

Trail area: The Temple of Athena Nike



While you are going up to the Acropolis hill, the first monument you see on your right is the small temple of Athena Nike (427-424 BC). The architect of the temple was Kallikrates. Here the Athenians used to worship their protector goddess Athena, who stood by them at times of war.

A protective marble parapet was constructed around this temple and was decorated with relief representations of the goddess Athena between winged representations of Nike.



N→

Look carefully at the monument and answer the questions!

1) The temple of Athena Nike is made of marble and it belongs to the:

Doric Ionic Corinthian order

- Which features helped you recognize the order?

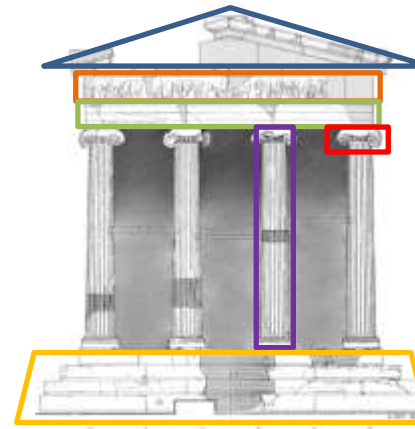
Have a look! The columns of the Athena Nike Temple are monolithic (made of one piece of stone). Compare them with the columns of other Greek temples.

2) The statue of Athena Nike, once stood inside the temple and was a “xoanon”, that is a sacred wooden statue. It held a helmet in one hand and a pomegranate in the other.

- Do you know what the helmet is a symbol of? _____
and what the pomegranate symbolizes? _____

Correct answers: war, peace & prosperity

- 3) The temple is decorated with sculptures on the pediments and on the frieze. On the east side of the frieze the Gods of Mount Olympus are represented. On the other three sides, you can see scenes from the Greek-Persian wars. Today all the sculptures of the frieze on the temple are copies of the originals that are exhibited in the Acropolis Museum.
- Read the terms on the right and try to match them with the spotted elements on the drawing.



Column Capital

Pediment

Column

Crepis (scale steps)

Frieze

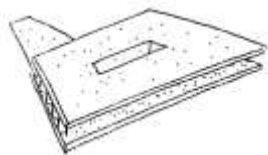
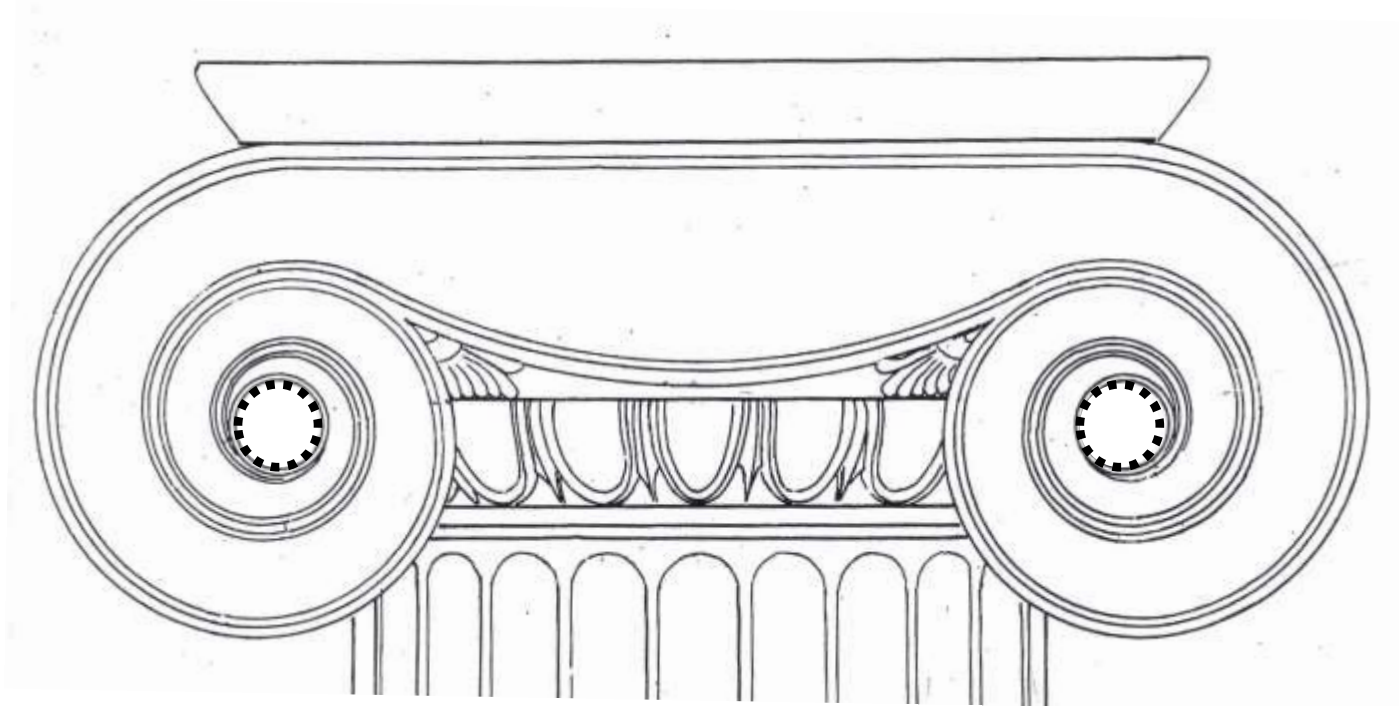
Architrave

Did you know that...

this temple is known as the temple of “Apteros (Wingless) Nike (Victory)”? This name was given to the temple by Pausanias, the ancient traveler, who thought that the Athenians had cut off the wings of the Nike statue so that she would not be able to fly away from their city. In fact, this statue was never winged because it did not represent the goddess Nike, but the goddess Athena.

Make your own creation!

Decorate, cut off and wear on the mask – Ionic capital! Have fun!



Don't forget to search for the original sculptures of the temple in the **Acropolis Museum!**