The Seven Wonders of the Ancient World is the first known list of the most remarkable creations of classical antiquity, and was based on guide-books popular among Hellenic eighteens and only includes works located around the Mediterranean rim. The number seven was chosen because the Greeks believed it to be the representation of perfection and plenty. Many similar lists have been made.

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### Seven Wonders of the Ancient World

The historian Herodotus (444 – ca. 425 BCE) and the scholar Callimachus of Cyrene (ca. 305 – 240 BCE) at the Museum of Alexandria, made early lists of seven wonders but their writings have not survived, except as references. The seven wonders included:

- Great Pyramid of Giza
- Hanging Gardens of Babylon
- Statue of Zeus at Olympia
- Temple of Artemis at Ephesus
- Mausoleum at Halicarnassus
- Colossus of Rhodes
- Lighthouse of Alexandria

The earliest lists had the Lighthouse of Alexandria as the seventh wonder of the world instead of the Great Pyramid of Giza.

### Medieval World

In the 19th and early 20th centuries, some writers claimed that lists of wonders of the world have existed during the Middle Ages, although it is unlikely that these lists originated at that time because the world medieval was not invented until the Enlightenment era, and the concept of a Middle Age did not become popular until the 19th century. Brewer refers to them as "later lists" suggesting the lists were created after the Middle Ages.

### Wonders of the modern world

Many organisations have made lists of the greatest structures built during modern times, or of the greatest wonders existing today. Some of the most notable lists are presented below.

#### American Society of Civil Engineers

The American Society of Civil Engineers compiled a list of wonders of the modern world. These lists go by names such as Wonders of the Middle Ages (inspiring no specific iteration to be considered a World Wonder) and Wonders of the Middle Ages (inspiring no specific iteration to be considered a World Wonder).

- Typically representative are:
  - Stonehenge
  - Colosseum
  - Cluny Abbey
  - Chartres Cathedral
  - Taj Mahal
  - Eiffel Tower
  - Leaning Tower of Pisa

Other sites sometimes included on such lists:

- Taj Mahal
- Cairo Citadel
- Ely Cathedral
- Cluny Abbey

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### New7Wonders Foundation

In 2001 an initiative was started by the Swiss corporation New7Wonders Foundation to choose the New Seven Wonders of the World from a selection of 200 existing monuments. Twenty-one finalists were announced January 1, 2006. Egypt was not happy with the fact that the only original wonder would have to compete with the Luxor, the Sydney Opera House, and other landmarks, and called the project absurd. In response, Giza was named an Honorary Candidate. The results were announced on July 7, 2007.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wonder</th>
<th>Date started</th>
<th>Date finished</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Great Wall of China</td>
<td>6th century BCE – 16th century CE</td>
<td>China</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petra</td>
<td>c.100 BCE</td>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christ the Redeemer</td>
<td>Opened 12 October 1951</td>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Machu Picchu</td>
<td>c.1450 CE</td>
<td>Peru</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chichen Itza</td>
<td>c.800 CE</td>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colosseum</td>
<td>Completed c.1648 CE</td>
<td>Italy</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taj Mahal</td>
<td>Completed c.1648 CE</td>
<td>India</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Pyramid of Giza (Honorary Candidate)</td>
<td>Completed c.250 BCE</td>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### USA Today's New Seven Wonders

In November 2008 the American national newspaper USA Today in conjunction with the American television show Good Morning America revealed a list of New Seven Wonders as chosen by six judges. The wonders were announced one per day over a week on Good Morning America. An eighth wonder was chosen on November 24, 2006 from viewer feedback.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Wonder</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Pottery Palace</td>
<td>Lima, Peru</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Old City of Jerusalem</td>
<td>Jerusalem[3]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Polar ice caps</td>
<td>Norway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument</td>
<td>Hawaii, United States</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Internet</td>
<td>Earth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Maya ruins</td>
<td>Yucatán Peninsula, Mexico</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Great Migration of Serengti and Masai Mara</td>
<td>Tanzania and Kenya</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Seven Natural Wonders of the World

Similar to the other lists of wonders, there is no consensus on a list of seven natural wonders of the world, as there has been debate over how large the list should be. One of the many lists compiled by UNESCO[2] is:

- Grand Canyon
- Great Barrier Reef
- Harbor of Rio de Janeiro
- Mount Everes
- Aurora
- Paricutin volcano
- Victoria Falls

New/World Wonders Nature is a contemporary effort to create a list of seven natural wonders chosen by people through a global poll, organized by New Open World Corporation (NOWC), which ran the New Seven Wonders of the World campaign.

Seven Natural Wonders[3][4] is a not-for-profit endeavour created to protect the seven natural wonders that have already been established.

Seven Wonders of the Underwater World

The Seven Underwater Wonders of the World was a list drawn up by CEDAM International, an American-based non-profit group for divers, dedicated to ocean preservation and research.

In 1989 CEDAM brought together a panel of marine scientists, including Dr. Eugene Clark, to pick underwater areas which they considered to be worthy of protection. The results were announced at The National Aquarium in Washington DC by actor Lloyd Bridges, star of TV's Sea Hunt.[14]

- Palau
- Baja Barrier Reef
- Great Barrier Reef
- Deep-Sea Vents
- Galapagos Islands
- Lake Baikal
- Northern Red Sea

Seven Wonders of the Industrial World

Main article: Seven Wonders of the Industrial World

British author Deborah Cadbury wrote Seven Wonders of the Industrial World, a book telling the stories of seven great feats of engineering of the 19th and early 20th Centuries. In 2003 the BBC made a seven-part documentary series on the book, with each episode dramatising the construction of one of the wonders. The seven industrial wonders are:

- SS Great Eastern
- Bell Rock Lighthouse
- Brooklyn Bridge
- London sewerage system
- First Transcontinental Railroad
- Panama Canal
- Hoover Dam

See also

- Eighth Wonder of the World
- World Heritage List — a list of over 600 sites deemed by UNESCO to be of "outstanding universal value"
- National Seven Wonders
- Seven Wonders of Canada
- Seven Wonders of Russia
- Seven Wonders of the Industrial World

Other lists of wonders of the world

Numerous other authors and organisations have composed lists of the wonders of the world. Travel writer Howard Hillman published two books on the subject, one with 10 man-made wonders, and one with 10 natural wonders. British biographer, science writer, and novelist Ronald W. Clark is another who published a list of man-made and natural wonders, in his book Wonders of the World. Rather than having only seven wonders of the world to match the number of days in a week, Clark's list includes 52 wonders, one for each week of the year.[3][5]

References

1. ^ Both the USA Today article and the Good Morning America broadcast described this wonder as "Jerusalem's Old City, Israel." However states and scholars alike are divided over the legal status of Jerusalem under international law. See Positions on Jerusalem.

Future reading


External links

- Seven Wonders of the Modern World — a list of modern wonders compiled by the American Society of Civil Engineers of seven wonders of this world
- American Society of Civil Engineers: World Seven Wonders
- World Seven Wonders

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Footnotes

1. ↑ Both the USA Today article and the Good Morning America broadcast described this wonder as "Jerusalem's Old City, Israel." However states and scholars alike are divided over the legal status of Jerusalem under international law. See Positions on Jerusalem.

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