

What is Neoclassical Architecture?

Worksheet

Neoclassical architecture is a style that reimagines classical Greek and Roman forms - columns, pediments, domes, and symmetry - to express order, rationality, and grandeur, flourishing roughly 1750-1850.

Questions

1. Neoclassical architecture primarily draws inspiration from

- A) Gothic cathedrals
- B) Ancient Greece and Rome
- C) Islamic geometric art
- D) Japanese pagodas

2. Which period does Neoclassical architecture roughly span?

- A) 1200-1400
- B) 1500-1600
- C) 1750-1850
- D) 1900-1950

3. Which feature is typical of Neoclassical buildings?

- A) Twisted Solomonic columns
- B) Symmetrical facades with classical columns
- C) Flying buttresses
- D) Curvilinear Art Nouveau ironwork

4. The Pantheon in Paris borrows its dome concept from

- A) The Roman Pantheon
- B) The Eiffel Tower
- C) A Gothic cathedral
- D) A Baroque palace

5. Identify why the Pantheon in Paris (completed 1790) is considered Neoclassical.

6. The US Capitol dome (completed 1866) uses Neoclassical elements - list three and their classical source.

7. Compare the column height-to-diameter ratio of a Neoclassical Doric column (about 1:7) with a Baroque twisted column.

8. Define: When did Neoclassical architecture flourish?

9. Define: What ancient styles inspired Neoclassicism?

10. Define: Name a famous Neoclassical building.

Answer Key

1. B) Ancient Greece and Rome - Neoclassicism revives Greco-Roman columns, symmetry, and temple forms.
2. C) 1750-1850 - It flourished during the Enlightenment, roughly 1750 to 1850.
3. B) Symmetrical facades with classical columns - Symmetry and classical orders define the style.
4. A) The Roman Pantheon - Its coffered dome echoes the 2nd-century Roman Pantheon.
5. Look at the facade: a Greek temple portico with Corinthian columns Note the large unadorned dome, echoing the Pantheon of Rome (126 AD) Check proportions: symmetrical, based on classical ratios Conclusion: strict adherence to Greco-Roman form marks it Neoclassical
6. Colonnaded drum - from Greek temples Coffered dome - from the Roman Pantheon (2nd century AD) Pediment with sculpture - from Greek temple fronts Together these express civic virtue, a core Enlightenment idea
7. Neoclassical Doric ratio 1:7 (height:diameter), following ancient Greek canon Baroque Solomonian columns spiral and vary, prioritizing movement over fixed ratio The 1:7 ratio produces a sturdy, rational look tied to classical mathematics This proportion discipline is a hallmark of Neoclassicism
8. Roughly 1750-1850, peaking alongside the Enlightenment.
9. Ancient Greek and Roman architecture - columns, pediments, domes.
10. The Pantheon in Paris (1790) or the US Capitol.

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