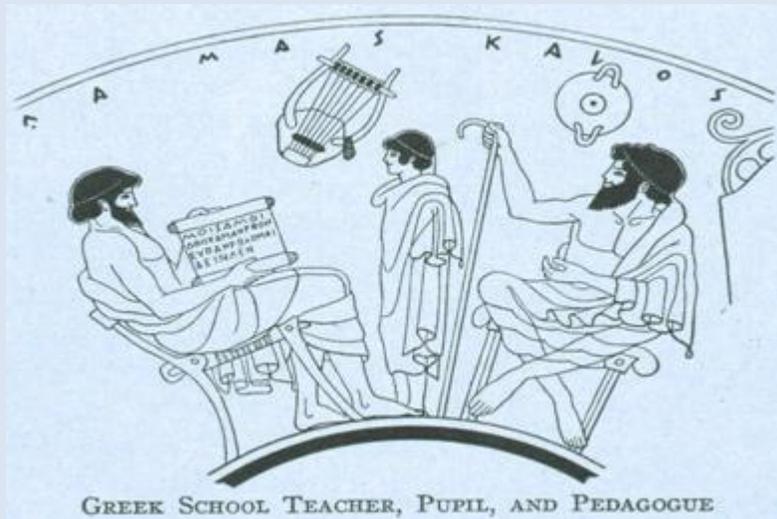


The Glory That Was Greece



World History Workbook Series

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The Glory That Was Greece

Who were the early Greeks?

The Hellenes were Indo-European nomads of the Aeolian, Dorian, and Ionian tribes.

Wait! What's an Indo-European?

Indo-European refers to a group of languages, including English. *Indo* refers to India, where the Indo-European language Sanskrit exists. *European* refers to the continent of Europe, where the Indo-European language English is spoken. The phrase *Indo-European nomads* refers to nomadic (wandering) groups who lived in the area ranging from western Europe to India. In this instance, the Aeolians, Dorians, and Ionians were living (most likely, because the evidence is incomplete) in parts of Europe north of modern Greece.

Back to the early Greeks...

Sometime between 1400 and 1000 B.C.E., these tribes migrated from regions around the Danube River and Black Sea to what are now Greece and Turkey. They conquered the Cretes (also known as the Minoans) and other people living in the area. By circa 1000 B.C.E., they controlled modern Greece, parts of Asia Minor (modern Turkey) and the Aegean islands.

What was the age of Homer?

The age of Homer, also called the Homeric age, lasted from around 1000 B.C.E. until 750 B.C.E. This period of time has also been called ancient Greece's Dark Ages because so little is known about it.

The little that we do know about this period of time comes from two epic poems, the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*. According to tradition, these stories were composed by a blind poet named Homer. The *Iliad* tells the story of the Trojan War. The *Odyssey* tells the story of Odysseus' return home following the Trojan War. (Odysseus is known as Ulysses in the Roman telling of the stories.)

For a long time, people thought that Homer's stories of the Trojan War were myths. It was not until about a hundred years ago that an adventurous archaeologist named Heinrich Schliemann proved that Troy existed. Excavating (digging) in what is now Turkey, Schliemann found the ruins of ancient Troy.

The people of Homeric Greece worked as farmers, traders, and warriors. They grew crops and raised livestock, including cattle, grapes, olives, sheep, and wheat.

What is Greece's geography like?

Modern Greece is located on a peninsula. A peninsula is an area of land that "sticks out" from a larger area of land and is surrounded by water on three sides. (Imagine your body as a large area of land, and your arm or leg as a peninsula.) This peninsula is called the Peloponnesus.

The Peloponnesus is covered by mountains and mountainous terrain. These mountains hindered communication and unification in ancient times. The lack of communication and unification meant that Greece developed as independent city-states. Each of these city-states is also known as a *polis* (and explains the root of a

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word such as *metropolis*).

The Peloponnesus has an irregular coastline with many seaports. These seaports encouraged the development of trade in ancient times. Even today, Greek fisherman and sea merchants form a large part of the Greek economy.

Because of the rocky, mountainous terrain of the Peloponnesus, Greece has poor farmland. Few crops can be grown. The inability of the Greeks to grow enough crops was another factor in Greece turning to trade. In its heyday, Greeks were the leading traders of the Aegean Sea and of the eastern Mediterranean Sea.

Greece's Colonies

The Greeks founded a number of colonies between 800 and 600 B.C.E. They colonized in the areas where they traded, throughout the Mediterranean. Many of these ancient Greek colonies still exist. On Italy's west coast, Greek traders founded Naples. On the Italian island of Sicily, the Greeks founded Syracuse. In southern France, Greeks founded the port city of Marseillaise. In modern-day Turkey, ancient Greeks founded Istanbul (previously known as Constantinople).

By founding so many colonies, the Greeks spread their culture, language, and religion throughout the Mediterranean region. This spread of Greek culture through trade and colonization would increase until the rise of the Romans, who copied much of Greece's art and culture, thereby spreading it even further.

If the Greeks were separated by geography into city-states, why do we talk

about ancient Greece as a single thing?

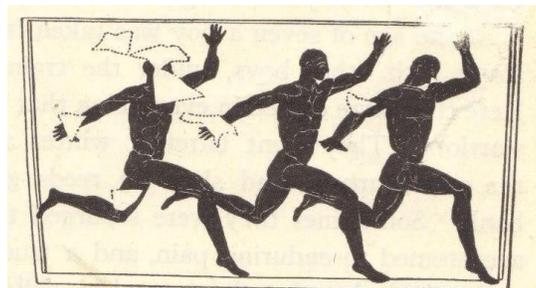
Many factors united the Greeks. These factors included their belief in a common ancestor, the Greek language, literature, religion, and the Olympic games.

