

# Make a model Parthenon

The main building of the Acropolis at Athens was the Parthenon, a temple dedicated to the goddess Athena.



Get a packet of straws and cut them down to make the columns for the inside and outside of the Parthenon. Use the picture above as a guide.

The base is made of two sheets of polystyrene 'ceiling' tile. The column straws can be pushed into this (you may need a skewer to make the hole first). Remember that the Parthenon was built with 8 columns on the shorter sides and 17 on the longer sides.

Inside, the cella was surrounded with 3 columns on the shorter side and 9 columns on the longer sides. The side facing the entrance had no columns.

You can make a roof of ceiling tiles as well. First put a piece of ceiling tile on the top of the columns. Then cut two shallow triangles to make the pediments and stick these to the roof plate. Place two pieces of ceiling tile on to the triangles to make the 'tiled' roof.

You can use watercolour paints on ceiling tiles if you want to colour your model. Cut two pieces for the roof and two more pieces that are shallow triangles for the ends.

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If students want to do a constructional project, then a temple is an ideal simple model to make.

## Resources

Some ceiling tiles (or failing that sheets of double walled corrugated cardboard, the sort used to make strong boxes) and some straws.

Some students may wish to add a colossal figure of Athena inside. A small mirror placed on the floor of the cella will represent the reflecting pool in front of the statue.

As students are making the model you can talk about the Golden Rectangle and make sure they are getting their proportions correct. All columns should be equally spaced.

The Parthenon is 30m by 70m and the columns are just over 10m high.