festival was established and more monuments were erected. In the 5th century BC, the Golden Age of Athens, the Acropolis was a symbol of the city's wealth and power. All the buildings visible today (the Propylaea, the Parthenon, Erechtheion and the Temple of Athena Nike) were constructed at that time. In subsequent centuries, the buildings of the Acropolis Hill suffered from natural disasters and human intervention. After the establishment of Christianity as the official religion, the ancient temples were turned into churches. In 1687 the Venetians bombarded the Parthenon during the siege of Morozini. In 1801-1802 the British Lord Elgin looted the

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Kallikrates	
Phidias	
Morozini	
Elgin	

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- **Find these exhibits in the museum. What are they?**

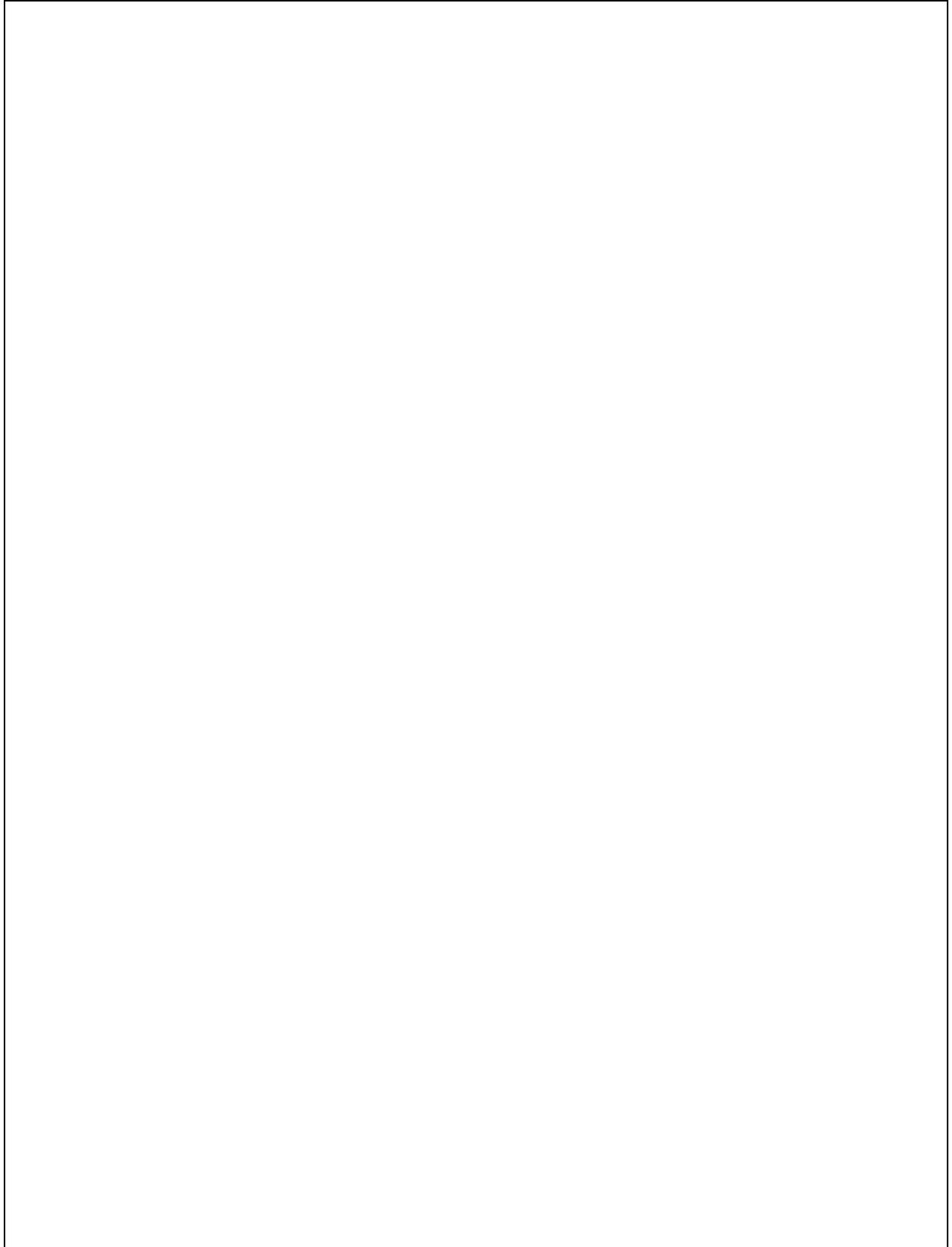












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