The Greeks believed that they descended from a common ancestor, Hellen. The Greeks called themselves Hellenes. Even today, the Greek name for Greece is Hellas.

There are many dialects of the Greek language, but these separate dialects do not keep Greeks from understanding one another. When creating a written language for themselves, the ancient Greeks used the Phoenician alphabet and simply added vowels.

Greek literature also operated as a uniting force. All ancient Greeks were familiar with the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*. Additionally, the Greeks were united by their mythological tales and fables.

To the ancient Greeks, however, stories of gods and goddesses like Zeus, Aphrodite, Dionysus, and Athena were not mythological tales--they were religious stories full of sacred meaning. This common religion also united the ancient Greeks. The Greek pantheon of gods and goddesses was believed to live on Mount Olympus.

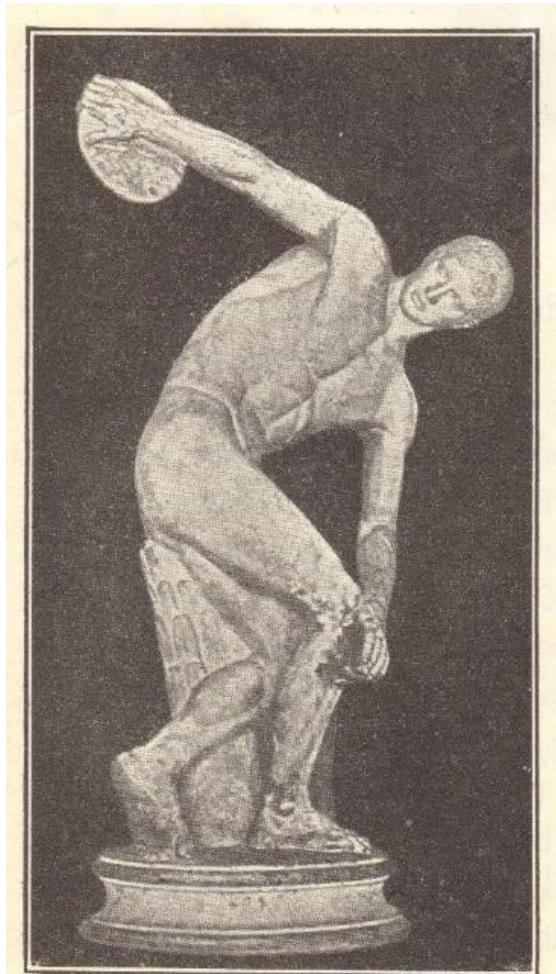


FOOT RACE

From a Grecian vase painting. The figures are painted in black on a red ground.

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In order to honor the gods and goddesses living on Mount Olympus, the ancient Greeks held an athletic contest every four years. (This four-year period was called the *Olympiad*.) The first Olympic games were held in 776 B.C.E. Physical games included boxing, broad jumps, chariot racing, dashes, discus throwing, distance running, and javelin throwing. Because the Greeks idolized the human form, athletes participated in the nude. Unlike the modern Olympics, in ancient times, the games also included intellectual competition in art, drama, music, and poetry.



“DISCOB’OLUS” OF MYRON

Marble copy of a famous bronze statue made by the Greek sculptor Myron. “Discobolus” means “discus thrower.”

So why didn't the ancient Greeks get together to form a single country?

Every Greek’s primary loyalty was to his or her city-state (polis). The various city-states were often at war with one another. It was because of this disunity that the Macedonians were eventually able to conquer Greece.

The mountainous terrain that caused each city-state to develop its own dialect also hindered communication.

Left on their own, the Greek city-states developed their own types of government. There were aristocracies, oligarchies, and tyrannies. Perhaps the most famous types of government belonged to Athens and Sparta. Athens was the birthplace of democracy. Sparta’s government was authoritarian and militaristic in nature.

The Greek Alphabet

The Greek alphabet was inherited from ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics, and in turn, our Latin alphabet (used to write English) was inherited from Greek.

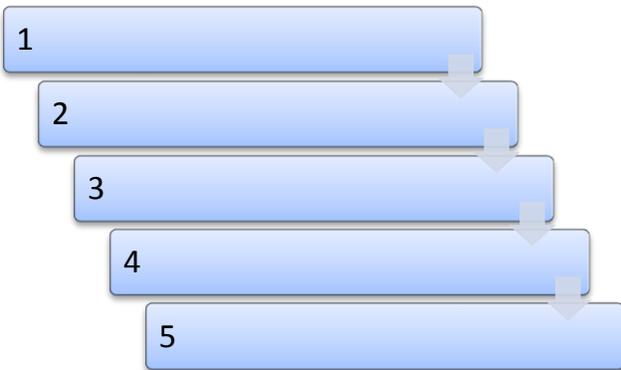
Egyptian hieroglyphics gave rise to Egyptian hieratic (a cursive script). Phoenician writing was based on Egyptian hieratic. The Greeks based their alphabet on the Phoenician alphabet, adding vowels. The Latin alphabet has its basis in the Greek alphabet.

	1	2	3	4	5
hawk		Α	Α	Α	Α
crane		Β	Β	Β	Β
throne		Γ	Γ	Γ	Γ
hand		Δ	Δ	Δ	Δ
meander		Ε	Ε	Ε	Ε

DEVELOPMENT OF THE ALPHABET

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Chart the evolution of the Latin (English) alphabet. The Latin alphabet should be fifth.



