

UNDER CONSTRUCTION: SEVEN WONDERS OF THE SEVEN SEAS

AGES

Children 8+

Teens/tweens

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

In this program, teens build structures based on the New Seven Wonders of the World. They could use candy, veggie sticks and toothpicks, and/or non-edible building materials such as Legos, popsicle sticks, or balsa wood. Choose building materials that work best for your library and patrons. As an icebreaker, run a seven seas taste-testing challenge! Set out seven different flavors of Goldfish crackers (or nori, sea creature gummies, etc.). Participants can try to name the flavors or simply rank their favorites from best to worst. You could also feature one book to go with each flavor. See Printables for a Goldfish coloring sheet for teens who finish both activities early. Suggested runtime: 60–90 min.



Image source: Shutterstock

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Goldfish Taste Testing

Materials:

- Goldfish crackers in assorted flavors
- One bowl per flavor
- Cups for each participant to put goldfish crackers in
- Forms listing each goldfish cracker, with a blank space for rating
- Small pencils
- Napkins
- Featured book descriptions

Instructions:

- Set up tables throughout the room.
- Each table should have a bowl of Goldfish crackers, napkins, and spoons.
- When teens arrive, give them the form to fill out, a pencil, and a cup.
- Randomly assign teens to tables.
- Give two minutes at each station to sample and read book descriptions.
- At the end, give five minutes for teens to rate. Compare ratings.
- Let teens peruse the featured books.

Building Activities

Materials:

- Building materials
- Photos of the New Seven Wonders of the World
- Prizes for the winners

Instructions: Set up seven tables up with tablecloths and evenly divide candy or building supplies. Label each table with a different wonder of the world and place a corresponding photo on the table. Divide teens evenly and have them create their interpretations of one of the seven wonders. Let teens know how much time they have to build. At the end, have a representative from each group talk about their wonder, then have teens vote by applause (while not voting for their own wonder). The group with the loudest applause will be declared winners!

TIP:

Have teens peruse the actual books (rather than descriptions) after the taste-testing to avoid greasy fingers on books. Be sure to acquire (or interlibrary loan) extra copies of your chosen books!

UNIQUE SPACE AND/OR PERSONNEL NEEDS

Consider soliciting food donations from a local grocery store or bakery.

RESOURCES

Web

“Seven Wonders of the Ancient World” from *National Geographic Kids*:
<https://bit.ly/3fpXIs0>

“Seven Wonders of the Ancient World” from *Wikipedia*:
<https://bit.ly/3vwS1Oo>

“Seven Modern Wonders of the World” from *Wikipedia*:
<https://bit.ly/3uqUFUA>

List of Goldfish flavors from *Thrillist*: <https://bit.ly/2ROU8yA>

Books

Fiction

The Seven Wonders series (2013–2016) by Peter Lerangis (YA)

Non-fiction

Where Were the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World? (2020) by Yona Z. McDonough and Dede Putra (children)

Seven Wonders of the Ancient World (2002) by Diana Bentley (YA)

Book of the Seven Seas (2003) by Peter Freuchen (YA)

The Seven Wonders of the World: A History of the Modern Imagination (2005) by John Romer and Elizabeth Romer (YA)

What are the Seven Wonders of the World? And 60 Other Great Cultural Questions (2005) by Peter D'Epiro, Mary Desmond Pinkowish, and Richard Beards (YA/adult)

Printables

Goldfish Coloring Sheet

TIP:

The middle grade *Where Is?* series is also a good choice about specific locations and wonders from all over the world.

