

Ancient Greece



How did geography affect Ancient Greece?

- Mountains made travel and communication difficult and lead to isolated city states with different cultures like Athens and Sparta.
- Being an archipeligo (a group of islands) surrounded by the sea made trading important.

Mountains divided Ancient Greece into city-states

Polis = city-state (p. 80).

Agora - open space for
the market.

acropolis - provided protection
from attacks and
was on top of a hill.
- had a religious center -

How did Athens and Sparta differ?

Sparta

(P. 82-84)

- Militaristic / focus on war
 - Oligarchy - rule by a small group / usually rich merchants.
 - Boys trained for military from young age.
 - Women ran household while men fought wars
-

Athens

- Oligarchy \longrightarrow democracy
reforms
(changes to the law)
 - Poor people + debtors
rose up to challenge oligarch.
Got more rights.
- Pericles introduced direct
democracy after the Persian Wars.

How did the Greek city-states defend themselves from Persia?

- The Ionians rebelled against Persia.
- Persia attacked Athens in revenge.
- The Persians were defeated at Marathon (Pheidippides ran the 26.2 miles from Marathon to Athens to deliver the news of Greek victory).
- The Greek city-states prepared for another invasion.
- The Persians invaded and won at Thermopylae, although 300 Spartans tried bravely to fight them off.
- The Greeks claimed a final victory at Plataea.

The Age of Pericles = The Athenian Golden Age

I. Responsibilities of Citizens P. 87

A. In Athens, every male citizen participated in the governing assembly = direct democracy

1. voted on all major issues.
2. assembly = 43,000 male citizens older than 18 years old
3. Every 10 days, assembly met on a hillside east of Acropolis.
4. Assembly pass all laws, elected public officials, & made decisions about war
5. lower-class male citizens eligible for public office and got paid to do so.

II. Who had power in Athens, who didn't?

A. By the fifth century b.c., there were about 300,000 people living in Athens

1. About 43,000 of them were adult males with political power.
2. Slaves numbered around 100,000 and could not participate in government.
 - a. Slavery was common in the ancient world. Most people in Athens owned at least one slave. The very wealthy might own large numbers.
 - b. Slaves worked in the fields/in the home as cooks and maids/on public construction projects for the government.
3. Women could not participate.
4. Children under 18 and resident aliens also could not participate.

What were the major accomplishments of the Athenian Golden Age?

1. direct democracy, 2. Architecture & Sculpture, 3. Drama, 4. History, and 5. Philosophy, 6. religion

Golden Age = time period with a stable government, prosperity, and cultural achievements.

Greek Philosophy

- Early Greek philosophers focused on the development of critical or rational thought about the nature of the universe.
- Sophists argued that individual selfimprovement was more important than speculating about the universe. They emphasized the importance of rhetoric.
- Socrates believed that critical examination, through a question-and-answer process, could call forth the knowledge already present within each person.
- Plato explored the nature of reality and the ideal state or society.
- Aristotle emphasized analyzing and classifying things via observation and investigation.

Classical Greek Arts and Literature

- The most important form of architecture was the temple.
- The Parthenon, on the acropolis of Athens, is regarded as the greatest architectural example of the classical Greek temple.
- Greek sculptors focused on the human body, seeking to achieve a standard of ideal beauty based on mathematical ratios found in nature.
- The first dramas were tragedies that were built around universal themes, such as the nature of good and evil, the rights of the individual, the nature of divine forces, and the nature of human beings.

Alexander and the Hellenistic Era

"Alexander the Great" = wise, thinks outside the box, smart, clever/knot story

- Alexander conquered the Persian Empire by 331 B.C.
- Alexander makes all the countries he conquers speak Greek, but he also adopts local customs, such as Persian clothes. By mixing Greek customs with Persian, Egyptian, and Indian customs, he creates a new culture called the **Hellenistic culture**.
- **This mixing of cultures is called cultural diffusion.**
- Alexander the Great's Empire covered three continents: Europe, Asia, and Africa.
- The creation of monarchies was one of Alexander's legacies.