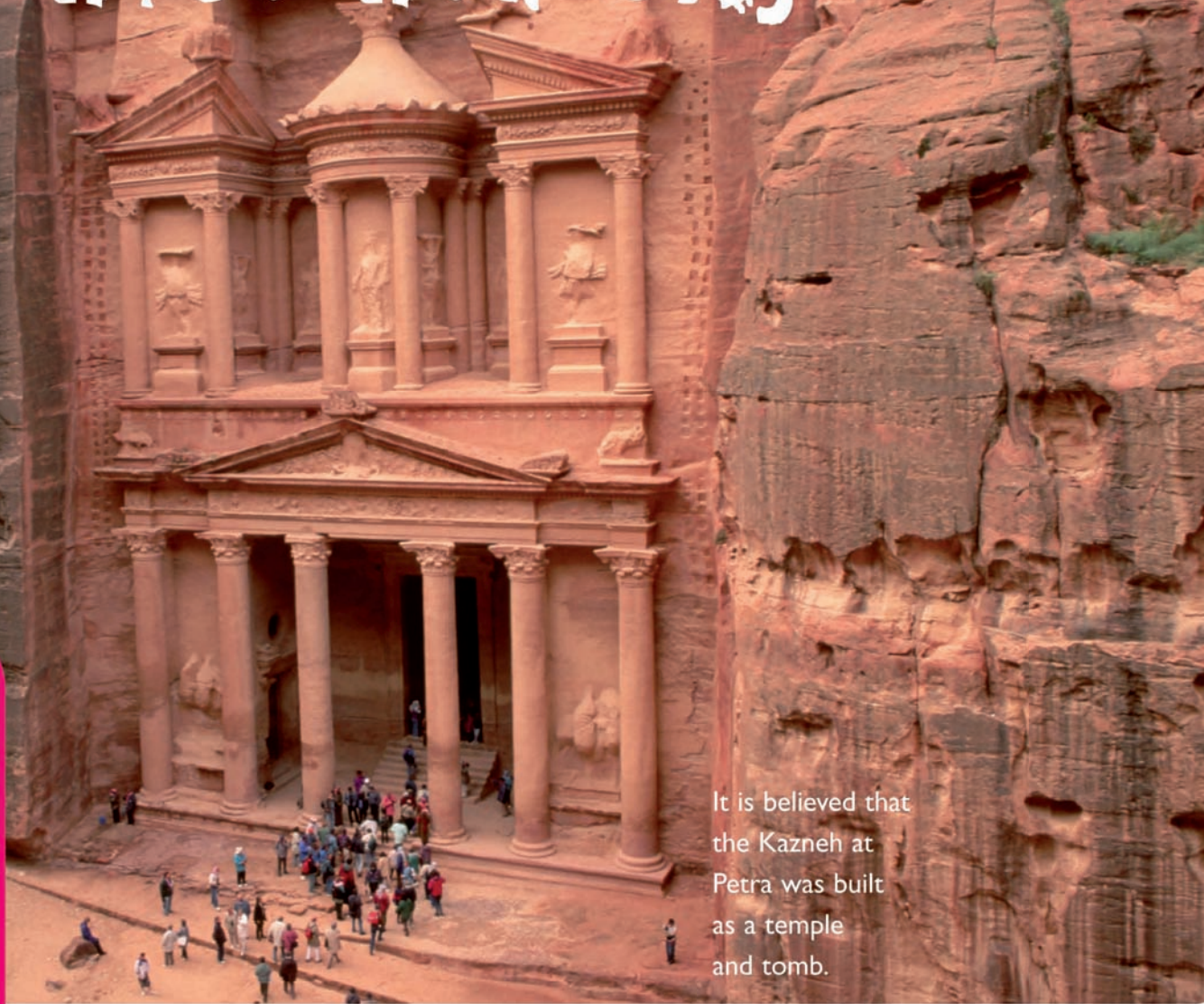


Rose-Red City



It is believed that the Kazneh at Petra was built as a temple and tomb.

Petra, Jordan: 400BC

It sounds like an adventure film, but it was real life. In 1812, a young Swiss man was travelling in Jordan. Johann Ludwig Burckhardt heard talk of a mysterious, lost city. He set out to find it. When his guides led him out of a long, steep **gorge**, he saw an astonishing sight.

An entire city of temples, tombs and caves was carved into the cliffs. The local people had kept this wonder a secret for more than 600 years. The name of the city was Petra, which means “rock” in Greek.

Petra had been a successful trading centre from about 400BC to AD200. By AD700, it had lost its importance. By AD1200, it had been deserted. When Burckhardt came upon Petra, it was partly buried under sand and rocks. An early visitor called Petra the “rose-red city”. This was because the sandstone looked so red in the sun.



The word *petrified* also comes from the Greek language. It means “turned to stone”. It also refers to someone who is really, really scared.

Painting of the monastery at Petra, 1839

