

Learning About the Parthenon-Answer Key

Answer Key:

1. **Answers will vary.** Example answer: The Parthenon is a famous and important building in world history for many reasons. It was built 2,500 years ago in Athens as a temple to Athena, the Greek goddess of wisdom. It was changed from a Greek temple, to a church, to a mosque every time new people conquered Greece. It is known for the Elgin marbles controversy.
2. **Answers will vary.** Example answer: Elgin removed the marbles because he was concerned about the pieces being stolen or destroyed. Between 1801-03, Lord Elgin made changes to the Parthenon by removing about 50 percent of its artwork.
3. **Answers will vary.** Example answer: The British Museum believes the Elgin Marbles should remain in England for many reasons, including that they can be seen by millions of people there and that visitors can observe them in a broader context among works from other civilizations.
4. **Answers will vary.** Example answer: Two reasons Greece believes the Elgin Marbles should be returned to the Acropolis Museum so the ancient works can be unified at the Acropolis Museum.
5. **Answers will vary.** Example answer: When Dr. Gonis says that it is Britain's moral duty to return the marbles, he means that it is the right thing to do. This would be in contrast to a legal duty, which would require the British Museum to return the marbles or face consequences, such as paying a fine or going to jail.