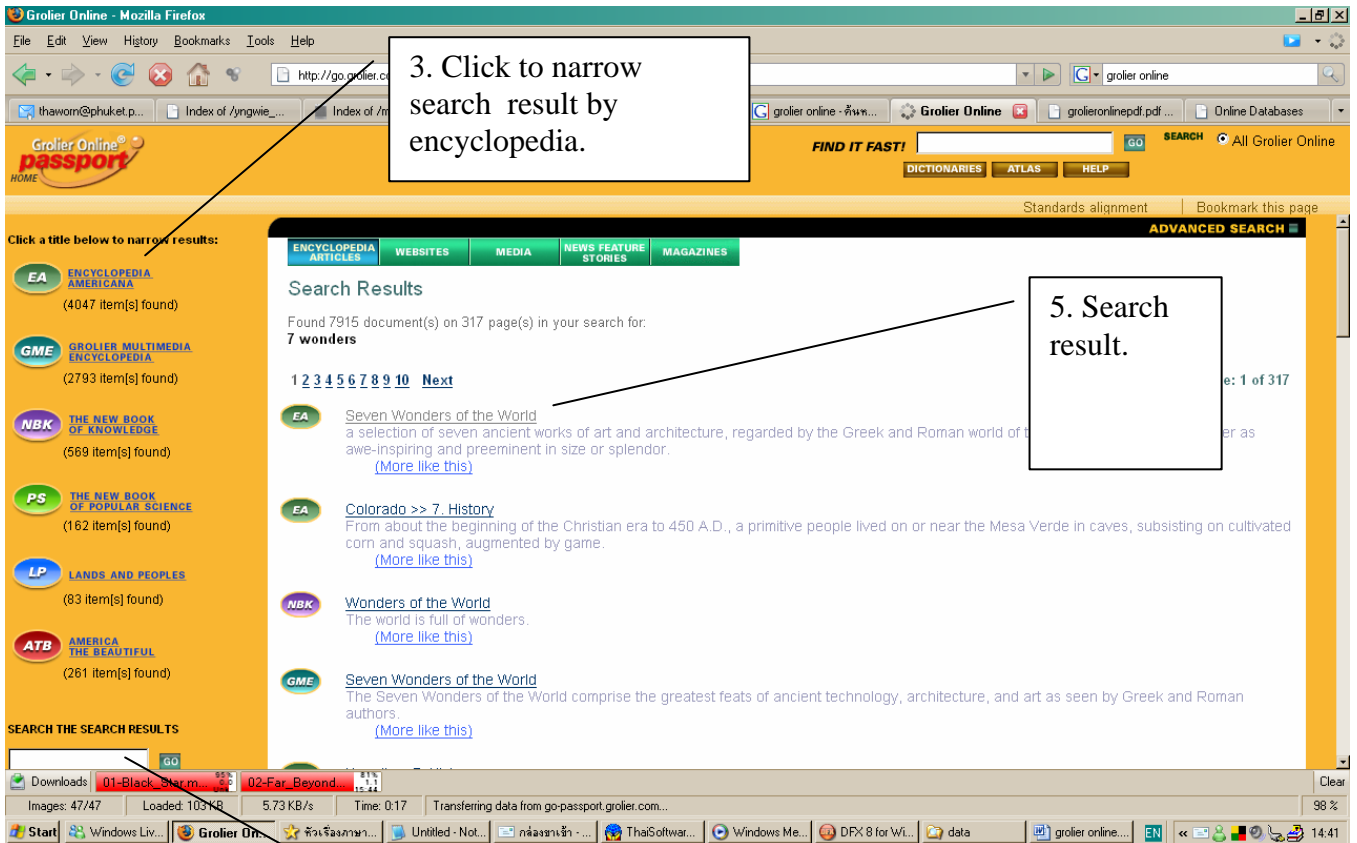
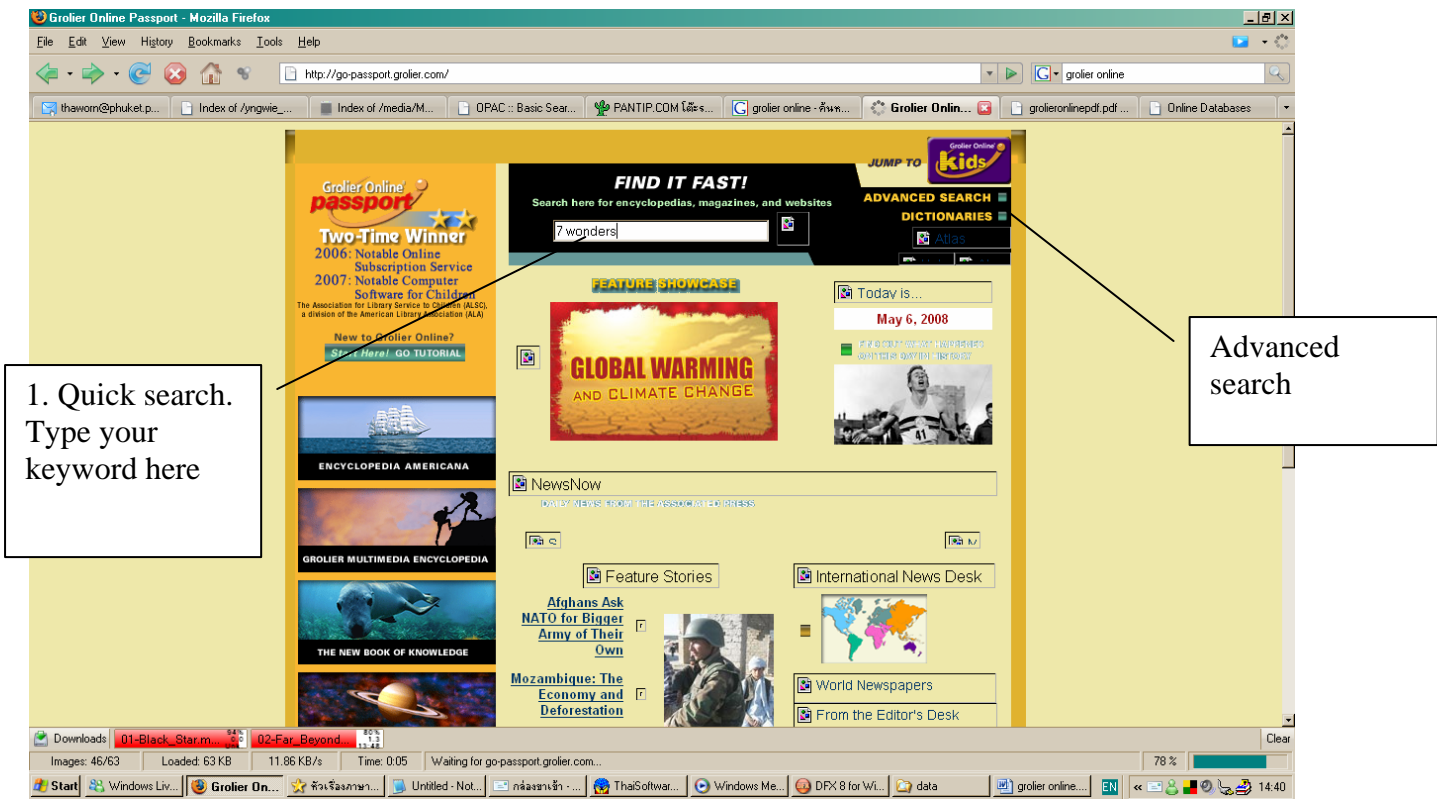


