

Station A: Architecture

1. **Read the information about architecture and list major achievements.** Carefully read and discuss the information below about the ancient Greeks' achievements in the field of architecture. Then, list three major ancient Greek achievements in the field of architecture in the Station A section of **Student Handout 4.1A**.

The ancient Greeks created some of the world's most beautiful structures—from religious temples and statues to large outdoor arenas and government buildings. Greek builders used a variety of construction materials, including wood, sun-dried bricks, and limestone. However, the Greeks built their most sacred buildings, like the temples on the Athenian Acropolis, with a hardened type of limestone called marble. They used both white marble and marble containing streaks of bright colors such as red, green, and blue in their structures.

Ancient Greek architects developed three styles of architecture called *orders*. Each order has a different type of stone columns, which were used to support a building's solid upper structure. The columns in all three orders have vertical grooves, or *flutes*, which extend from the top of the column to the bottom. However, the three types of columns have different bases and tops, or *capitals*, which distinguish one order from another.

The earliest architectural style, developed by the mainland Greeks, was the *Doric* (pronounced DOR-ik) order, named after the Dorians, who conquered the Mycenaeans (pronounced my-sih-NEE-inz) around 1000 B.C.E. The Doric column has no base and rises straight from a platform. A rectangular stone decorates the capital of this type of column.

The next style developed was the *Ionic* (pronounced eye-ON-ik) order, which was named after its place of origin—Ionia, the Greek territories in the eastern Aegean Sea. An Ionic column rises from a circular, stacked base. Carved scrolls that look like two rolls of paper decorate its capital.

The last style developed was the *Corinthian* order, named for the city-state of Corinth. Originating in northwestern Greece, the Corinthian order was first used in the early fifth century B.C.E. The Corinthian column also rises from a circular, stacked base, and has a capital adorned with carvings of spiky leaves from the Mediterranean herb *acanthus* (pronounced ah-CAN-thuss). One legend says that an artist designed the Corinthian column after he saw dark green, oddly shaped acanthus leaves growing in a basket that hung from a column decorating a grave.

2. **Complete the following task and record your findings.** Carefully examine the drawings of the three Greek columns and determine the order—Doric, Ionic, and Corinthian—to which each belongs based on the written information. Record the order of each column on **Student Handout 4.1A**.