The Glory That Was Greece

The Early Greeks
- Hellenes – Indo-European nomads – Dorian, Aeolian, and Ionian tribes
- Circa 1400-1000 B.C.E. – migration from Black Sea and Danube regions → modern-day Greece and Turkey
- Conquered Cretans and other natives
- Circa 1000 B.C.E. – controlled Greece, some of Asia Minor, and Aegean islands

The Age of Homer
- Circa 1000 B.C.E.-circa 750 B.C.E.
- Greece’s “Dark Ages” – little information known
- Iliad and Odyssey
- Troy discovered by Heinrich Schliemann
- People – farmers, traders, and warriors
- Crops and livestock – cattle, grapes, olives, sheep, wheat
The Age of Homer

Homer

Schliemann

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The Geography of Greece

- Mountains
  - Hindered communication and unification
  - Caused growth of independent city-states
- Seas and seaports
  - Peninsula with irregular coastline
  - Seaports encouraged development of trade
- Poor farmland
  - Few crops could be grown
  - Forced to trade
  - Became leading traders of Aegean and eastern Mediterranean

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Greece’s Colonies

- Circa 800-600 B.C.E.
- Colonized areas around the Mediterranean – Italy’s west coast (Naples), Sicily (Syracuse), southern France (Marseilles), Egypt, Byzantium (Constantinople/Istanbul)
- Spread Greek culture, language, religion
Forces Uniting the Greeks

Ancestry
- Believed in a common ancestor – Hellen

Language
- Spoke different Greek dialects but could understand one another
- Used Phoenician alphabet and added vowels

Literature
- Homer’s Iliad and Odyssey
- Mythological tales

Religion

Olympic Games
Forces Uniting the Greeks

Religion

- Greek pantheon of gods and goddesses living on Mount Olympus
- Zeus, Athena, Hades, etc.

Olympic Games

- Every four years
- This four-year period was called the Olympiad
- Began in 776 BCE
- Physical games – boxing, broad jumps, chariot racing, dashes, discus throwing, distance running, javelin throwing
- Intellectual games – art, drama, music, poetry

Greek Language and Alphabet

Greek Religion
Olympic Games

Forces Disuniting the Greeks

First Loyalty Was to City-State
• Often fought one another
• This disunity eventually allowed the Macedonians to conquer Greece

Geography
• Mountains divided city-states and hindered communication

Different Types of Government
• Athens – democracy
• Sparta – authoritarian and militaristic nature
• Also aristocracies, oligarchies, and tyrannies

Sparta
• Spartans conquered Peloponnesians
– Peloponnesians became slaves, or helots
• Helots outnumbered Spartans 20 to 1
• Spartans feared that helots would revolt
• Spartans became heavily militaristic in response
The Life of a Spartan

Birth
• Newborns brought to ephors (leaders) for examination
• Sickly babies left to die of exposure
• Healthy babies
• Boys lived with their parents until age seven
• Girls stayed with their parents until marriage, and learning weaving, cooking, cleaning

Age 7
• Boys sent to military school for strict physical training
• Weapons and endurance training
• Physical discipline and respect for superiors (use brief speech)

Age 20
• Young men became soldiers
• Allowed to get married
• But lived in the barracks until age 30

Age 30
• These soldiers became citizens
• Could vote and could live in their own homes
• Remained in the military until age 60

Review Questions
1. The early Greeks came from where?
2. What archaeologist discovered the remains of Troy?
3. Describe the geography of mainland Greece.
4. What forces united the Greeks?
5. Explain the evolution of the Greek alphabet.
6. Compare the life of a Spartan male with the life of an American male today.

Athens and Athenian Democracy
• Democracy
  – Demos (“people”) +
  – Archein (“to rule”)
• Democracy developed through various reforms over 200 years (circa 620 B.C.E.-420 B.C.E.)
  – Draco
  – Solon
  – Clisthenes
  – Pericles
**Draco**

- Athenian noble
- 621 B.C.E. – credited with putting down first written laws of Athens
  - Severe (modern English term draconian meaning "severe" or "harsh")
  - Written "in blood, not ink"
  - Written laws meant that judges could not show favoritism or make up laws

**Solon**

- 594 B.C.E. – rewrote Draco’s laws
- Helped the poor
  - All citizens could participate in the legislature
  - Ended debt enslavement
  - Canceled land mortgages
  - Limited amount of land a person could own

**Clisthenes**

- 508 B.C.E.
- Enlarged Athenian Assembly and increased its powers
  - Created Council of 500 to represent the different classes
  - Created and administered laws after they were approved by Assembly
- Officials were elected
- Executive power
  - Ten generals called strategoi (singular strategus)
  - Elected for one year
- Citizenship granted to some freedmen (former slaves) and to some immigrants
- Ostracism
  - Names written on ostraka (pieces of broken pottery) once a year
  - Most votes = ten years of exile
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Pericles