Ancient Sparta

Early in Sparta's history, the Spartans conquered the native Peloponnesians of their region of Greece. These Peloponnesians were enslaved. As slaves, these Peloponnesians were known as *helots*.

The helots of Sparta outnumbered the Spartans by twenty to one. The Spartans feared that the helots would revolt. In response, the Spartans became heavily militaristic.

The Life of a Spartan

At birth, each Spartan baby was brought before the ephors (elders) for a physical examination. If a baby was considered sickly, it was left outside to die of exposure. If the baby was considered healthy, it was returned to its parents. Boys lived with their parents until age seven. Girls stayed with their parents until marriage, and learned domestic arts—cleaning, cooking, and weaving.

At seven years old, boys were sent to military school for strict physical instruction. Boys practiced with weaponry and underwent endurance training. To

teach these boys survival skills, they were frequently beaten and underfed. They were also taught basic reading skills, and to be laconic (use brief speech).

Once a young man reached the age of twenty, he was allowed to become a soldier and to get married. However, he was required to live in the military barracks until the age of thirty.

At thirty years old, a Spartan man became a legal citizen of Sparta. He could then vote and live in his own home. Each Spartan soldier was required to remain enrolled in military service until the age of sixty.

Review Questions

1. The early Greeks came from where?

2. What archaeologist discovered the remains of Troy?

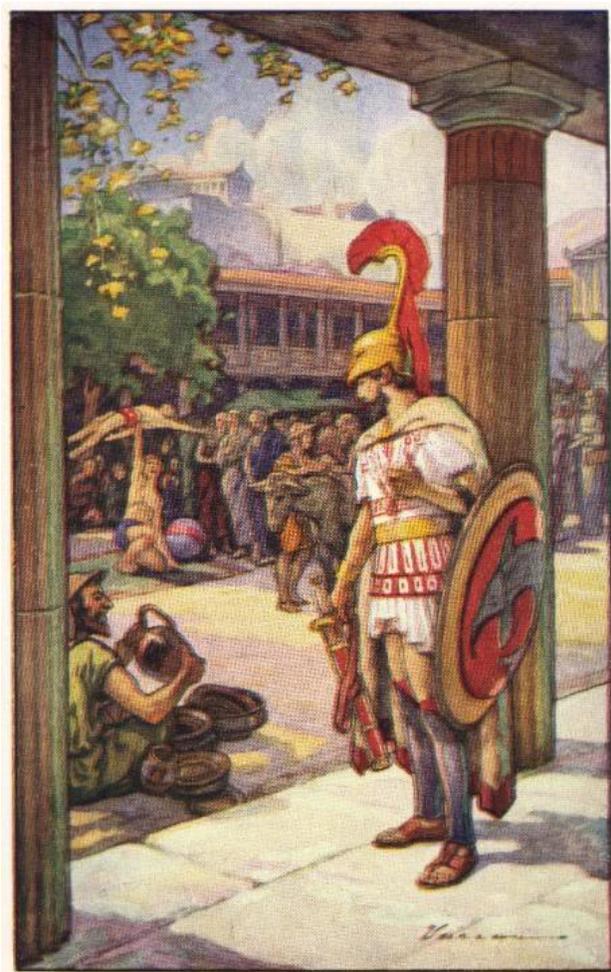
3. Describe the geography of mainland Greece.

4. What forces united the Greeks?

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number of voters by granting citizenship to some freedmen (former slaves) as well as to some immigrants.

Additionally, Clisthenes is credited with inventing the procedure known as *ostracism*. Once a year, voters were able to write an individual's name on an ostrakon (piece of broken potsherd). The individual with the most votes was forced into exile for ten years.



IN THE AGORA OR MARKET PLACE, ATHENS

The agora was the marketplace in ancient Athens. Question: Where are open-air markets seen today? _____

Pericles

The "Golden Age of Pericles" covered the years 461-429 B.C.E. This period of time is called "golden" because of the democratic rule of Pericles and the era's developments in art and architecture.

Pericles was repeatedly elected as a strategus. Under his rule, all citizens could hold public office. Those who served in office were paid for their government service.

How might payment for government service spread democracy to poorer people? _____

Nobody's perfect...

Athenian democracy had its flaws. The adult population of Athens was around 300,000. Of these, half were foreigners or slaves, and therefore could not vote. Of the remaining 150,000, half were women and others without voting rights. This left only 50,000 male citizens with suffrage (the right to vote).

Math Minute: Reduce 50,000 out of 300,000 to the smallest fraction possible. _____

Athens had a direct democracy. The term *direct democracy* refers to the fact that a

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citizen had to be present to vote, as well as to the fact that voting citizens directly enacted legislation (rather than electing representatives to enact legislation, or laws, for them). Typically, between 5,000 and 6,000 male citizens voted at any given time.

The women of Athens had few rights and limited opportunities. Slavery played a major role in the economy. Orators often used forceful and coercive language, rather than logic, to sway voters.

A note on slavery in Athens...

In ancient Athens, as in most of the ancient world, the majority of slaves became slaves after being captured in war or in acts of piracy. Because most men were killed on the battlefield, the majority of slaves were women. Slaves worked in many capacities, including domestic service, agriculture, and mining.

Taken from Europe, north Africa, the Mediterranean, the Middle East, and other parts of Greece, the slaves of Athens did not belong to a single ethnic group, and were therefore not easily identifiable. Some Athenians themselves became slaves—a person unable to pay his debts was forced to work as a slave until his debts were repaid.

