

Part I.

Have you ever sat and wondered how the Hanging Gardens of Babylon came to be? I did, and I came up with many questions. Whose idea was it to build the Hanging Gardens? Why was it built? Who was it built for? What is it known as now? Why was it so important and what did it bring to our society? I already knew that the Hanging Gardens were built in Babylon by Nebuchadnezzar II. I also knew they were one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. Clearly they were significant, but why? I first became interested in this topic when we learned about Mesopotamia and Nebuchadnezzar first semester. What struck me was for a desert climate like Mesopotamia, I didn't understand how gardens would be able to survive. The pictures in the textbook made the gardens out to be gigantic...like they were on the peak of a ziggurat with trees and bushes and flowers galore. I couldn't help but want to know more. Did people travel for miles to see them? Why were they made in the first place? Why did the garden disappear and is there any evidence they existed? There are so many questions out there, but the main question I have is what were the Hanging Gardens of Babylon and what purpose did they serve? This I-Search question will be answered in the following essay.

Part II.

I used quite a few sources for research to do this report. I used an article from ebscohost, *The Seven Ancient Wonders of the World*, two websites, www.unmuseum.org and www.ancientworldwonders.com, my World History Social Studies book, and a book called Ancient Mesopotamia: The Sumerians, The Babylonians, and The Assyrians by Virginia Schomp. First, I looked in my social studies book and found a lot of information. Then, I looked on ebscohost. There was a lot of information on the Hanging Gardens, but I didn't think I could use much of it. Then I checked out a book from my school library about Ancient Mesopotamia, which had a lot of the information I needed, plus a ton of websites in the back of the book. This was my best source! I had to use the computer a lot, and I spent a lot of my free school time in the library. I think I might have too much information, but I had a lot of fun researching.

But then tragedy struck. I had problems in the library, because before I could find a good book to check out to get more information about the Hanging Gardens, the library closed for two days. I needed a book I could take home, but I couldn't get in the library. Unfortunately I don't have a public library card either. I thought the library would never open again! But luckily, it opened again, and I had just enough time to get a book, but then I couldn't find the right book I needed. I went to the librarian and she helped me in the right direction. Then I got my book and was on my way. The people that helped me with this report are my mother, my father, and of course, the librarian.

Part III.

The Hanging Gardens of Babylon were built in a city called Babylon. It started as a small city-state in ancient Mesopotamia. “In 1792 BC, Hammurabi took the throne of the city-state of Babylon.” (Virginia Schomp, pg. 12). Hammurabi was the first leader of Babylon until the end of his rule in 1750 BC. “The kings who followed Hammurabi gradually lost control of the Babylonian Empire.” (Virginia Schomp, pg. 12). Eventually the city lost its power and the Assyrians took control to prove they were the best. Out of envy, the Chaldeans and the Medes teamed up to defeat the Assyrians, which destroyed Babylon in the process. Nebuchadnezzar II, the leader of the Chaldeans, rebuilt the city of Babylon so it could bask in its former beauty. Along the way he built the Hanging Gardens.

Around 600 BC, Nebuchadnezzar, now a king, married a woman named Amytis, a princess from Media. He married her to strengthen his power and “to keep peace between the two lands.” (World History Ancient Civilizations, pg. 125). But Amytis was very unhappy but if she insisted on leaving, her father would not be happy. She was unhappy because she was forced to leave her home full of life and plants, to live in a desert. “According to accounts, the gardens were built to cheer up Nebuchadnezzar's homesick wife, Amytis.” (Lee Krystek, pg.1) But Nebuchadnezzar wanted her to feel at home and happy to be with him so he came up with the idea to build a mountain garden, or the Hanging Gardens. He had slaves from Jerusalem come and build this temple that rose over 300 feet in the air. It was built to give the appearance that it was floating in the air. “Guarding the stairways were giant winged lions.” (World History Ancient Civilizations, pg. 126). It grew date palms, cypress, fig, pomegranate, and perfumed flowers. It was just like her city Media.

Nebuchadnezzar II was not only the one who decided to build the Hanging Gardens, but helped invent an important invention we use today. He and an engineer created the water pump to help keep the plants on the Hanging Gardens alive. The water pump is a long circle of chain almost like the one on your bike, but a lot bigger. It held thousands of buckets that could carry water from wells to almost anywhere in the temple. "To irrigate the trees, shrubs, and flowers, screws were turned to lift water from the Euphrates River." (The Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, pg.1) It was run by thousands of slaves from Jerusalem daily. "By turning the handle, slaves provided the power to run the contraption." (Lee, Krystek, pg. 1) We now use that same technology in mines to bring different goods out of the mines. But now we don't need as many men to run it.

Unfortunately the Hanging Gardens of Babylon were destroyed. No one knows how or when but it is said that the Hanging Gardens were destroyed by an earthquake; some say that when the Chaldean civilization there was destroyed, so was the Hanging Gardens. Archeologists have found many different alternatives. "It's often stated that they destroyed during the earthquake." (www.ancientworldwonders.com, pg. 1)

The Hanging Gardens of Babylon are known today as one of the seven ancient wonders of the world, even though they have been destroyed. The other seven include the Great Pyramid in Egypt, the Statue of Zeus at Olympia, the Temple of Artemis at Ephesus, the Mausoleum at Halicarnassus, the Colossus of Rhodes, and the Lighthouse of Alexandria. The only ancient wonder of the world still standing today is the Great Pyramid of Egypt. We can only imagine what beauty the others held, especially the Hanging Gardens of Babylon.

