Ancient Greece

G.R.A.P.E.S Method
Source: Glenco World History
Geography

The Greek City-States, 500 B.C.

Area of Greek settlement/Ancient Greece
- Major city-state
- Major temple or shrine
Geography: Impact

- Greek civilization developed in a mountainous area with islands surrounding it.
- Consisted of small plains and river valleys surrounded by high mountain ranges.
  - Mountains isolated the Greeks from each other, and allowed different Greek communities to develop.
  - These civilizations became independent from mainstream Greek culture.
- Close proximity to the sea allowed for the Greeks to become seafarers.
Geography: City Terms

Polis:
- The Greek version of a city-state. It is the central focus of Greek city life.
  - The word *politics* is derived from polis.

Acropolis:
- A fortified area of the polis. A place of refuge from during an attack on the polis. It is sometimes a religious center.
Early Greek Civilizations: Minoans (2700-1450 BCE)

- Named after Minos, a legendary king of Crete.
- **Reasons for decline:**
  - Possible tidal wave from volcanic eruption.
  - Mycenaean Invasion.
Early Civilizations: Mycenaeans (1600–1100 BCE)

- Government: Monarchy
  - Famous King: Agamemnon
- Warrior civilization
  - Art often depicts various wars.
- Military conquests were described by Homer.
  - Trojan War

Reason for decline:

- Greek invaders
- War between each other.
Greece’s Dark Age (1100–750 BCE)

- Called the “Dark” age due to population decline and a decline in food production.
  - Causes many Greeks to flee to the islands surrounding Greece.
- During this period the Greeks adopted the Phoenician alphabet.
  - Expands alphabet to 24 letters.
- Emergence of Homer.
Homer

• Used stories from the Trojan War to create the epic poems the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*.
  ○ Trojan War—
    • Paris, the prince of Troy, kidnapped the King of Sparta’s wife, Helen, and is attacked by the King’s brother Agamemnon.
• *Iliad*—Tells the story of the hero of the Trojan war, Achilles.
• *Odyssey*—Tells the story of the Greek hero, Odysseus.
• The *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* became a part of Ancient Greek history.
• Homer’s Legacy: creates an idea of heroism among young Greek men.
Politics: Terms

- **Aristocracy**: a form of government in which the power is held by the nobles.
- **Democracy**: government by the people under the rule of many.
  - **Direct Democracy**: people participate in the decision making of the government.
- **Monarchy**: a form of government with a king or queen at the head of the government.
  - **Absolute Monarchy**: the monarch has absolute power over the government.
- **Oligarchy**: government is ruled by a few people.
City State: Sparta

- Background:
  - Instead of building colonies the Spartans conquered their neighbors.
    - Captured citizens became serfs, or slaves for the Spartans.
  - Military State (800 BCE-600 BCE)
    - Males were highly disciplined.
      - Joined the military at 20.
      - Were able to vote in the assembly at 30.
      - Retired from the army at 60.
    - Women had more control over the household, and upheld high standards for their children.
Spartan Government

- Oligarchy:
  - controlled by two kings who lead the army campaigns.

- Ephors:
  - group of five men who were elected each year and were responsible for education and conduct of citizens.

- A council of elders including the two kings and 28 citizens over the age of 60 decided on issues presented to the assembly.

- Citizens were expected to focus on war, anything art related was frowned upon.
City States: Athens

- Government: **oligarchy** ran by the aristocrats.
- Economic problems led to political chaos.
  - Fear of civil war.
- Successful rulers allowed Athens to stabilize.
- Ruler: Cleisthenes
  - Created the foundation for Athenian democracy.
  - Based political responsibilities on **citizenship** rather than **family** membership.
Growth of Athens: Age of Pericles

- **Pericles (495 BCE-429 BCE)**
  - dominant political figure who expanded the Athenian empire.

- **Age of Pericles: the height of Athenian power.**
  - Favored direct democracy.
    - every male citizen participated in government assemblies and voted on all major issues.
    - Generals: ten officials that were the directors of policy.
Peloponnesian War (431 BCE-404 BCE)

- Lasts 25 years
- Greek world was divided into the Athenian Empire and Sparta.
- Battle Strategies
  - Athens: remains behind their walls and receive help from their colonies.
  - Sparta: surrounds Athens to wait for their army.
- PLAGUE
  - Breaks out in Athens in the second year of war, killing a third of the population.
- Athenian fleet is destroyed in 405 BCE.
- Results: In a power struggle between Athens, Sparta, and the rising state of Thebes.
- Problem: Ignores the city of Macedonia gaining power in the North.
Greek Philosophers

Philosophy: an organized system of thought.

Philosophers: Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle.
Philosophers: Socrates

- We only know about Socrates because of his student Plato.
- Philosophy:
  - Goal of education was to only improve the individual.
- Accomplishments:
  - **Socratic Method**: question and answer format that allows students to come to their own conclusions.
- Death
  - Was accused of corrupting Athen’s youth and sentenced to death by drinking Hemlock.
Philosophers: Plato

- Philosophy: How do we know what is real?
  - Reality made up of forms and only the trained mind can see forms.
- The Republic
  - Plato revealed his distrust of democracy.
  - Citizens of an Ideal State:
    - Philosopher Kings
    - Warrior
    - The masses: the rest of the people
- Believed in the equality of men and women.
Philosophers: Aristotle

- Student of Plato
- Philosophy: By examining objects we can find their true form.
- Until the 17th century, Western science was based off Aristotle’s writings.
- Government:
  - Attempted to find the best form of government by analyzing different governments.
  - Favored three types of government: monarchy, aristocracy, and constitutional democracy.
Rise of Macedonia

- Philip II
  - Built an army that turned Macedonia into a chief power of the Greek world.
  - Wanted to unite Greece under Macedonia.
  - Eventually conquers Greece, but is assassinated.

- Alexander the Great
Alexander the Great

● Conquests:
  ○ Attacks the Persian Empire
    ▪ Frees the Ionian Greek cities of the Western Asia Minor.
    ▪ Defeats the Persian army.
  ○ By 332 BCE he has control of Syria, Palestine, and Egypt.
    ▪ City of Alexandria becomes the capital of Egypt.
  ○ Gains the Persian empire by 331 BCE, including the city of Babylon
  ○ By 326 BCE Alexander’s soldiers lose morale.

● Death
  ○ Died in 323 BCE from a multitude of things such as wounds, fever, and alcohol
Alexander’s Legacy

- Extended the Greek and Macedonian rule, and brought multitudes of gold and silver stimulating the economy.
- Greek culture spread throughout Southwest Asia and the Near East.
- Greeks also absorbed Eastern culture.
The Greeks were polytheistic.

**Mythology**: a collection of myths.
- Main gods: Zeus, Poseidon, and Hades.
Achievements: Art

**Classical:** based on ideals of reason, moderation, balance, and harmony in all things was meant to civilization emotions.

- Concerned with expressing eternal ideals.
  - Humans are objects of beauty.

**Hellenistic:** “to imitate the Greeks.”

- Art moved away from idealism to realism.
Achievements: Architecture

Classical

- The most important form of architecture was the temple dedicated to a god or goddess.
  - Parthenon (447–432 BCE): built in Athens, dedicated to the goddess Athena.

Hellenistic

- Architecture resembled the classical style architecture.
Columns

Doric

Ionic

Corinthian
Achievements: Drama

- Plays were held in outdoor theaters.
- Tragedies: first Greek dramas
  - Set in a series of three plays with a common theme.
- Themes: good v. evil, rights of the individual, divine forces, and the nature of humans.