• "Golden Age of Pericles" – 461-429 B.C.E.
• Repeatedly elected as a strategus
• All citizens could hold public office
• People were paid for government service
• "Golden Age of Pericles" also saw developments in art and architecture

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Athenian Democracy: Its Flaws

• Athens' adult population: Circa 300,000
  – 150,000 foreigners and slaves (not citizens)
  – 100,000 women and others
  – 50,000 male citizens with voting rights
• Direct democracy – the citizen had to be there to vote (typically 5,000-6,000 voted at a time)
• Women had few rights and opportunities
• Slavery played a major role in the economy
• Orators often used forceful and coercive language, rather than logic, to sway voters

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Persian Wars: 500-479 B.C.E.

• Greeks lived in Asia Minor since at least 1000 B.C.E.
• Persian empire expanded in the 5th century B.C.E. to include Asia Minor
• 500 B.C.E. – Greeks in Miletus led a revolt
• Athens and other city-states came to aid of Miletus
• Persians won and King Darius swore revenge against Athens for interfering
First Persian War (490 B.C.E.)

- King Darius sent fleet to attack Athens
  - Set anchor 26 miles northeast of Marathon
- Battle of Marathon
  - Spartans could not help because of a religious festival
  - Athenians were outnumbered but still defeated the Persians

Second Persian War (480 B.C.E.)

- Xerxes (son of Darius) led army of 500,000 while Persian fleet sent along Greek coast
  - Xerxes attacked by land from the north
  - 300 Spartans led by Leonidas
    - Attempted to block Pass of Thermopylae
    - Traitor betrayed them and showed Persians another route
    - All 300 Spartans killed after inflicting heavy casualties
- Athens destroyed
  - But Athenians had spent 10 years building up their navy
  - Athenians defeated Persian fleet in the Strait of Salamis
Battle of Thermopylae (480 B.C.E.)

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Second Persian War

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Significance of the Persian Wars

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- Persian empire declined
- Greek civilization and culture flourished
- Wealth from increased trade
- Started the Greek onslaught against the Persian empire
  - Completed by Alexander the Great of Macedonia in 331 B.C.E.
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**Athens Leads Greece**

- Great leadership
  - Aristides and the Delian League (a.k.a. Confederacy of Delos) to protect against possible future Persian invasions
    - Alliance became the basis for the Athenian empire
    - Members paid protection money to Athens
  - Cimon – expelled Persians from Black Sea shore
  - Pericles and his “Golden Age”
- Increased trade brought wealth

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**Athens**

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**Athenian-Spartan Rivalry**

- Spartans created Peloponnesian League to rival Delian League
- Sparta
  - Peloponnesian League dominated land
    - Oligarchic rule
- Athens
  - Delian League dominated sea
  - Democratic rule
- Corinth
  - Joined Peloponnesian League
  - Threatened Athenian sea supremacy
- 461 B.C.E. – war between Athens and Sparta
  - 445 B.C.E. – signed a truce
Peloponnesian Wars

- 431 B.C.E. – war began again
- Circa 430 B.C.E. – plague struck Athens
  - 1/3 of population died, including Pericles
- Athens attacked Syracuse (ally of Sparta), located in southern Italy, at sea
  - Athens lost
- Battle of Aegospotami (404 B.C.E.)
  - Spartans allied with Persians and defeated Athenians
  - Spartans conquered Athens and destroyed its defensive walls

Sparta Leads Greece

- 404-371 B.C.E.
- Sparta’s support of oligarchic rule upset the lower classes in other Greek city-states
- Battle of Leuctra (371 B.C.E.)
  - Thebes was first to revolt
  - General Epaminondas led Thebans to defeat Spartans
- Battle of Mantinea (362 B.C.E.)
  - Thebes defeated by Sparta and Athens
- Battle of Chaeronea (338 B.C.E.)
  - Philip II of Macedon defeated Athenians and Thebans
- League of Corinth (337 B.C.E.)
  - Philip II of Macedon had Greek city-states pledge to stop warring one another.

