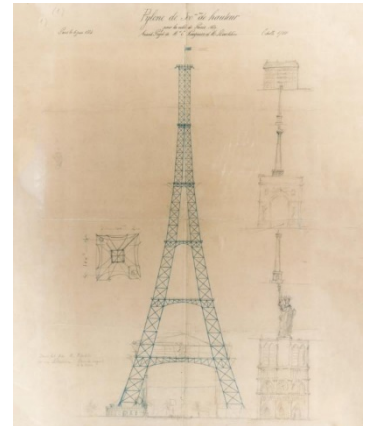


Famous European Architecture

Eiffel Tower, Paris

The Eiffel Tower is a wrought-iron lattice tower on the Champ de Mars in Paris, France. It is named after the engineer Gustave Eiffel, whose company designed and built the tower.

Constructed from 1887 to 1889 as the entrance to the 1889 World's Fair, it was initially criticised by some of France's leading artists and intellectuals for its design, but it has become a global cultural icon of France and one of the most recognisable structures in the world. The Eiffel Tower is the most-visited paid monument in the world; 6.91 million people ascended it in 2015.

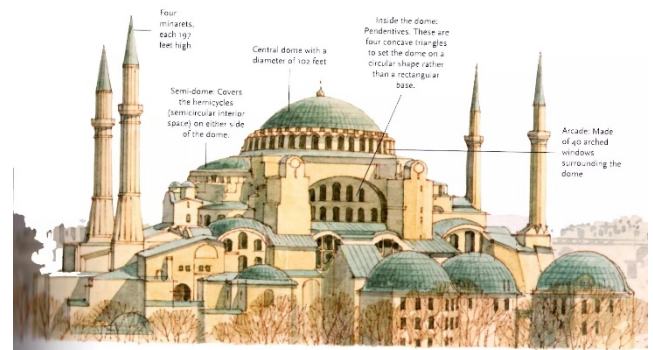


Leaning Tower of Pisa, Pisa

Construction of the Tower of Pisa began in August 1173, but it wasn't completed until 1399. It was originally designed to be a bell tower and stood upright for around five years before it began to lean. The foundation of the tower is only three metres deep, built on a dense clay mixture. Construction was halted for 100 years, during which time the government hoped the soil would settle and strengthen the tower's foundations. After a century, Giovanni di Simone began to add four more floors to the tower but only caused it to lean further when he tried to fix the problem by making one of the upper floors taller than the other.

Hagia Sophia, Istanbul

The Hagia Sophia is one of the world's great monuments. It is considered the masterpiece of architecture from the Byzantine Empire. It first served as a cathedral and was later made into a mosque. It is now a museum. The Hagia Sophia stands in Istanbul, Turkey, and is part of a UNESCO World Heritage site.



The Hagia Sophia that stands today is basically the same building that was constructed in 537. However, it was damaged by an earthquake in 558 and looted by Crusaders in 1204. After the Ottoman Turks captured Constantinople (now Istanbul) in 1453, the sultan Mehmed II changed the cathedral into a mosque. Minarets (tall towers) were added to the exterior and disks bearing Islamic calligraphy were added to the interior. In 1935 the Turkish president Atatürk made the building into a museum.

Famous European Architecture

Questions

1. Where did the Eiffel Tower get its name from?

2. Which of these three buildings is the oldest? (Circle the answer)

- Eiffel Tower

- Leaning Tower of Pisa

- Hagia Sophia

3. The Hagia Sophia is part of a UNESCO World Heritage site.

True / False

4. Did French people like the Eiffel Tower when it was built in 1889?

5. What did they do to help 'fix' the leaning tower of Pisa during its construction? _____

6. What year did the Hagia Sophia change from a cathedral into a mosque? _____

7. How many floors did Giovanni di Simone add to the Leaning Tower of Pisa? _____