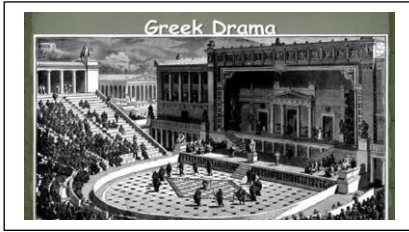


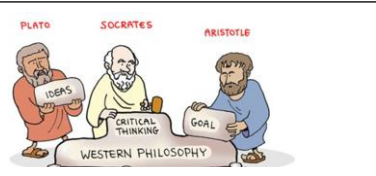
Aim #17: Why is ancient Greece considered the “Cradle of Western Civilization”?

The Glory That Was Greece

NYS SS Framework: 9.3C



Greek Drama



QUICK FACTS

Classical Greece

- Greek society was organized into independent city-states, each with its own government, laws, and customs.
- Two of the largest city-states were Athens, the birthplace of democracy, and Sparta, which developed a military society.
- The Greeks established colonies throughout the Aegean and Mediterranean worlds and came into conflict with the Persian Empire.
- Greek mythology taught that there were many gods whose actions controlled the forces of nature.
- The ancient Greeks, especially the Athenians, made huge contributions to many fields, especially the arts, philosophy, and science.

Hellenistic World

- Alexander the Great of Macedonia formed a huge empire that included all of Greece, the former Persian Empire, Syria, and Egypt.
- In his empire, Alexander encouraged the blending of native cultures with Greek.
- After Alexander died, his empire was divided among his generals. The result was three independent kingdoms, each with a Greek-influenced culture.
- Cities that Alexander founded such as Alexandria, Egypt, became great centers of learning and trade. Scholars in these cities made great advances in many fields.

Greek Achievements

Government

- Athens developed the world's first democracy.

Philosophy

- Classical thinkers like Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle laid the foundation for most later Western philosophy.
- Hellenistic thinkers founded new schools of learning.

Literature

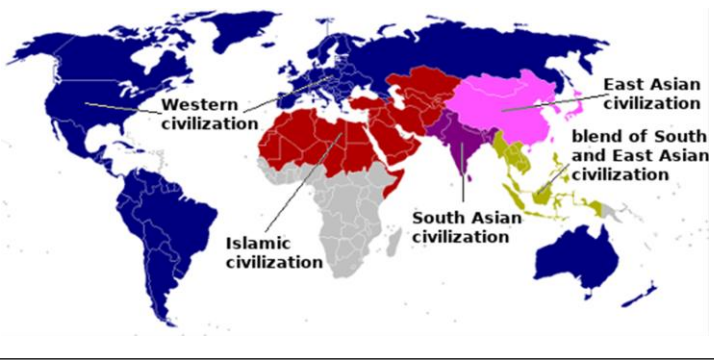
- Poets wrote long, sweeping epics and beautiful lyric poems.
- Historians tried to record major events impartially.
- Athenian dramatists wrote the world's first tragedies and comedies.

Architecture

- The ancient Greeks built majestic and stately temples, like the Parthenon, that were characterized by proportional designs and the use of columns.

Art

- Painters used red clay and black glaze to create detailed scenes of daily life.
- Sculptors tried to capture perfect human forms that looked as though they could move.