Slavery in the ancient world was very different from slavery practiced in modern times, such as in the 19th-century American South. Although slavery in any form is a brutal system, in ancient times, slaves had the possibility of gaining their freedom. Many Athenian slaveowners allowed their slaves to save money in order to purchase their freedom. Killing a slave was punishable by death.

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

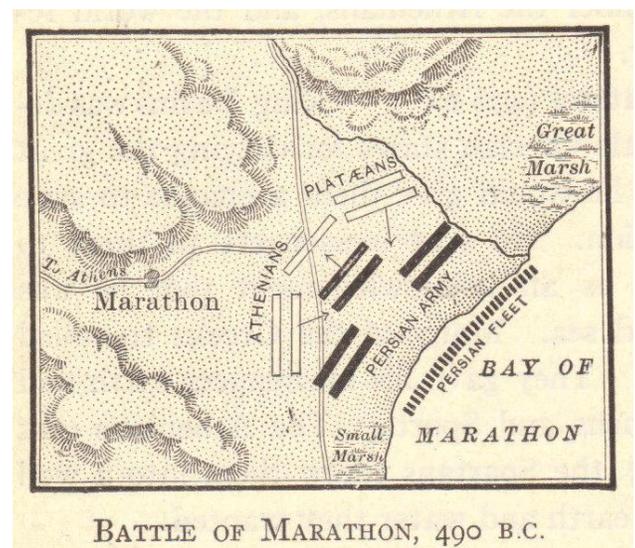
Greeks lived in Asia Minor (modern-day Turkey) since at least 1000 B.C.E. (In fact, Asia Minor is the location of ancient Troy and the Trojan War.) The Persian empire (Persia is, essentially, modern-day Iran) expanded in the 6th-5th centuries B.C.E. to include Asia Minor.

In 500 B.C.E., the Greeks in Miletus led a revolt against Persian rule, known as the Ionian Revolt. Athens and other Greek city-states came to the aid of Miletus. The Persians won, and their King Darius I swore revenge against Athens for interfering.

The First Persian War: 490 B.C.E.

King Darius I sent a fleet to attack the polis of Athens. This fleet set anchor 26 miles northeast of Marathon. This began the Battle of Marathon.

The Spartans were unable to aid the Athenians because of a religious festival in Sparta. The Athenians were defeated, but still defeated the Persians.



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powerful empires southwestern Asia had ever known. As a result of the Persian Wars, the Persian empire declined.

In Persia's wake, Greek civilization and culture flourished. The Greek city-states enjoyed wealth from increased trade.

The Persian Wars started the Greek onslaught against the Persian empire. This onslaught would eventually be completed under Alexander the Great of Macedon in 331 B.C.E.

Athens Leads Greece

Athens exhibited great leadership during the Greek wars with Persia. Aristides and the Delian League (also known as the Confederacy of Delos) worked to protect against possible future Persian invasions.

The Delian League became the basis for an Athenian empire. Its members (including other Greek city-states) paid protection money to Athens. Under Cimon, Persians were expelled from the Black Sea shore. Protection money, along with revenue from increased trade, helped to bring about a "Golden Age" in Athens under the rule of Pericles.

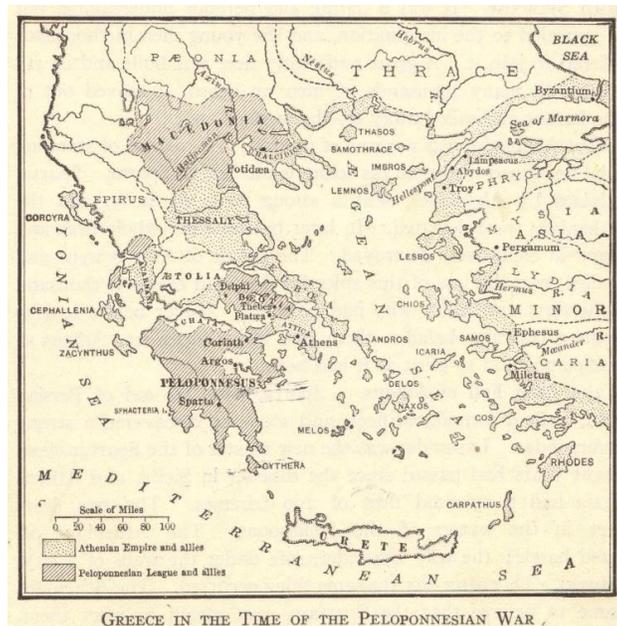
City-State Rivalry

Sparta was not pleased to see Athens rise to power in the Peloponnesus. The Spartans created the Peloponnesian League to rival the Delian League.

Sparta and its Peloponnesian League, which practiced oligarchic rule, dominated the land. Athens, which practiced democratic rule, dominated the sea. When Corinth joined the

Peloponnesian League, it threatened Athenian sea supremacy.

War broke out between Athens and Sparta in 461 B.C.E. A truce was not signed until 445 B.C.E.



Peloponnesian Wars

In 431 B.C.E., was began again between Athens and Sparta. In 430 B.C.E., a plague struck Athens, killing 1/3 of the Athenian population, including Pericles.

Athens attacked Syracuse, an ally of Sparta located in southern Italy (Sicily), at sea. Athens lost this battle.

The final battle occurred at Aegospotami in 404 B.C.E. The Spartans allied with the Persians and were able to defeat the Athenians. The Spartans conquered the city of Athens and destroyed its defensive walls.

