

THE COLOSSUS OF RHODES

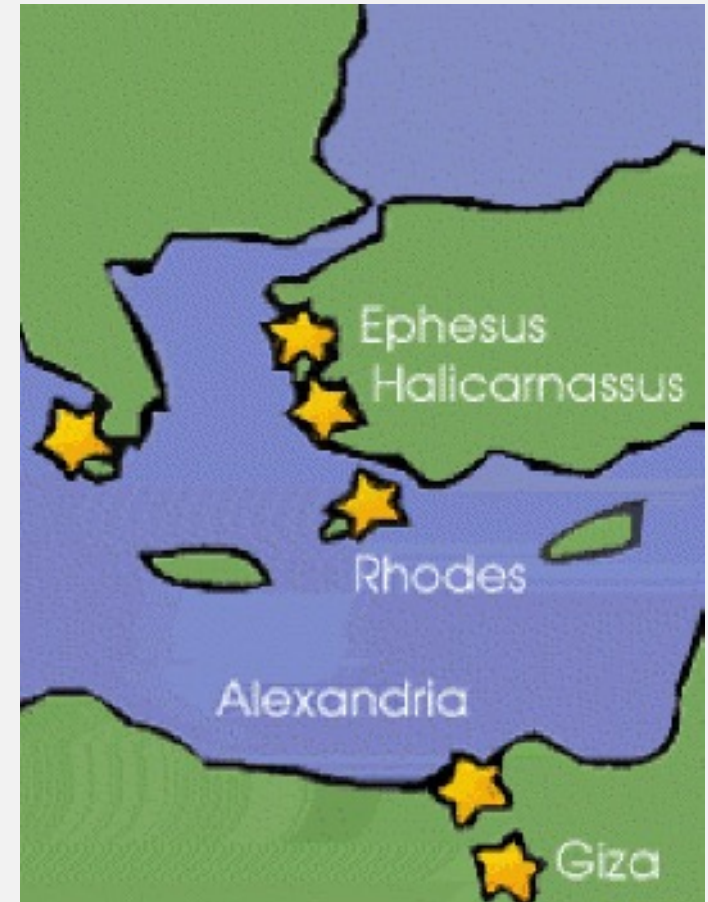


THE COLOSSUS OF RHODES

Rhodes is an island in the Mediterranean Sea. Once, it was part of ancient Greece.

Alexander the Great conquered Rhodes. When Alexander died, his generals fought for control of the island.

Rhodes was perfectly situated to be a crossroads of trade.



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The people of Rhodes did support one of the generals. But that general won control of Egypt. Another general gained control of Rhodes. To punish the people for not supporting him, he sent his son to level Rhodes.

Help arrived from Egypt! The general they had supported sent troops from Egypt to help the people of Rhodes drive the son away.



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With Egypt's help, the people won! With joy, they melted down the bronze armor and war machinery left behind by the son, and used it to build a giant statue of their patron god Helios, to thank Helios for helping them save their city.

The statue was 110 feet high and stood on a 50 foot base. Each morning, the sun glittered off the bronze plates that covered the statue. It was quite a sight!



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Only 56 years after the statue was built, it was toppled by an earthquake. Many pieces fell into the harbor. Some pieces remained on land, including the statue's thumb.

People traveled great distances to see the huge thumb. They tried to put their arms around it. The thumb was bigger than their arms could stretch.



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The king of Egypt offered money to rebuild the statue. But the people of Rhodes said no. They believed their god Helios was unhappy with the statue, and had tossed it down in a fit of anger. They left it alone.

Many years later, around 600 CE, Arab traders finally removed the remains of the Colossus to use as scrap metal. Legend says ... it took 900 camels to ferry the pieces home.



THE COLOSSUS OF RHODES

Although the Colossus is no longer in existence, another famous work of art, inspired by the Colossus, *is* still standing.

It is called
The Statue of
Liberty!



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