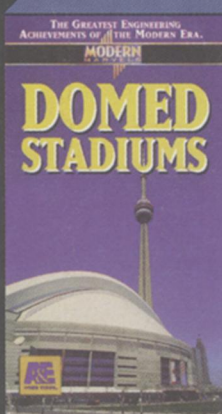


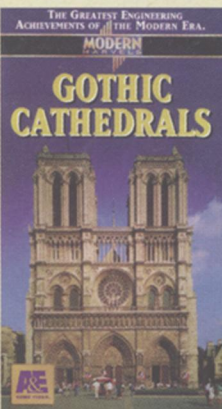
# Modern Marvels Videos



Houston's groundbreaking Astro-dome was the "eighth wonder of the world." But its problems rivaled its massive size. While New Orleans' Superdome and Seattle's Kingdome were improvements, one key problem remained: fans enjoyed watching the games outdoors. With ingenuity and technology, engineers attempted to create the best of both worlds with the Toronto Skydome. More than just a stadium, the Skydome incorporates a hotel and other features into a state-of-the-art entertainment complex, highlighted by its astonishing push-button retractable roof. Here is the fascinating history of these stupendous structures, the ingenuity and hardships behind their creation, and the awe they inspire.

Reaching heavenward, made of stone and glass, persistence and prayer, the Gothic cathedral stands as a rich and complex design.

From their immense buttresses to the intricacies of stained glass, from the legendary Notre Dame and Chartres in France to Washington's National Cathedral, the engineering behind these great testaments to faith has not changed dramatically in 900 years. In 1891, Charles Glover Gathers, a prominent Washington banker, promoted the idea of a national cathedral as a moral center. Thus rose a cathedral surpassing even Notre Dame and Chartres in size, as 12th and 20th century methods were combined to raise 300 million pounds of limestone. Now, in the seat of one of the greatest powers on earth stands humankind's ultimate tribute to a power far greater than itself.



The *Titanic*. The *Andrea Doria*. The *Morro Capo*. With disaster came new technology and safety precautions as nations vied to build the fastest, largest, most luxurious ships ever to ride the waves. The *Queen Mary* and *Queen Elizabeth* were ships of such enormous size and power they were pivotal in a world at war, outperforming any military ship that escorted—or targeted—them in dangerous waters. Take an unforgettable historical tour of the greatest ocean liners ever built. Witness how these mammoth ships have been adapted to serve a modern world, and remain among the most incredible feats of engineering ever conceived.



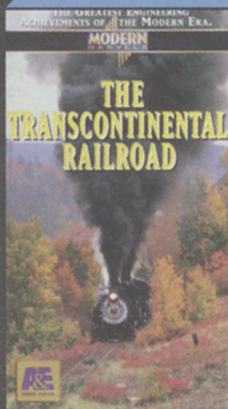
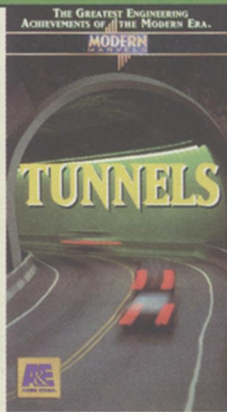
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Here are the stories of the world's great tunnels. From Brunel and Greathead's ingenious shield, which allowed them to burrow under the Thames, to Clifford Holland, who overcame nature with technology to excavate his 8,463-foot-long path below the Hudson, few of the great architects lived to see their dreams completed. Finally, witness the construction of New York's new water tunnel, inching forward even as the death toll climbs.



On a somber day in Gettysburg, Abraham Lincoln ended his famous address with a promise that the war-torn nation would be reborn. The greatest symbol of that rebirth had already begun—the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad.

Its construction was an engineering marvel and a technological nightmare. The Union Pacific built westward from Omaha, and the Central Pacific eastward from Sacramento, hoping they would someday meet. The work crept inch by grueling inch across the forbidding continent—and the treacherous Sierras. Here is the epic tale of the struggle to forge an iron link across the untamed West. After a decade of work, on May 10, 1869 at Promontory, Utah, as the last symbolic spike linking the two railways was driven, a nation was united and forever transformed.

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