Sparta Leads Greece

As a result of the Peloponnesian Wars, Sparta dominated Greece from 404

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B.C.E. until 371 B.C.E. However, Sparta's support of oligarchic rule upset the lower classes in the city-states it controlled.

Thebes was the first to revolt. At the Battle of Leuctra in 371 B.C.E., General Epaminondas led the Thebans to defeat the Spartans. Later, at the Battle of Mantinea in 362 B.C.E., Thebes was defeated by Sparta and Athens.

The fighting among the Greek city-states made it possible for Macedon to come to power. Today, what was ancient Macedonia is a region in northern Greece. (The modern country which goes by the name Macedonia is not the same place.) In ancient times, although the Macedonians were ethnically and culturally Greek, they were looked on by the dominant Greek city-states as what we might call today "country bumpkins."

At the Battle of Chaeronea in 338 B.C.E., Philip II of Macedon defeated the Athenians and Thebans. In 337 B.C.E., Philip II established the League of Corinth. Under the League of Corinth, the Greek city-states had to pledge to stop warring with one another.

Review Questions

1. What ancient Greek city-state first developed democracy?

2. Complete the following chart to illustrate how Draco, Solon, Clisthenes, and Pericles advanced democracy. Under "leader," list the leader's name. Under "advances," list the leader's

actions that furthered democracy.

Leader	Advances

3. What features of Athenian society were undemocratic?

4. Describe the Greek wars with the Persians.

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5. What were the causes and outcomes of the Peloponnesian Wars? Complete the chart.

Causes	Outcomes

6. Who got the Greek city-states to pledge to stop warring against one another under the League of Corinth?

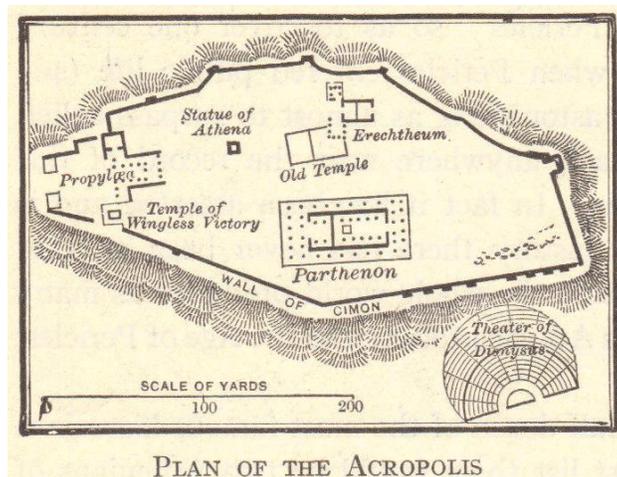
Hellenic Culture

The term *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.

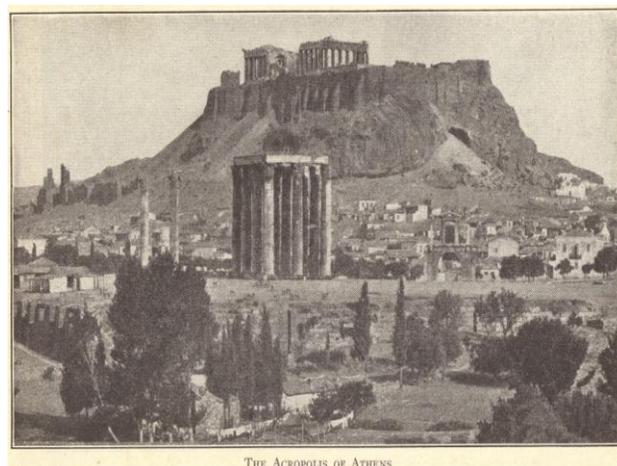
Greek Architecture and Art

Perhaps the best examples of classical Greek architecture are the

structures which were built at the Acropolis in Athens. The Parthenon, a temple built to house a gold and ivory statue of Athena that was designed by Phidias, was itself designed by the architect Ictinus.



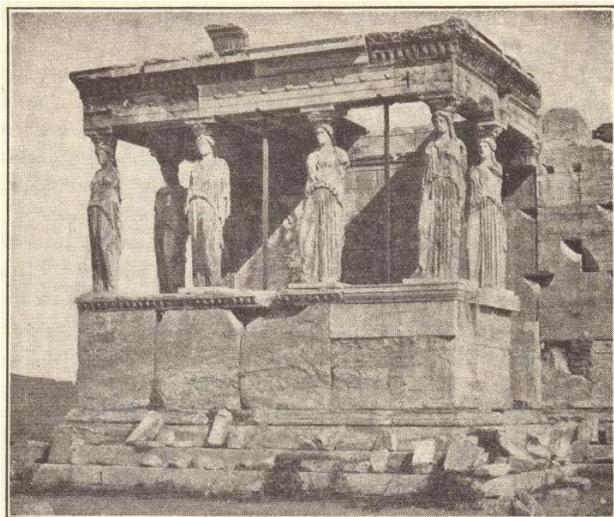
The Parthenon is considered by many to be not only one of the most beautiful buildings ever created, but one of the most skillfully engineered. You may not realize it, but things that are straight appear to be curved when looked at from a distance. By slightly curving a building, the building can appear perfectly straight from a distance. Ictinus carefully designed the Parthenon to appear completely straight to the human eye.



The Acropolis of Athens.

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Classical Greek sculpture was lifelike and proportionate. Much attention was paid to detail. Greek art emphasized the beauty of the human form, and many Greek statues feature nude or semi-nude subjects.



