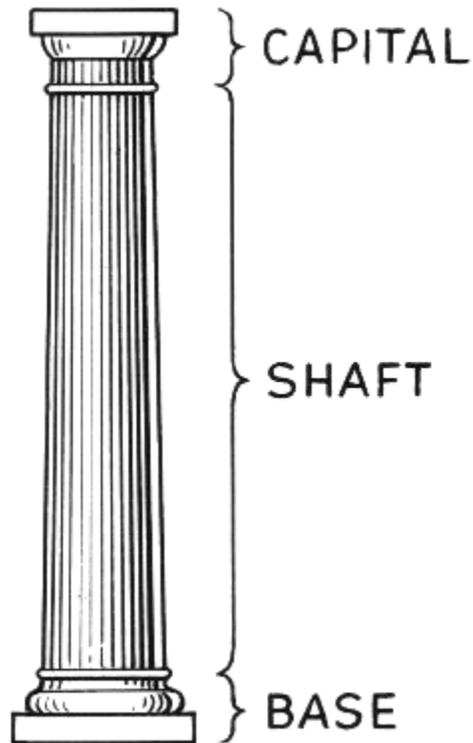


Not Just Another Column



Word Bank:

Column: Standing pillar, part of a building

Capital: Top section of a column

Shaft: The middle section of a column

Base: Bottom section of a column

Architecture: The art of designing and building buildings.

Architectural Order: A style of building

Ratio: A math term that shows how many times one number contains another

Golden Ratio: A special ratio thought to look very beautiful

Considered: thought of

Elaborate: Detailed

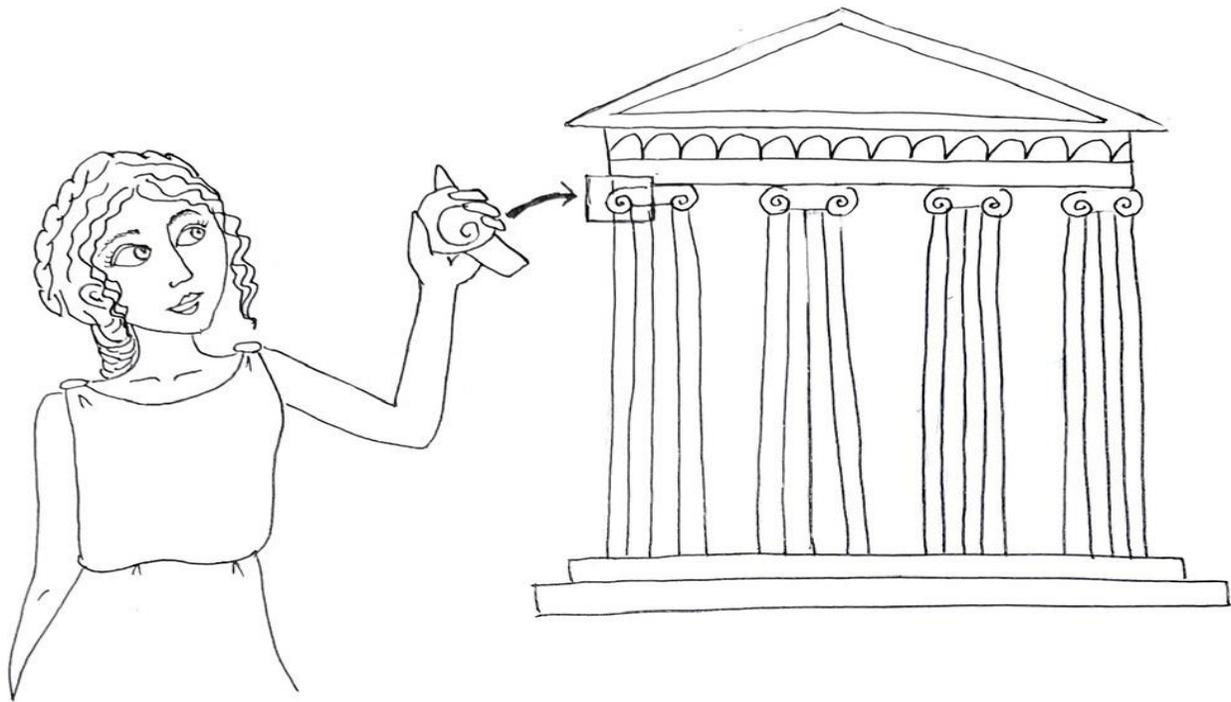
Harmony: Combinations that are pleasing to listen to or look at

Symmetry: Equal on both sides

Scrolls: A roll, normally of paper or papyrus or shaped like a swirl

What's in a column? To the ancient Greeks, a column or the standing pillar, was more than just a way to hold up the roof. Every part, from the capital to the base, was very important and followed special rules, called an architectural order.