Review Questions

1. What ancient Greek city-state first developed democracy?
2. How did Draco, Solon, Clisthenes, and Pericles advance democracy?
3. What features of Athenian society were undemocratic?
4. Describe the Greek wars with the Persians.
5. What were the causes and outcomes of the Peloponnesian wars?
6. Who got the Greek city-states to pledge to stop warring one another with the League of Corinth?
Hellenic Culture

• “Hellenic” refers to Greek culture among those who considered themselves to be Greek during the centuries before Alexander the Great

• Much of what is considered typically “Greek” and which greatly influenced the course of Western civilization was created and developed during this time

Greek Architecture and Art

• Architecture of the Acropolis
  – Parthenon designed by Ictinus
  – Gold and ivory statue of Athena designed by Phidias
  – Optical illusions and engineering used to avoid building appearing curved from a distance

• Sculpture
  – Lifelike and proportionate
  – Attention to detail
  – Emphasis on the beauty of the human form

The Acropolis in Athens

Hermes and Dionysos by Praxiteles
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Leaders in Greek Science

- Thales
- Pythagoras
- Democritus
- Hippocrates

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Thales

- Lived circa 624 B.C.E.–circa 546 B.C.E.
- Called the “father of natural science”
- Believed the basic substance in the world is water, which changes its form (ice, liquid, steam) but not its composition

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Pythagoras

- Lived circa 580 B.C.E.–circa 490 B.C.E.
- Called the “father of numbers” – mathematician who believed everything could be numbered
- Pythagorean Theorem: “The square of the hypotenuse of a right angle is equal to the sum of the squares on the other two sides.”
Democritus
• Lived circa 460 B.C.E.-circa 370 B.C.E.
• Everything made of atoms so small they cannot be divided

Hippocrates
• Lived circa 460 B.C.E.-370 B.C.E.
• Called the “father of medicine”
• Believed that diseases have natural rather than supernatural causes
• Hippocratic Oath – still taken by medical personnel today

Greek Drama
• Purpose
  – Educative – taught history and morality
• Presentation
  – Open-air amphitheaters
  – Little scenery
  – Originally sung by a chorus, but later chorus members developed into actors
• Themes
  – Gods, divine laws, and fate dominate human destiny
### Greek Dramatists

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Greek Dramatist</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Notable Works</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Aeschylus</strong></td>
<td>525-456 B.C.E.</td>
<td>• Prometheus Bound • Agamemnon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sophocles</strong></td>
<td>496-406 B.C.E.</td>
<td>• Oedipus Rex • Antigone • Medea • The Acharnians</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Euripides</strong></td>
<td>480-406 B.C.E.</td>
<td>• Medea • The Bacchae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Aristophanes</strong></td>
<td>448-380 B.C.E.</td>
<td>• The Frogs • The Clouds</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### Greek Philosophy

**Early Sophists**
- Socrates (469-399 B.C.E.)
  - There is absolute truth – "Know yourself" – Socratic dialogue
  - Criticized gods, government, and conventional morality
  - There is no absolute truth

**Socrates**
- Measured everything by its usefulness
- Criticized gods, government, and conventional morality
- “Men of wisdom”

**Plato**
- Dialogues written, record of Socrates’ dialogues
- The Republic – ideal state administered by philosophers
- Founded the Academy which lasted 800 years

**Aristotle**
- Macedonian student of Plato
- Tutor to Alexander the Great
- Opened the Lyceum in Athens
- Created the basis for scientific inquiry
The Greeks and History

Knowledge of the past had consisted of myths and legends. The first true historians attempted to base their writings on facts.

**Herodotus** (484-425 B.C.E.)
- Called the "father of history"
- The Inquiries or The Histories
- Traveled to learn and write about the Persian Wars
- Much information about foreign customs, etc.
- Gave the gods a role in historical events

**Thucydides** (471-400 B.C.E.)
- Called the "first scientific historian"
- History of the Peloponnesian Wars
- Discussed cause and effect
- Gave the people involved the main role in historical events

Greek Literature

- Hesiod (late 8th century B.C.E.)
  - Theogony – poem about Greek gods
  - Work and Days – poem about the life of a farmer

- Sappho (ca. 620 B.C.E. - ca. 570 B.C.E.)
  - Lyric poetry (sung accompanied by a lyre)
  - Hymn to Aphrodite

- Pindar (522-443 B.C.E.)
  - Paeans
  - Greeks considered him their greatest lyric poet
Greek Oratory

- Art of oratory introduced by the Sophists
- Demosthenes (384-322 B.C.E.)
  - Warned Greeks about Philip of Macedonia’s plans
  - English word philippic means “tirade against someone”

Greek Education

- “A perfect mind in a perfect body”
- Education largely informal
- Formal education
  - Not for girls (learned domestic arts at home)
  - Boys sent to private schools at age seven
  - Slave pedagogue – watched over him and taught him how to behave
  - Grammar, reading, writing, math, music, oratory
  - Age 12 – began gymnastics
- Only for upper classes
- Development of citizens who could participate in government and public affairs
Review Questions

1. What does the term Hellenic mean?
2. Describe Greek architecture and art.
3. What did Pythagoras and Hippocrates contribute to the sciences?
4. What questions and criticisms were raised by ancient Greek philosophers?
5. In what ways were Herodotus and Thucydides true historians?