PORCH OF MAIDENS ATTACHED TO THE ERECHTHEUM (ēr-ek-thē'um)

This building, on the Acropolis, was, next to the Parthenon, the most important building of the great age of Greek sculpture. The Maidens stand four on the front and one of each end, supporting with their heads the top of the portico. This is the best example of using human forms in place of columns. Question: Imagine that you are an architect eager to use this style on a building you are designing. Describe the type of building you are creating, the figures you are using as columns, and why you have selected these figures to represent your structure. _____

Greek Science

Thales, who lived circa 624-546 B.C.E., is known as the “father of natural science.” He believed that the basic substance in the world is water, which changes its form (ice, liquid, or steam), but not its composition.

Pythagoras lived circa 580-490 B.C.E. He is called the “father of numbers.” Perhaps the world’s most famous mathematician, he believed that everything could be numbered. He is best remembered for the Pythagorean theorem: “The square root of the hypotenuse of a right angle is equal to the sum of the squares on the other two sides.”

Democritus lived circa 460-370 B.C.E. He believed that everything is made of atoms so small that they cannot be divided.

Hippocrates, who lived circa 460-370 B.C.E., is called the “father of medicine.” He believed that diseases have natural, rather than supernatural, causes. Hippocrates is best remembered today through the Hippocratic Oath taken by medical personnel.

Greek Drama

Greek drama had its basis in Greek religion. Its purpose was educative (designed to educate), and it taught history or morality.

Greek plays were performed in open-air amphitheatres. There was little scenery. Plays were originally sung by a chorus, but over time, chorus members developed into actors.

The themes of Greek drama included the role of the gods, divine laws, and fate.

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Modern production of *The Trojan Women*, a play by Euripides.

Greek Dramatists

Aeschylus, who lived 525-456 B.C.E., is called the “father of Greek drama.” Among his plays are *Prometheus Bound* and *Agamemnon*.

Sophocles lived from 496 until 406 B.C.E. His plays include *Oedipus Rex* and *Antigone*.

Medea and *The Bacchae* were written by Euripides, who lived from 480 until 406 B.C.E.

Aristophanes (448-380 B.C.E.) wrote *The Frogs* and *The Clouds*.

Greek Philosophy

Western philosophy began with the ancient Greeks. *Philosophy* is the “love of knowledge.” Essentially, philosophers sought (and still seek) the answers to life’s biggest questions.

The early Sophists were active in the 5th century B.C.E. They were the “men of wisdom.” Sophists measured everything by its usefulness. They criticized the gods, government, and conventional morality. Sophists believed that there is no absolute

truth.

Socrates (469-399 B.C.E.) believed that there is absolute truth. He held people to “know thyself,” and his Socratic dialogue—a series of questions posed to the questioner so that he might be led to the answer he seeks within himself—is still used today. Socrates was convicted of corrupting the youth of Athens, and forced to commit suicide by drinking hemlock.



THE DEATH OF SOCRATES

From a modern painting. The philosopher is awaiting the cup of hemlock poison which is to bring about his death. With him are friends, including Plato and his pupil Crito.

Plato lived 427-347 B.C.E. His *Dialogues* are a written record of Socrates’ dialogues. In *The Republic*, Plato describes an ideal state administered by philosophers. The Academy which Plato founded lasted 800 years.

Aristotle (384-322 B.C.E.) was a Macedonian student of Plato. Former tutor to the young Alexander the Great, Aristotle opened the Lyceum in Athens. He created the basis for scientific inquiry.

The Greeks and History

Living in the modern world, full of history books and even history channels, it is hard for us to imagine a world without

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the discipline known as history. But in the ancient world, history as we understand it did not exist. Instead, what passed for history was actually a jumble of myths and legends. The first true historians were rebels in their time because they attempted to base their writings on facts.

Herodotus (484-425 B.C.E.) is called the “father of history.” He wrote *The Inquiries* (also called *The Histories*). Herodotus traveled to learn and write about the Persian Wars, rather than simply listen to what those around him had to say. In his writing, Herodotus included information about extraneous things such as foreign customs. However, Herodotus gave the Greek pantheon of gods and goddesses a role in historical events.

Thucydides (471-400 B.C.E.) is called the “first scientific historian.” In his *History of the Peloponnesian Wars*, he discussed cause and effect. Thucydides gave the people involved the main role in historical events (rather than the gods and goddesses).

Greek Literature

Hesiod lived in the late 8th century B.C.E. His *Theogony* is a poem about the Greek gods. His *Work and Days* is a poem about the life of a farmer.

Sappho (circa 620-570 B.C.E.), wrote *Hymn to Aphrodite*. Her poems were lyric poetry—meaning that they were meant to be sung, accompanied by a lyre. (This explains the origin of the term *lyrics*, describing the words sung in our modern songs.)

Pindar lived from 522-443 B.C.E. He wrote *Paeans*, and the Greeks considered

him to be their greatest lyric poet.

