Document 1



Greek Pillar/Column

The Greeks built their greatest buildings using a pillar-or column made of white marble.



The Parthenon of Ancient Greece



The Lincoln Memorial of the United States of America

1. Explain 2 similarities between these two buildings.

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Parthenon, temple that dominates the hill of the Acropolis at Athens. It was built in the mid-5th century bce and dedicated to the Greek goddess Athena Parthenos ("Athena the Virgin").

Directed by the Athenian statesman Pericles, the Parthenon was built by the architects under the supervision of the sculptor Phidias. Work began in 447 bce, and the building itself was completed by 438. The same year a great gold and ivory statue of Athena, made by Phidias for the interior, was dedicated.

The Parthenon hill was, carved in the round, show, on the east, the birth of Athena and, on the west, her contest with the sea god Poseidon for domination of the region around Athens. The entire work is a marvel of clarity, which was further enhanced by colour and bronze accessories.

Acropolis, (Greek: "city at the top") central, defensively oriented district in ancient Greek cities, located on the highest ground and contained religious buildings. Because the founding of a city was a religious act, the establishment of a local home for the gods was a basic factor in Greek city planning. From both a religious and a military point of view, a hilltop site was highly desirable: militarily, because an acropolis had to be a citadel; religiously, because a hill had natural mysteries—caves, water springs, that denoted the presence of the gods.

Athens has the best-known acropolis, built during the second half of the 5th century bc. The Athenian acropolis, located on a craggy, walled hill, was built as a home of Athena, the patron goddess of the city. The Parthenon, the chief shrine to Athena and also the treasury of the Delian League; the Temple of Athena Nike, an architectural symbol of the harmony with which the Ionian peoples lived under the government of Athens.