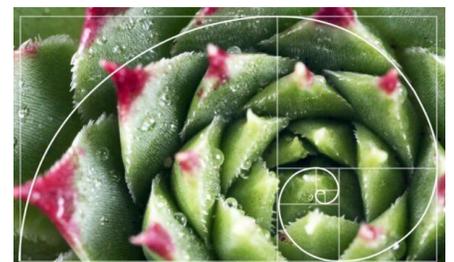
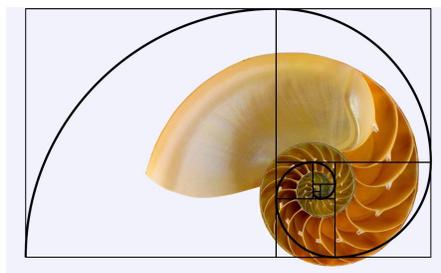
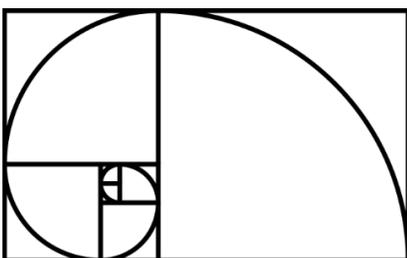
In fact, you only need a small part of an old building that has fallen apart to know what the whole building would have looked like!



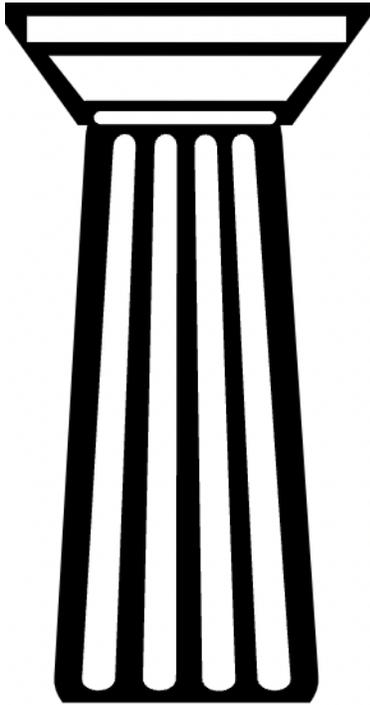
The ancient people were not just building a safe place to be in the rain, they were trying to make their buildings perfect. They thought the order of the universe should be seen in the buildings. Really!

This meant buildings were carefully designed using ideas about harmony and symmetry, specifically the idea of the Golden Ratio.

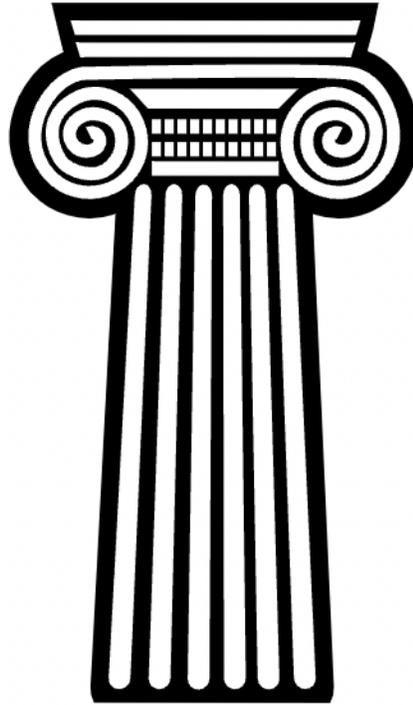
We'll learn more about the Golden Ratio in future stories, but it is a special ratio that is found in nature and art and is considered very beautiful to look at. You can see it in Shells and plants:



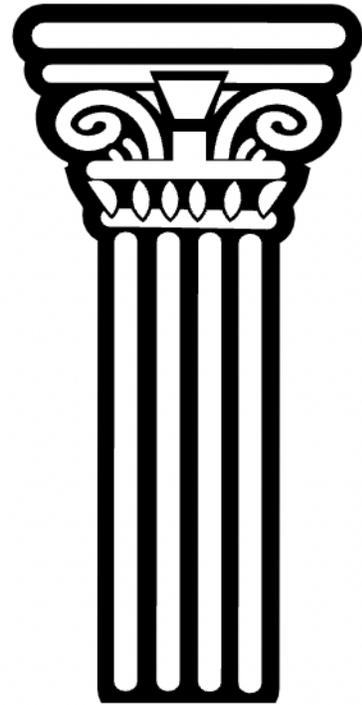
There were **THREE** major types of building styles, or orders: Doric, Ionic or Corinthian.



Doric



Ionic



Corinthian

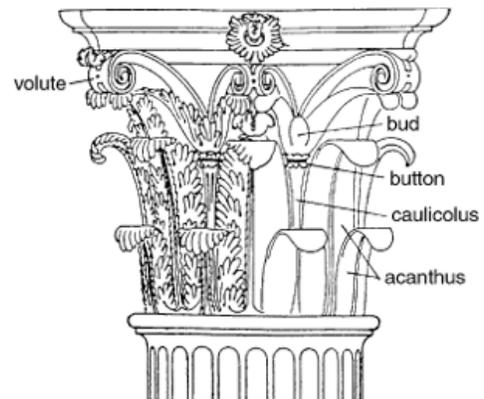
The first is called '**Doric**'. It is serious! It is very solid, short and stocky and was originally made of wood. It was thought to be more like a Man. It had simple designs and a basic 'capital' on the top.

