The Akropolis Now
VC 5109
Tisch Media Center

Please allow at least 25 minutes to view this film in the Tisch Media Center. Allow extra time to answer the questions.

1. When did Pericles convince the citizens of Athens to rebuild the Acropolis?
   a. In the 11th century B.C.E. after the Trojan War.
   b. In 447 (mid-5th century) B.C.E. after the defeat of the Persians.
   c. In 86 (1st century) B.C.E. after the destruction by the Roman general Sulla.
   d. In the 17th century C.E. after an explosion during the Venetian-Turkish conflict.

2. What does the word “acropolis” (ἄκρος- + πόλις, ἄκρος + πόλις = “topmost, at the highest point (of)” + “city” ) generally mean?

3. A number of new shrines to Athena, patroness of Athens, were built on the Athenian Acropolis under the directions of Pericles. What do you think is the significance of the names of these two shrines?
   a. the Parthenon, the temple dedicated to Athena Parthenos (παρθένος, παρθένος = “maiden”):
   b. the little temple dedicated to Athena Nike (νίκη, νίκη = “victory”):

4. Please list one way that a visitor’s first view of the Acropolis or of the Parthenon itself is controlled by the construction.

5. Several new images of the goddess Athena were created for the rebuilding of the Acropolis. The thirty-foot bronze image called the Athena Promachos was sculpted for the Erechtheion. How does the meaning of the word “promachos” (πρό + μάχομαι, πρό + μάχομαι = “for, before” + “to fight”) seem appropriate to this image?
6. What is the name of the famous sculptor who created the Parthenon sculptures (the sculptures for the Temple to Athena Parthenos)?

   a. Phidias
   b. Pausanias
   c. Herodes Atticos

7. Where are the original Parthenon sculptures and most of the original marble frieze of the Parthenon currently displayed? (These are also called "The Elgin Marbles" or "The Parthenon Marbles.")

   a. In the new Akropoli (ΑΚΡΟΠΟΛΙ) Station, on the new Metro system, Athens.
   b. In the British Museum, London.
   c. In the Louvre, Paris.
   d. In the Acropolis Museum, Athens.

   Images are viewable on the Internet at:
   http://www.perseus.tufts.edu
   Search on "athens, parthenon" and select sculptures "thumbnails"

8. What does the narrator of this film mean by his comment that the current display of the marble frieze of the Parthenon turns the original display on the Temple "inside out"? Please draw a diagram if this is helpful.

9. The forty-foot chryselephantine (χρυσός + ἐλεφάντινος, ΧΡΥΣΟΣ + ΕΛΕΦΑΝΤΙΝΟΣ) stature of Athena Parthenos was made of:

   a.
   b.
10. This statue, costing more than the Parthenon itself, was worth 1/5 of the annual tribute to the Athenian “Empire.” Again the visitor’s view of this statue was carefully controlled. How?

11. Currently scholars believe that:
   a. Colors such as blue, red, and white were applied to the carved marble of the Parthenon.
   b. Only red was applied to the carved marble of the Parthenon.
   c. Color was never applied to sculpted marble.

12. In your opinion after hearing several options, what do you think the Parthenon and the image of Athena Parthenos represented for the Athenians who built it?

For further information, you may wish to consult Hurwit, Jeffrey The Athenian Acropolis (Cambridge, 1999), Chapter 9 with illustrations in Chapter 8. Consider this topic as a possible Greek 1 small project.

13. Please list one interesting feature of the temple known as the Erechtheion. Include a simple sketch here or on the back of this sheet if you can.

14. By combining the old religious tradition of the Erechtheion with the new Parthenon and the entire hilltop known as the Acropolis, what powerful message may have been conveyed to the citizens of Athens?

Bonus: Is there any equivalent twenty-first-century symbol that speaks to you?