“The unexamined life is not worth living”
- Socrates

Mini Lecture

- Western Civilization** or Western culture was born ancient Greece. It is Western lifestyle or European civilization, is a term used very broadly to refer to a heritage of social norms, ethical values, traditional customs, belief systems, political systems, & technologies that have some origin or association with Europe.
- Democracy was born in Greece.
- Greek thinkers used observation & **reason** to explain events. These thinkers were called **philosophers**, meaning “lovers of wisdom.”
- Philosophers explored many subjects, from mathematics & music, to logic, or rational thinking. They believed that through reason & observation, they could discover laws that governed the universe.
- Some philosophers were interested in ethics & morality. In contrast, the **Sophists** believed that success was more important than moral truth. They developed skills in **rhetoric**, the art of skillful speaking. Ambitious men could use clever & persuasive rhetoric to advance their careers.
- The philosopher **Socrates** was an outspoken critic of the Sophists. He believed in seeking truth & self-knowledge. Most of what we know about Socrates comes from his student **Plato**. Plato set up a school called **the Academy** where he taught his own ideas. Like Socrates, Plato emphasized the importance of reason.
- Plato’s most famous student, **Aristotle**, also promoted reason as the guiding force for learning. He set up a school, **the Lyceum**, for the study of all branches of knowledge.
- While Plato argued that every object on Earth has an **ideal** form, Greek artists & architects reflected a similar concern with balance, order, & beauty. The most famous example of Greek architecture is the **Parthenon**. The basic plan of the Parthenon is a simple rectangle, with tall columns supporting a gently sloping roof.
- Early Greek sculptors carved figures in rigid poses. Later, they emphasized more natural forms. Sculptors carved their subjects in a way that showed human beings in what was considered their most perfect, graceful form.
- In literature, the Greeks also developed their own style. Some Greek playwrights wrote **tragedies**, or plays that tell stories of human suffering, usually ending in disaster. Others wrote **comedies** or humorous plays that mock customs or that criticize society.
- History was also an important study for Greeks. **Herodotus**, often called the “Father of History,” stressed the importance of research. He visited many lands to collect & chronicle information from witnesses of actual events. **Thucydides** also recorded events as he experienced them. Both men set standards for future historians.
- The Greeks also gave us marathons & the **Olympics**

Review Questions:

- What did Greek philosophers use to explain events?
- What two forms of drama did the Greeks develop?

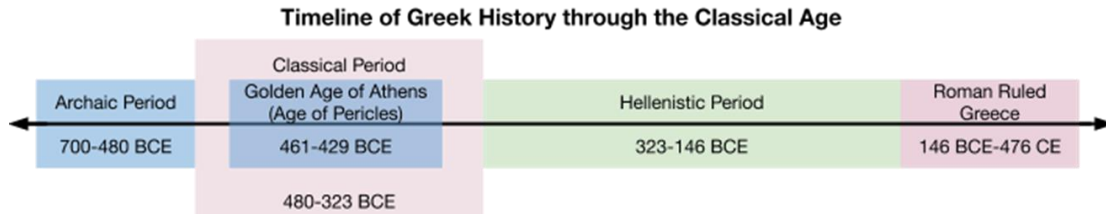
Resources/Documents:

- Video on the Parthenon
- Excerpts on Pericles, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Herodotus, & Hippocrates
- Images on Art & Architecture

Further Reading: Chapter 4, Section 4

What led to the Golden Age of Athens? How did the Golden Age of Athens impact Greece, other regions, and later periods in history?

Directions: Examine the timeline, read the text, and watch an excerpt of [Secrets of the Parthenon from NOVA](#) (15:00- 18:20) to get an introduction to the Golden Age of Athens, then answer the questions that follow.



Ancient Greece was divided into many city-states, each with their own culture, that often warred with one another. So, it should not be surprising that the golden age of the Greek civilization was not shared between them. Instead, Athens, from 461-429 BCE, dominated the other city-states and prospered as a result. The Golden Age of Athens took place during the rule of a man named **Pericles**. Through his leadership, Athens experienced a period of artistic and scientific growth, so the golden age is often referred to as the “Age of Pericles.”

1. Who did the Greeks defeat in 480 BCE?
2. What is the name of the military leader who “ushered in the Golden Age of Greece”?
3. What type of government was established in Athens during its golden age?
4. Why was this time period considered a “golden age”?

The Golden Age of Athens Museum Walk



A lot of the artifacts that appear in museums come from the golden ages of civilizations.

In this activity, you will visit exhibits on the Golden Age of Athens. **As you learn about the Golden Age of Athens, fill out the appropriate row in the [Golden Ages of Classical Civilizations Graphic Organizer](#).**

Golden Age	ACHIEVEMENTS and INNOVATIONS			
	Prosperity and Stability	Visual Arts and Architecture	Literature, Music, and Philosophy	Science, Mathematics, and Technology
Gupta Empire				
Han Dynasty				
Greece (480-408 BCE)				
Rome				

