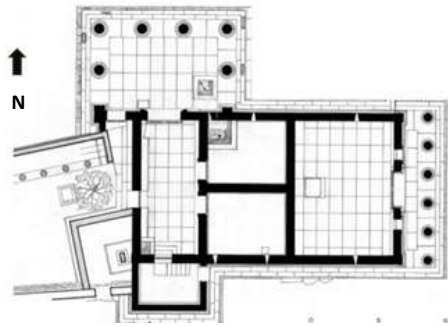


Trail area: **The Erechtheion**



Passing through the entrance of the Propylaia, you have a general view of the Acropolis site. Farther to the left, you can see a temple of the Ionic order, the Erechtheion (421-409 BC). It was a temple dedicated to two gods, to Athena Polias, the protector of the city, and to Poseidon. Those were the two gods that had quarreled over who would be the protector of the city of Athens.

**Look carefully at the monument and answer the questions!**

Take a walk around the Erechtheion and note that each side of the temple is different in design from the others.

1) The **east** side, the main façade, led to the east part of the temple that was dedicated to the goddess Athena. A wooden statue of Athena was kept there, called a “xoanon”.

- All the celebrations that took place during the festival of the Panathenaia concluded in front of this statue. The Panathenaia celebrations honoured the goddess’s birthday and all the Athenians would offer their gifts to her.



Which was the greatest gift that the Athenians offered to the “xoanon”, the heaven-sent statue of the goddess? \_\_\_\_\_

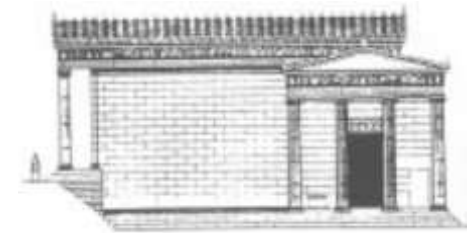
Correct answer: The “peplos”, the new dress for the goddess

2) On the **north** side of the temple, there is a magnificent porch that projects from the building. This was the entrance to the west part of the temple, where the god Poseidon and the legendary king of Athens Erechtheus as well were worshipped. This king gave his name to the temple!

- Note and check!

the doorway of the porch  
the decorative reliefs of the doorway  
the ceiling with the square marble coffers



3) The **west** façade of the temple has two storeys. Here, you can also see the gift that the goddess Athena offered to the city.

- What is this gift?

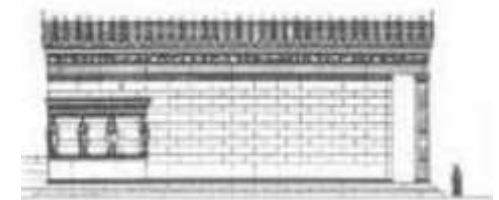
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Correct answer: An olive tree

4) On the **south** side you can see six statues of women. These are cast copies of the original Caryatids that were made to support the roof of the south porch, instead of columns.

- Try to find some similarities and differences between these statues.



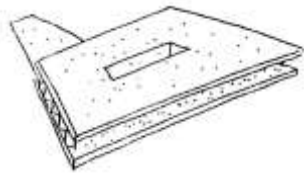
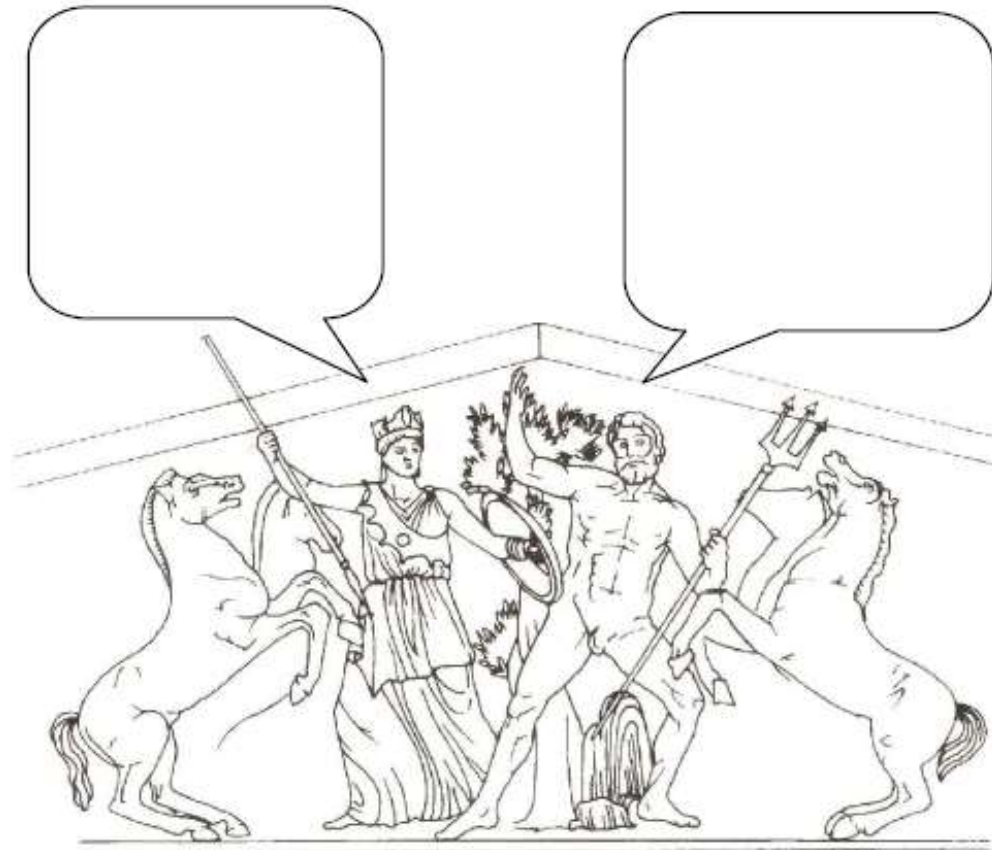
**Did you know that...**

the Caryatids protected the grave of the mythical king of Athens Kekrops which according to the myth lay underneath the south porch of the temple?

**Make your own creation!**

Recall the myth about the competition of the two gods over the protection of the city.

Note the drawing of the Parthenon pediment representing this myth and imagine what the dialogues between the two gods would be during the battle.



Don't forget to search for the original sculptures of the Erechtheion in the Acropolis Museum!