

WORLD WONDERS THE ACROPOLIS!

This month, NG Kids' time-travelling mouse, Max, zooms back in history to investigate the Acropolis in Athens!



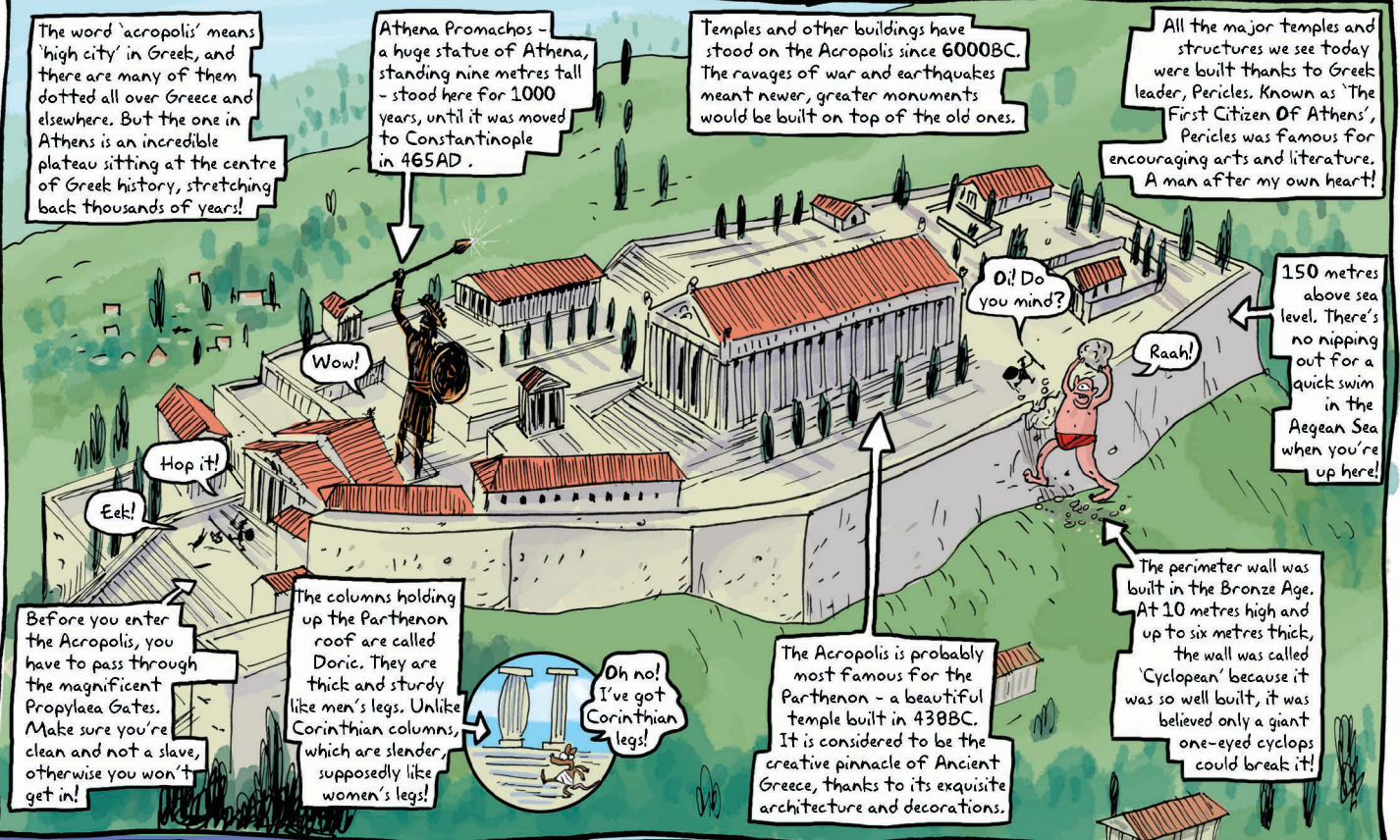
The most famous monument was the Parthenon, a stunning temple built to honour the Greek Goddess Athena in 438BC.

The word 'acropolis' means 'high city' in Greek, and there are many of them dotted all over Greece and elsewhere. But the one in Athens is an incredible plateau sitting at the centre of Greek history, stretching back thousands of years!

Athena Promachos - a huge statue of Athena, standing nine metres tall - stood here for 1000 years, until it was moved to Constantinople in 465AD.

Temples and other buildings have stood on the Acropolis since 6000BC. The ravages of war and earthquakes meant newer, greater monuments would be built on top of the old ones.

All the major temples and structures we see today were built thanks to Greek leader, Pericles. Known as 'The First Citizen Of Athens', Pericles was famous for encouraging arts and literature. A man after my own heart!



Before you enter the Acropolis, you have to pass through the magnificent Propylaea Gates. Make sure you're clean and not a slave, otherwise you won't get in!

The columns holding up the Parthenon roof are called Doric. They are thick and sturdy like men's legs. Unlike Corinthian columns, which are slender, supposedly like women's legs!



The Acropolis is probably most famous for the Parthenon - a beautiful temple built in 438BC. It is considered to be the creative pinnacle of Ancient Greece, thanks to its exquisite architecture and decorations.

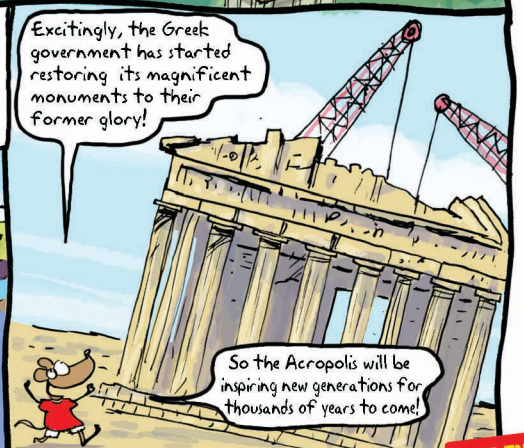
During the 1600s, the Turks, who ruled Greece at the time, used the Parthenon as a place to store ammunition. Unfortunately it all blew up during a bombardment...



In 1806, Lord Elgin of England asked the ruling Ottomans if he could study many of the remains of the Parthenon and they said yes. He took this to mean he could take them back to England!



Excitingly, the Greek government has started restoring its magnificent monuments to their former glory!



Next month, Max visits Greece to explore the Acropolis of Athens!