Part IV.

I learned so much about the Hanging Gardens during this report, but especially I became a better researcher. I learned how to find information and use it to write this paper. I also learned how to complete small tasks in a timely manner and check off tasks I've completed. It helped me stay focused and on task instead of procrastinating which isn't a good trait to have for a job later in life. What I learned that means most to me is how to write a good report because in seventh grade and even high school I feel that I will be doing that a lot more. This project will help me in the future because now not only do I know all about the Hanging Gardens, but I know how to research better and to write an excellent report.

Overall, I loved doing this report and I am really excited to share everything I learned to everyone. I'm happy I got to pick my topic and that there were options for me to show my creative side with my presentation and model. I hope you learn from my paper as much as I did about the Hanging Gardens.

Works Cited

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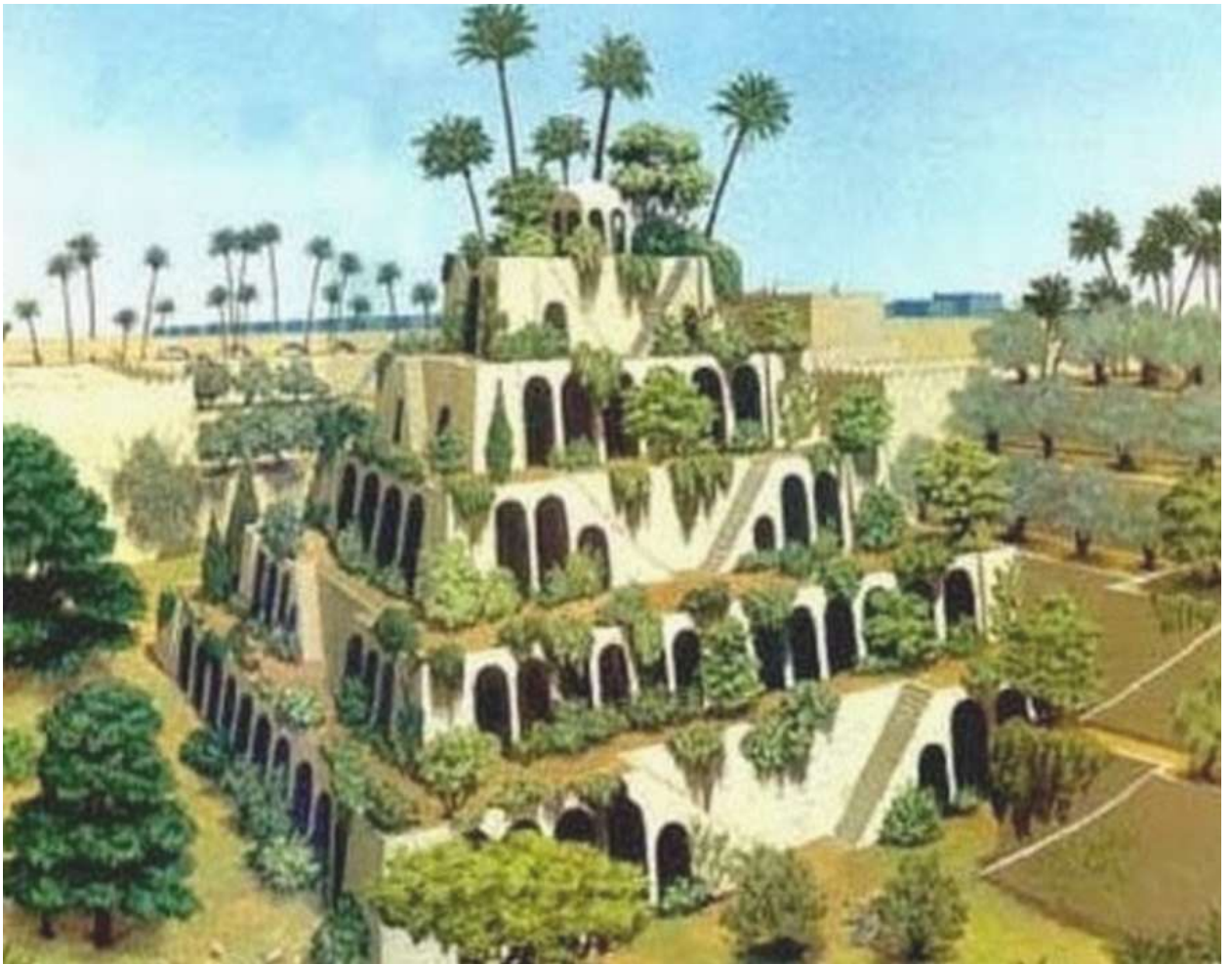
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The Hanging Gardens of Babylon



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