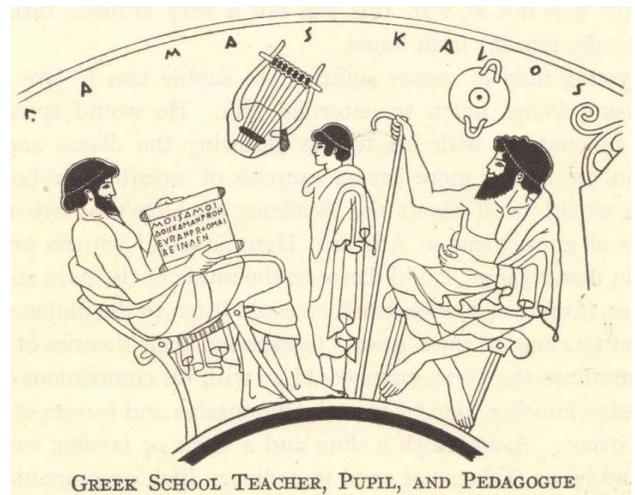
Greek Oratory

The art of oratory (public speaking) was introduced by the Sophists. Perhaps the most famous orator was Demosthenes (384-322 B.C.E.), who warned the Greeks about Philip of Macedon’s plans. The modern English word *philippic* refers to a tirade against someone.

Greek Education

Classical Greek education was based on the idea of “a perfect mind in a perfect body.” With such a broad recipe for preparing the young, education was largely informal.

Girls learned domestic arts at home. At the age of seven, boys were sent to private schools. Education was administered by a teacher and pedagogue.



Greek school teacher, pupil, and pedagogue, from an ancient Greek vase painting. The teacher is instructing the pupil from a parchment roll. Between them, hanging on the wall, is shown a lyre. Greek education was private education, and reserved for the wealthy.

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At an Athenian school, boys were watched over by a slave known as a *pedagogue*. This pedagogue protected the boy on his way to and from school, while also teaching the boy how to behave. The boy learned grammar, reading, writing, math, music, and oratory. At the age of twelve, he began studying gymnastics.

In ancient Athens, education was only for the upper classes. Education was designed to facilitate the 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 science?

4. What questions and criticisms were raised by ancient Greek philosophers?

5. In what ways were Herodotus and Thucydides true historians?

6. Compare education in ancient Greece to education in the United States today.



HERCULES SLAYING THE NEMEAN LION

An early Greek vase painting. At the left are shown the nymph or local goddess Nemea, and Jolaus, the brother and companion of Hercules, holding the hero's club; at the right, the goddess Minerva and the god Mercury, watching the combat.

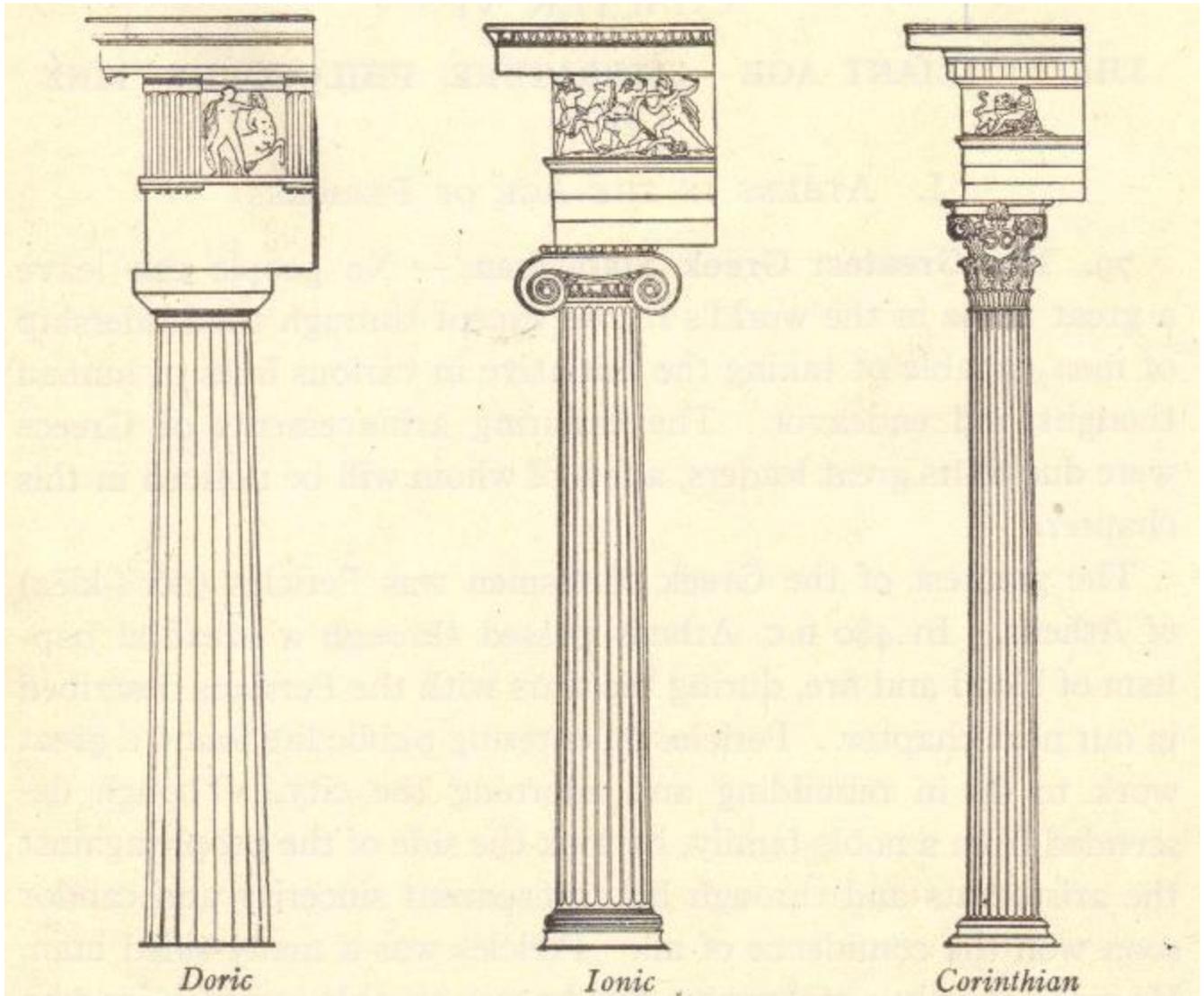
Analyze the vase painting above. Compare and contrast the ways that males and females are illustrated. _____

