

Milestones in Architectural History

Architecture · Answer Key · 8 Questions

1. Which ancient civilization is credited with the invention of the true arch, which allowed for the construction of larger openings and more stable structures?

- A) The Sumerians
- B) The Egyptians
- C) The Etruscans**
- D) The Minoans

2. What was the primary structural innovation used in the Pantheon in Rome to reduce the weight of its massive unreinforced concrete dome?

- A) Coffering**
- B) Flying buttresses
- C) Steel reinforcement
- D) Geodesic framing

3. The Crystal Palace, designed by Joseph Paxton for the 1851 Great Exhibition, is considered the first major building to utilize which construction material system?

- A) Pre-stressed concrete
- B) Cast-iron and plate glass**
- C) Load-bearing timber frame
- D) Wrought iron suspension

4. Which architectural style, emerging in the 12th century, introduced the pointed arch and the rib vault, allowing cathedrals to reach unprecedented heights?

- A) Romanesque
- B) Byzantine
- C) Gothic**
- D) Neoclassical

5. In 1885, the Home Insurance Building in Chicago became the first structure to successfully feature which key architectural development?

- A) A skeleton steel frame**
- B) The first hydraulic elevator
- C) Air conditioning systems
- D) A central heating boiler

6. The Wainwright Building, designed by Louis Sullivan, is historically significant for being one of the first buildings to effectively express which architectural concept?

A) Brutalism

B) The tripartite division of skyscraper facades

C) The use of cantilevered balconies

D) Passive solar design

7. What structural element was first developed during the Renaissance by Filippo Brunelleschi to successfully complete the dome of the Florence Cathedral without traditional centering?

A) The double-shell dome

B) The geodesic sphere

C) The tensile cable system

D) The cantilevered truss

8. Which 1920s architectural movement is credited with introducing the 'Curtain Wall' concept, where the exterior skin is non-structural and independent of the building frame?

A) Art Deco

B) Bauhaus

C) Baroque

D) Mid-Century Modern