Next is the '**Ionic**' order. It was considered to be more like a Woman. The column was fluted, or had long lines, and there were almost always 24 of these lines. It has scrolls at the top, along with sculpted pictures called friezes, and was very popular.

The third and final order is called '**Corinthian**', from the ancient city of Corinth. It is the most elaborate and looks like it has leaves around the capitals. These columns came much later.

All three orders, Doric, Ionic and Corinthian can all still be seen in buildings throughout the world today.

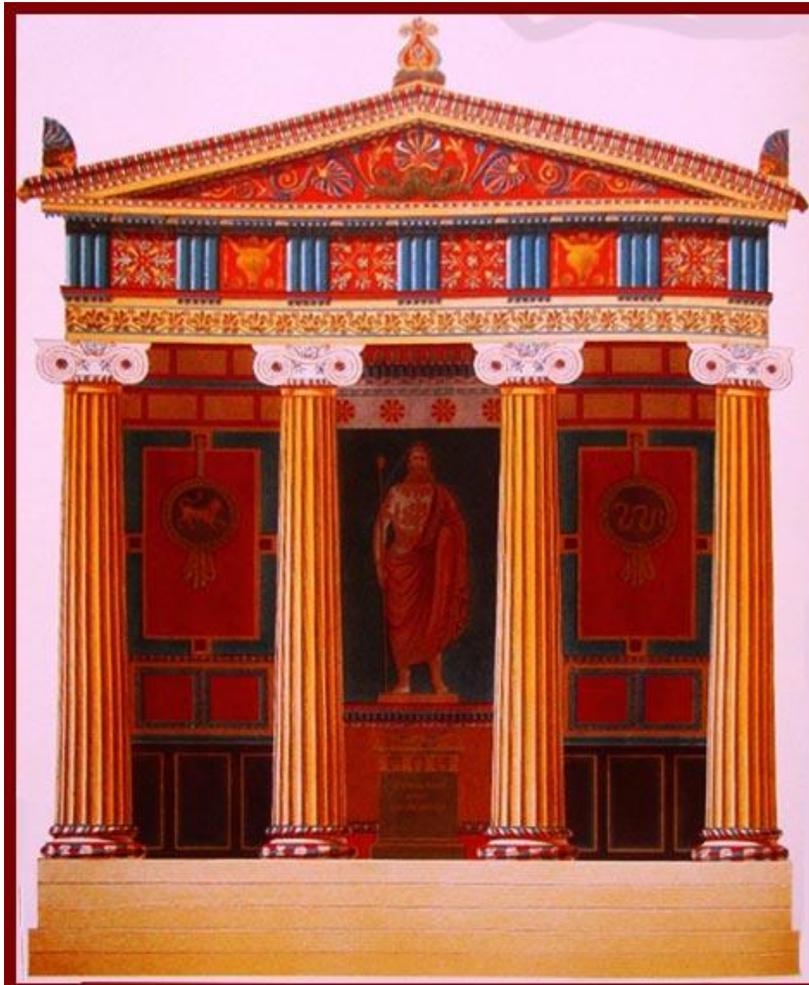
These ideas made the buildings very beautiful... but it also can teach us about the ideas of beauty through harmony, balance and proportion.



Did you know?

The Greeks designed the building to look beautiful and often wanted them to look taller. As such, they had almost NO straight lines!

The ancient buildings we see today in Greece and Italy are all white... but they weren't always that way! In fact, in the ancient world, they were brightly colored. The ancients predominantly used four colors: red, yellow, black and white.



***Ionic Temple
façade,
fully colored
Greek buildings
were normally
fully painted in
bright colors,
even column
fluting: yellow
groves with red
crests.***

***Doric columns had 20
flutes, Ionic and
Corinthian had 24.***

Review / Discussion:

What is a column? What are the parts of a column?

What types of columns - or orders- are there?

Why do you think the ancients that the Doric is like a man and the Ionic like a woman?

Does a building need to be functional? Or beautiful?

Does symmetry make something beautiful?

What ways can you find 'harmony'?

Do you prefer the buildings and columns with or without the colors?

Activities:

Color a column! Find the attached sheet and make your own designs.

Which column is it? Circle the correct architectural order with the ancient... and modern examples.

Can you design a building with one or all of the ancient orders? If you were to make your own architectural order, what would it look like?

Go explore! Find examples of the Doric, Ionic and Corinthian columns in your town. Look at banks, universities or important public buildings. Or explore major cities on Google maps - check out your Capital city and you will definitely find some!

Learn how to draw an Ionic column Here:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=934zoQkE_hE