How well do you know the gods and goddesses of ancient Greece? Test your skills with our online quiz (no log-in necessary):

<http://www.studenthandouts.com/Greek%20Gods%20and%20Goddesses/quiz.swf>

How familiar are you with the writers of ancient Greece and Rome? Test your skills with this online quiz:

<http://www.studenthandouts.com/Greco-Roman%20Authors/quiz.swf>



Doric

Ionic

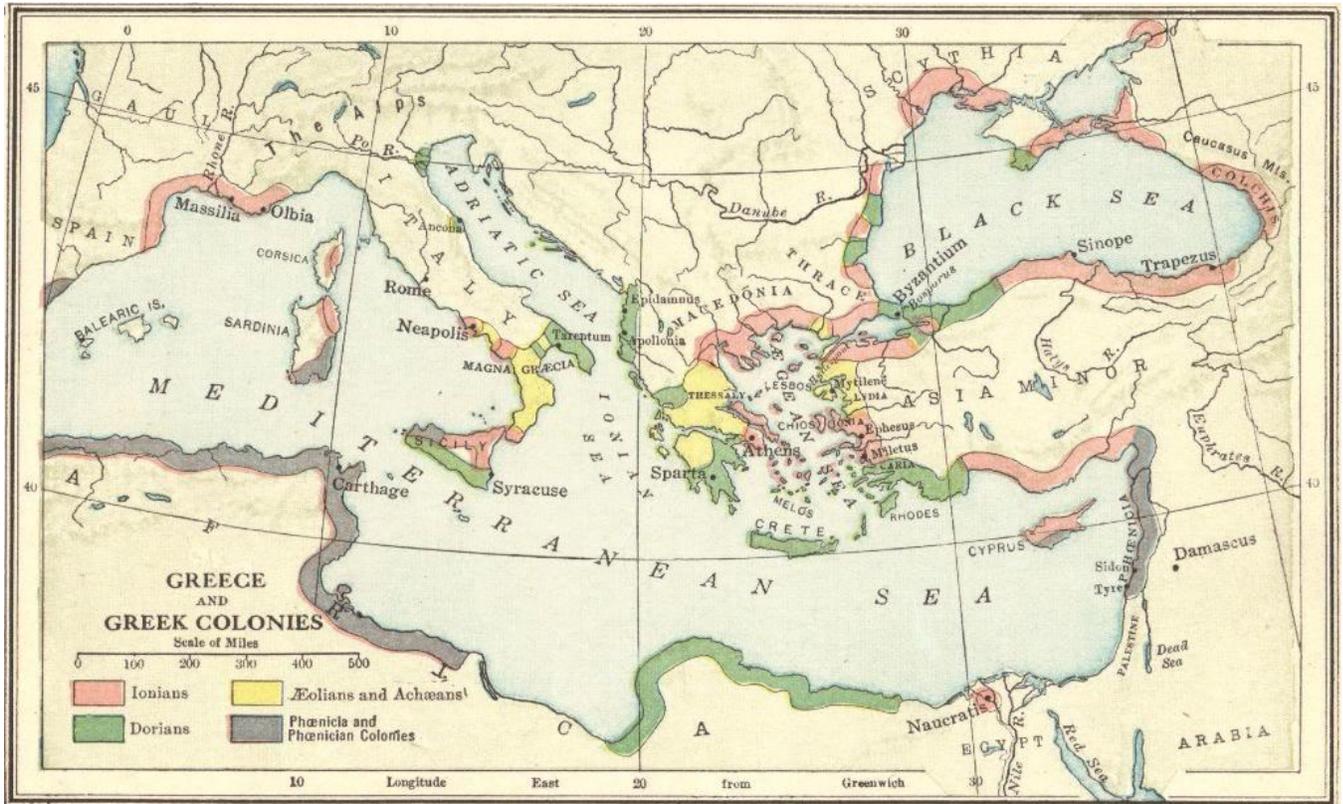
Corinthian

ORDERS OF GREEK ARCHITECTURE

The three styles of architecture are distinguished by the form of the columns. The Doric was the oldest and simplest, the column having a simple capital and no distinct base. The more slender Ionic column rested on a base, and the capital was adorned with a spiral roll. The Corinthian, latest of all and a modification of the Ionic, had a capital embellished with designs taken from the acanthus leaf. The modern "skyscrapers" may be compared with the plan of the Greek column, the lower stories and the top being decorated and the rest of the building left plain like the shaft of the column.

In the 18th and 19th centuries, the neo-classical movement (a revival of Greco-Roman art and architecture) was very popular. Many religious and public buildings from this time period were designed with Greek columns. Name buildings you have seen that exhibit this architectural style. _____

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Answer the following questions based on the map.

What group of Greeks were most predominant around the Black Sea? _____

What major city was located in Phoenicia, a short distance across the Mediterranean from the island of Sicily? _____

Which polis was further south – Athens or Sparta? _____

What two Greek groups were present in northern Egypt? _____

The ancient Mediterranean port city of Massilia, near the mouth of the Rhone River, is known by what name today? _____

THE END