

Q: Do some temples combine elements from different orders?

A: Yes. In the Archaic period, a temple was usually either Doric or Ionic in style. However, starting in the classical period, the two orders were frequently used jointly in one temple. The Parthenon, for example, combines Doric and Ionic elements. While the exterior of the temple is treated in the Doric style, its interior displays elements of the Ionic style. The Corinthian order was established later than the Doric and Ionic orders, in the classical period of Greek art. In Greek architecture, the Corinthian order was generally combined with other styles. The Corinthian order was usually used indoors, while another order was used for the exterior of the same building.

Tags: [Ancient Greece](#), [Greek Architectural Orders](#), [Greek Architecture](#)

Q: What were the altars of Greek temples?

A: The main function of an ancient Greek temple was to house a statue of the divinity that it was consecrated to. Religious rituals took place outside, and the altar was situated in front of the temple. The bigger altars sometimes took the form of stepped structures. Altars were the sites of sacrifices to the gods, with a platform at the top of the altar often serving that purpose. Some altars were much smaller, rectangular structures without steps.

Tags: [Ancient Greece](#), [Greek Architecture](#), [Temple](#)

Q: How large were Greek temples?

A: Temple size in ancient Greece was very variable. Small temples could measure less than 20 feet in length, while large temples could measure well over 200 feet in length. There are even a few examples of temples measuring more than 350 feet in length. The temple of Artemis

at Ephesus, built in the sixth and fifth centuries BC, was over 375 feet in length and is the largest Greek temple to have ever been built. To give you an idea of how wide temples were compared to their length, the Temple of Artemis at Ephesus measured 180 feet in width.

Tags: [Ancient Greece](#), [Greek Architecture](#), [Temple](#)