

Greece

UNESCO MONUMENTS IN GREECE

9th Primary School of Mytilene



Greece



Photos from our student's visit to the Natural History Museum of the Lesvos Petrified Forest. - our local Unesco Monument.



Some of our proud students presented their work in class to their classmates.



The Petrified Forest of Lesvos



The Petrified Forest of Lesvos is one of the finest and rarest monuments of geological heritage worldwide. Created 20 million years ago, when volcanic materials covered and petrified the forest that was covering the area at that time.

The creation of the Petrified Forest is associated with the intense volcanic activity in the area of Northern Aegean 20 million years ago. The large number of standing petrified tree trunks and their fully developed roots systems is a proof that the trees were petrified in their original position and they have not been transferred to the location that we find them today. It is an autochthon petrified forest . The findings in the Petrified Forest reveal that the area was part of a mixed forest of conifers and angiosperms, an indicator that the flora of the region has been evolved considerably.



Several of the fossil species which have been identified belong to angiosperms, such as cinnamon trees , laurel , poplar ,alder, platanus, many kinds of oak etc. Findings of fossilized palms are of particular importance as they constitute the first record of standing petrified palms. The composition of fossilized flora shows that the Petrified Forest of Lesvos grew in a subtropical climate.



The Acropolis



The Parthenon temple in Athens was built between 447-432 B.C. in honour of the goddess Athena who gave the city her name. Its architects were the famous Iktinos and Kallikrates and the sculptures were made by the renowned sculptor Phedias.



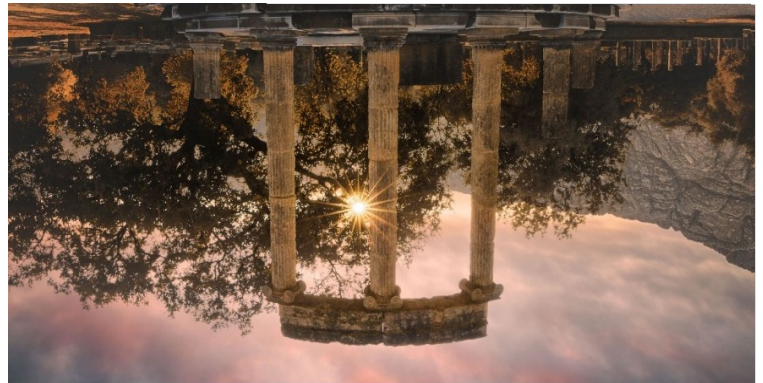
The temple of Erechthion was built in the northern part of the Acropolis between 421-406 B.C. in honour of god Poseidon and goddess Athena. Its characteristic is the statues of the six maidens (Kariarides) supporting the temple instead of pillars.

Olympia (Peloponnese)



The ancient Olympic Games started in 776 B.C. by Pelops king of the Peloponnese. Since then the games would be held every four years the first day of the full moon after the summer solstice to honour Zeus.

They signified peace and unity among the Greek city states.



In ancient Olympia there was a big theatre where the audience watched performances during the day.



Meteora



The BYZANTINE MONASTERIES of Meteora are included on the UNESCO world heritage monument list. They include The Holy Monastery of Great Meteoro which is the biggest and oldest one of all. It was called the monastery that was "suspended in the air" (meteoro), because of the formation of the gigantic rock on top of which it was built and the great monastery of St. Stephan. The Monastery of St. Stephan is a small church built in the 16th century and decorated in 1545. This monastery rests on the plain rather than on a cliff.



Originally, there were 30 monasteries, six of which are in use to this day.

Delphi



The lighting of the Olympic flame in Delphi

The temple of Delphi was built in the 8th century B.C. in honour of the god Apollo and was also famous for its oracle where Pythia gave her prophecies.



The Royal Tomb of Phillipos II in Vergina - Macedonia



The burial cluster of Philip II consists of two most important tombs which were not sacked. The first was the tomb of Philip II, father of Alexander the Great, which was discovered in 1977 by the archaeologist Manolis Andronikos.

In the burial chamber was a larnax made of 24 carat gold weighing 11 kgms embossed with the Vergina sun symbol containing the bones of the dead.



There was also a golden wreath made of 313 oak leaves and 68 acorns as well as the gold and ivory armour (panoply) of the king.



In 1978, a third tomb believed to belong to Alexander IV of Macedonia, son of Alexander the Great, was discovered and it contained a cremated body along with buried treasures escorting the dead.