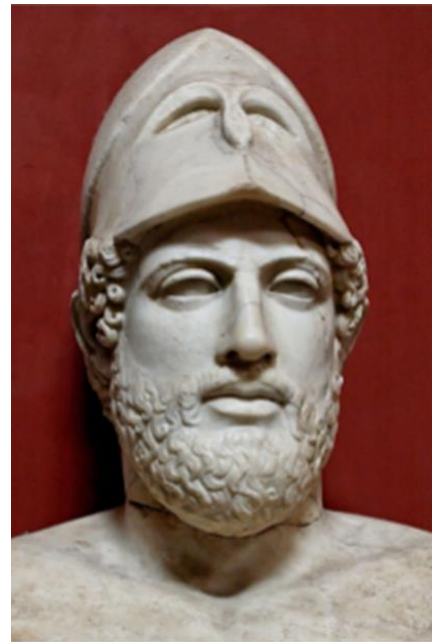
Exhibit A: Pericles Brings Stability, Wealth and Democracy to Athens

Throughout the 400s BCE the Greeks fought against their rivals to the east, the Persian Empire, in the **Greco-Persian Wars**. During one of these wars that started in 486 BCE, the Persians invaded Greece and sacked Athens, but the Greeks defeated the Persians because of Athens' dominant navy. With an advantage over the Persians, the Greeks, led by the city-state Athens, formed an alliance called the **Delian League**, whose purpose was to continue fighting the Persian Empire. The city-states gave money to the Delian League to support the troops who defended them.

Pericles (495–429 BCE, whose name means "surrounded by glory") was a prominent statesman, famous orator [speaker], and general of **Athens** during the Golden Age of Athens. So profound was his influence that the period in which he led Athens has been called the 'Age of Pericles'.

Pericles started to use the Delian League to control the other Greek city-states and he **moved the League's treasury (where its money was kept) to Athens** for his city-state to use for their benefit. By using the troops and money, Pericles turned Athens into a **wealthy empire**.

Pericles promoted the **arts, literature, and philosophy** and gave free reign to some of the most inspired writers and thinkers of his time. During the Age of Pericles, Athens blossomed as a center of education, art, culture, and democracy. Artists and sculptors, playwrights and poets, architects and philosophers all found Athens an exciting and enlivening atmosphere for their work.



Copy of a Bust of Pericles created in ca 430 BCE.

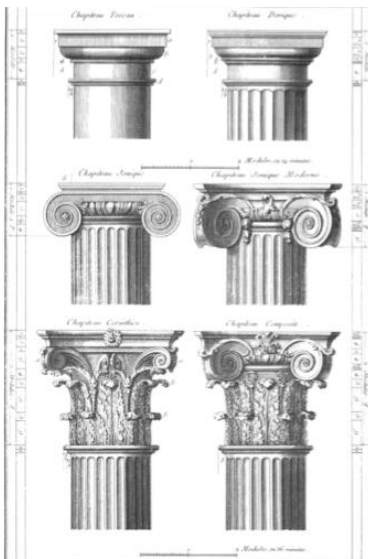
Source: <https://www.metmuseum.org/education/lesson-plans/pericles-the-demagogue>

Exhibit B: Architecture

Greek architects provided some of the finest and most distinctive buildings in the entire Ancient World and some of their structures, such as temples, theatres, and stadiums, became staple features of towns and cities from antiquity [Classical Era] onwards. In addition, the Greek concern with simplicity, proportion, perspective, and harmony in their buildings would go on to greatly influence architects in the Roman world and provide the foundation for the classical architectural orders [styles] which would dominate the western world from the Renaissance to the present day.

Greek Columns

Greek architects created the three "orders," or styles, of columns. Those three, depicted in the image below are the **Doric, Ionic, and Corinthian** orders. These styles are still common on many modern buildings especially museums, libraries, and government buildings.



Doric, Ionic, and Corinthian styles of Greek Columns an engraving from the *Encyclopédie* vol. 18. 18th-century French engraving.

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Classical_orders_from_the_Encyclopédie.jpg

The Parthenon

Watch an excerpt of [Secrets of the Acropolis: Blowing Up History](#), read the text, and examine the image below.



The Parthenon on the Acropolis in Athens, Greece

Source: <https://www.gettyimages.com/detail/stock-photo/parthenon-athens>

The magnificent temple on the **Acropolis** of Athens, known as the **Parthenon**, was built between 447 and 432 BCE in the Age of Pericles, and it was dedicated to the city's patron deity, Athena. The Acropolis was the center of Athenian life built on top of a hill in the city where the most important civic buildings were located. The acropolis itself measures some 300 by 150 metres and is 70 metres high at its maximum. Marble from the nearby Mt. Pentelicus was used for the building, and never before had so much marble been used in a Greek temple.

