

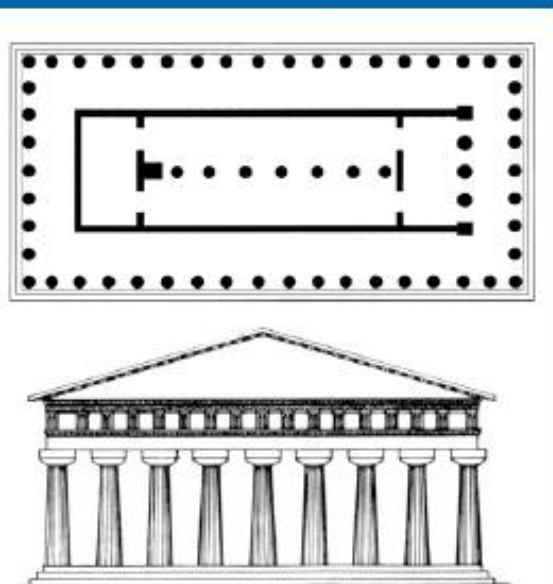


TEMPLES OF PAESTUM

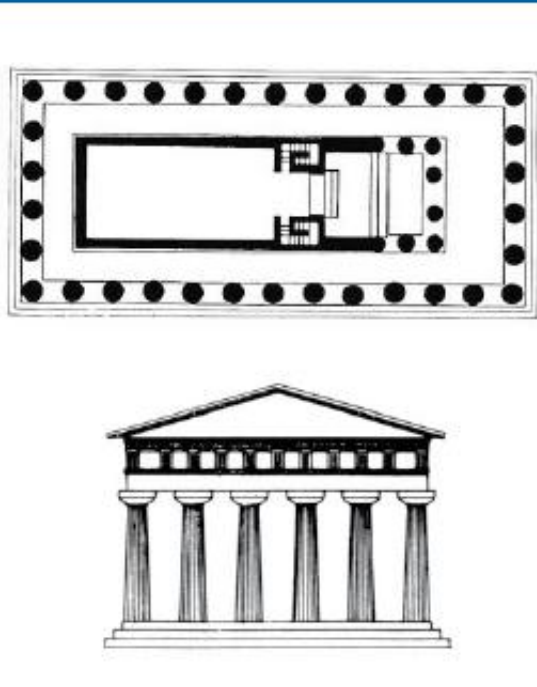
It is one of the most ancient sites of **Magna Graecia**, anciently called **Poseidonia** and located on the Salerno coast. Three temples can be observed: the oldest of them, perhaps dedicated to Hera, is known as the "**Basilica**" (mid-6th century BC); the second, smaller and further away from the other two, is the **Temple of Athena** (510 BC); and the last, the most recent, is the **Temple of Neptune** (460 BC).



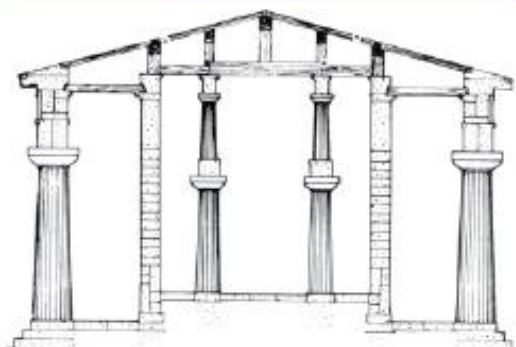
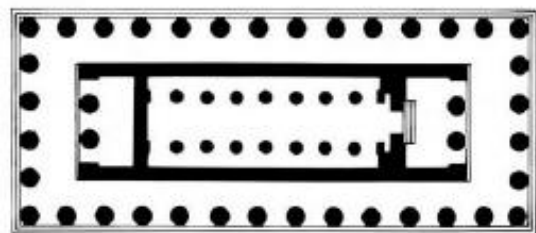
"The **Basilica** owes its name to the eighteenth-century belief that it was a Roman basilica, a covered meeting place and the seat of a court. It shows particularly archaic characteristics: the **strong tapering of the columns**, the significant **expansion of the entasis**, the **squat proportions** of the columns, the evident **flattening of the echinus**, and the large abacus. It is an **ennastyle peripteros** (9 x 18 columns), perhaps dedicated to Hera. The numerous columns on the front (in a curious odd number) do not give this temple the typical length extension characteristic of archaic temples."



"In the northernmost area stand the ruins of the **Temple of Athena**, later dedicated to **Ceres**. It is a **hexastyle peripteral** temple with 6 x 13 columns (thus following the rule that would later become classical). The **pronaos** is delimited by **6 columns**, while the **opisthodomos** is missing. Although the proportions of the columns are similar to those of the Basilica, the **capital** appears less flattened."



Slightly further North of the Basilica stands, instead, the **Temple of Neptune**, one of the most imposing of the period, which has reached us almost **complete** with the entire entablature and the two pediments. It is a **hexastyle peripteral Doric** temple with **6 x 14 columns** and a cella divided into **three aisles** by two rows of smaller columns arranged on **two levels**. Despite the late period, the columns are still very **massive**, so much so that to make them appear slender, instead of the usual 20 **flutings**, as many as 24 were created. However, the style is already mature, and the **optical corrections** typical of classical temples are present, along with a rather slender echinus





Curiosity

The rocks of Santa Maria of Castellabate

It is said that the cylindrical blocks for the columns were quarried from the now submerged sandstone rocks along the coast of Santa Maria of Castellabate.



TERMS RELATED TO PAESTUM'S TEMPLES

- **Trabeazione:** Entablature
- **Frontoni:** Pediments
- **Dorico periptero esastilo:** Hexastyle peripteral Doric (6 columns across the front, surrounded by a colonnade)
- **Cella:** Cella (the inner chamber)
- **Navate:** Aisles/Naves
- **Scanalature:** Flutings (the vertical grooves on the columns)
- **Correzioni ottiche:** Optical corrections (adjustments like *entasis* to make the building look perfect to the human eye)
- **Echino:** Echinus (the rounded part of the column capital)
- **Triglifi e metope:** Triglyph & Metope Distinctive elements of the Doric frieze. Triglyphs are vertical blocks with three vertical grooves, alternating with metopes, which are square panels often carved with scenes.

Basic Questions (General Knowledge)

- Where is the archaeological site of Paestum located?
- How many main Greek temples are still standing in Paestum?
- What are the names of the three main temples?
- Which ancient civilization built these temples?
- Which architectural style is used for all three temples?
- What is a "hexastyle peripteral" temple?