

1236-9875

Alexandria, lighthouse, past, 283 B.C

Tasking:

Move to the optimum position/location and describe the target focussed known as the lighthouse of Alexandria in the past.



Additional feedback

The **Lighthouse of Alexandria** (left) was one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World; it was built on the Island of Pharos in Alexandria bay by Ptolemy Philadelphus, and completed during 283 B.C.

The tower was 135m high, and its light could be seen 10 miles far.

The lighthouse was damaged and finally destroyed during the XIV Century by a series of earthquakes.

The remains of the tower vanished in the shade of the seabottom, and Archaeologists and Historians looked for them for Centuries: just during 1994 a French equipe leaded by Jean-Yves Empereur found some very large Aswan granite blocks under the breakwater built to protect the Fort of Qaitbay, on Pharos Island.

They can be part of the foundations of the lighthouse.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lighthouse_of_Alexandria

The **Pharos of Alexandria** was a tower built in the 3rd century BCE on the island of Pharos in Alexandria, Egypt to serve as that port's landmark, and later, lighthouse.

With a height variously estimated at between 117 and 134 metres (440ft) it was the tallest man-made structure on Earth for many centuries, and was identified as one of the Seven Wonders of the World by Antipater of Sidon.

It ceased operating and was largely destroyed as a result of two earthquakes in the 14th century CE; some of its remains were found on the floor of Alexandria's Eastern Harbour by divers in 1994. More of the remains have subsequently been revealed by satellite imaging.

Constructed from large blocks of light-coloured stone, the tower was made up of three stages: a lower square section with a central core, a middle octagonal section, and, at the top, a circular section. At its apex was positioned a mirror which reflected sunlight during the day; a fire was lit at night. Extant Roman coins struck by the Alexandrian mint show that a statue of a triton was positioned on each of the building's 4 corners. A statue of Poseidon stood atop the tower during the Roman period.

The design of minarets in many early Islamic mosques many centuries later followed a similar three-stage design to that of the Pharos, attesting to the building's broader architectural influence.

Legends tell of the light from the Pharos being used to burn enemy ships before they could reach shore, however this is highly unlikely due to the relatively poor quality of optics and reflective technology in the time period in which the building existed. Only slightly less impressive - and probably more accurate - is the claim that the light from the lighthouse could be seen up to 35 miles (56 km) from shore.