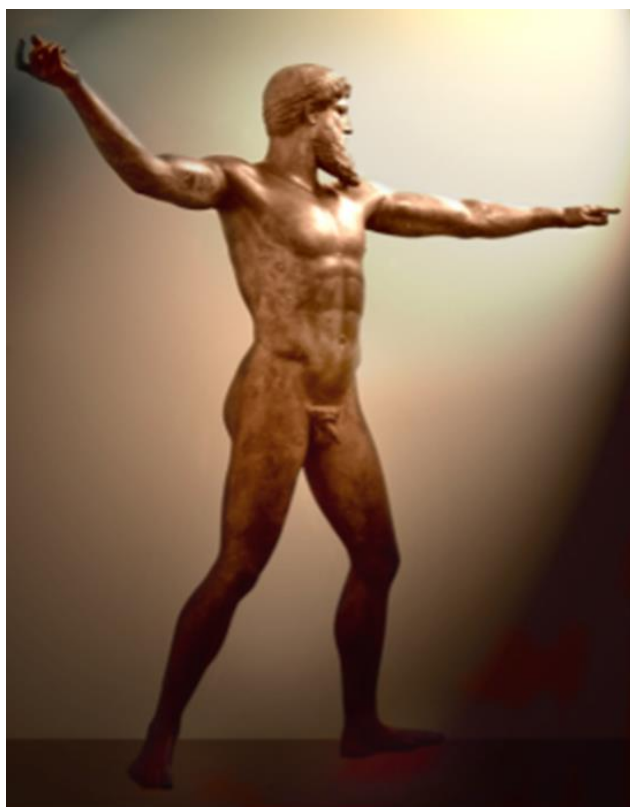
Exhibit C: Visual Art:

Before the Age of Pericles, Greek sculpture represented the human form as stiff and rigid. During the Golden Age of Athens, artists developed a more **realistic** and **idealized** style in their sculpture. The people or gods represented in these sculptures stand in more natural poses and represent what Greeks thought of as the ideal human body.



Example of Greek sculpture before the Golden Age of Athens

Source: <https://www.metmuseum.org/education/teaching-resources/ancient-greek-art>



The *Artemision Bronze*, Statue of Poseidon (or Zeus) created about 470-440 BCE is an example of realistic and idealized sculpture from the Golden Age of Greece.

Source: <https://www.metmuseum.org/education/teaching-resources/ancient-greek-art>



Statue of Athena, Roman copy of a Greek original from the 5th century BCE.

Source: <https://www.metmuseum.org/education/teaching-resources/ancient-greek-art>

Exhibit D: Literature

Epic Poetry

Though he was not alive during the Golden Age of Athens, the poet **Homer** was an important figure in Greek literature. He wrote two epic poems that are still read today: the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*. These two stories about adventure, war, and tragedy are still used as templates for modern storytellers.

Theater

Greek playwrights wrote drama and comedies which were performed regularly in theaters and at festivals. Of the hundreds of plays written and performed during the classical age, only a limited number of plays by three authors have survived: Aeschylus, **Sophocles**, and Euripides. Sophocles' life covered nearly the whole period of Athens' "golden age." He won more than 20 victories at the Dionysian festivals and produced more than 100 plays, only seven of which remain. His drama *Antigone* is typical of his work: its heroine is a model of womanly self-sacrifice. He is probably better known, though, for *Oedipus the King* and its sequel, *Oedipus at Colonus*.

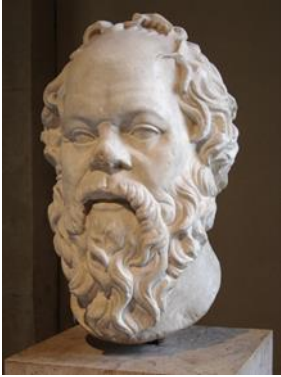


A composite of several images taken of the Theatre of Delphi.

Source: <https://www.metmuseum.org/education/teaching-resources/ancient-greek-art>

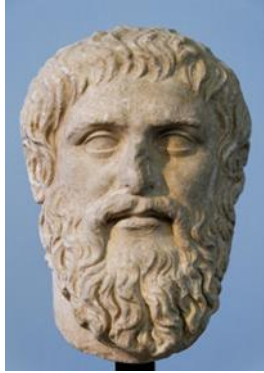
Exhibit E: Philosophy

Philosophy is the study of ideas about knowledge, truth, and the nature and meaning of life. In Classical Greece, philosophy flourished. Athenians valued education, and as a result, philosophers were able to start their own schools and debate one another. The ideas that came from Classical Greece were written down and passed around to other civilizations in the Eastern hemisphere. These ideas greatly impacted global history. The three most well known philosophers were **Socrates**, **Plato**, and **Aristotle**.