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6. Text

Seven Wonders of the World

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Seven Wonders of the World, a selection of seven ancient works of art and architecture, regarded by the Greek and Roman world of the Alexandrian epoch and later as awe-inspiring and preeminent in size or splendor. According to the most popular tradition they are (1) the pyramids of Egypt; (2) the hanging gardens of Semiramis and the walls of Babylon; (3) the statue of the Olympian Zeus by Phidias, at Olympia; (4) the Colossus of Rhodes; (5) the temple of Artemis at Ephesus; (6) the Mausoleum at Halicarnassus; and (7) the Lighthouse at Alexandria. Only the pyramids have survived.

Egyptian Pyramids. About 80 pyramids built in ancient Egypt survive. Most are situated on the Nile's west bank near Cairo, and were erected in the period 2650–1800 B.C. by Egyptian monarchs to serve as their tombs. The earliest example, a step pyramid with six tiers, is that of King Djoser at Saqqara.

The largest pyramids are those at Giza, built for pharaohs of the Old Kingdom: Khufu (Cheops), Khafre (Chephren), and Menkaure (Mycerinus). The first of these, called the Great Pyramid because it is the largest, measures about 755 feet (230 meters) at the base on each of its four sides and covers nearly 13 acres (5.2 hectares). It originally reached a height of 481 feet (147 meters). It is now believed that 100,000 workers, employed only during the Nile flood season, could have built the Great Pyramid in 20 years.

Hanging Gardens of Babylon. Both the city walls and the hanging gardens that Greek travelers found so impressive were of the "new" city erected subsequent to Sennacherb's destruction of Babylon in 689 B.C. The Chaldean kings, Nabopolassar (reigned 626–605) and his son Nebuchadnezzar II (reigned 605–562) were builders of the mighty walls described by Herodotus and Ctesias in the 5th century B.C.

Herodotus ignores the hanging gardens, but other writers describe them as a series of terraces rising along the Euphrates bank and connected by marble stairways. Planted

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Lighthouse at Alexandria. Erected about 270 B.C., in the reign of Ptolemy II Philadelphus, on an islet off the harbor of Alexandria, the prototype of all the similar structures built on the coasts of the Roman Empire.

[Top of Page](#)

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