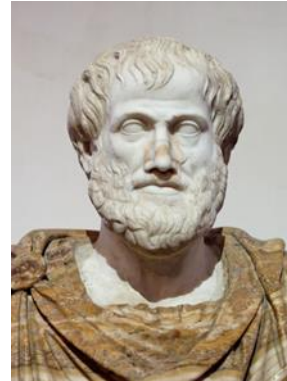
Socrates

- Focused on moral and psychological questions
- Used a series of questions in debates to show the flaws in others' ideas- a style now called the "Socratic Method"
- Government puts him to death



Plato

- Student of Socrates
- Discussed ethics, politics, and the nature of ideas
- Believed government should control people's lives
- Divided society into 3 classes: workers, philosophers, & soldiers



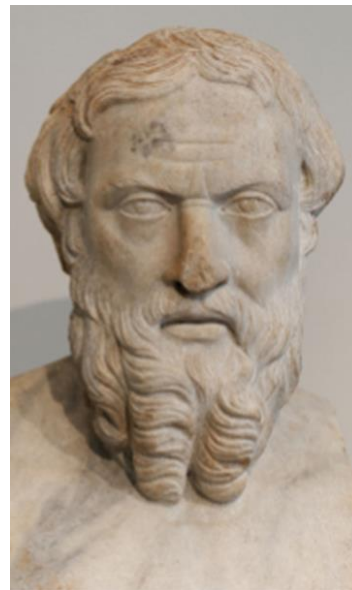
Aristotle

- Student of Plato and tutor for Alexander the Great
- Advances in science and logic influenced scholars for thousands of years
- Believed one strong & good leader should rule
- Believed people should try to live balanced lives

Exhibit F: Herodotus, The Father of History

Herodotus (c. 484 – 425/413 BCE) was a writer who invented the field of study known today as 'history'. He was called 'The Father of History' by the **Roman** writer and orator **Cicero** for his famous work *The Histories* but has also been called "The Father of Lies" by critics who claim these 'histories' are little more than tall tales. Criticism of Herodotus' work seems to have originated among Athenians who took exception to his account of the **Battle of Marathon** (490 BCE) and, specifically, which families were due the most honor for the victory over the Persians. More serious criticism of his work has to do with the credibility of the accounts of his travels.

Herodotus traveled widely in Egypt, Africa and Asia Minor and wrote down his experiences and observations, providing later generations with detailed accounts of important historical events (such as the Battles of Marathon and Peluseum); everyday life in **Greece**, Egypt, and Asia Minor; and on **The Seven Wonders** of the Ancient world.



Herodotus, Roman copy of a Greek bronze created in the 4th century BCE.

Source: <https://www.metmuseum.org/learning/ancient-greece/herodotus>

Exhibit G: Mathematics

Greek artists and architects used mathematics to complete their projects and philosophers used it to explore the true nature of the world. For example, **Pythagoras**, a philosopher, developed a method for explaining the relationship between the angles and legs of right triangles now called the **Pythagorean Theorem**.

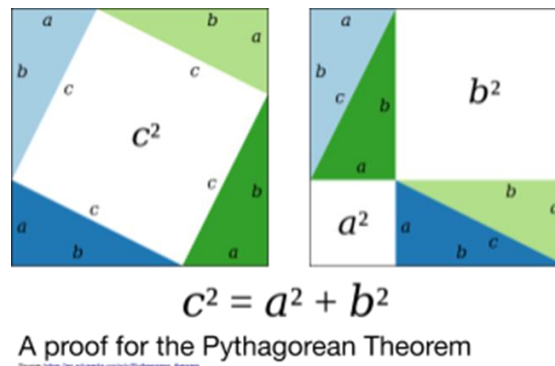


Exhibit H: Medicine

Hippocrates (ca. 460 B.C.E. – ca. 370 B.C.E.) was an ancient Greek physician of the "Age of Pericles," and was considered one of the most outstanding figures in the history of medicine. He is referred to as the "father of medicine" in recognition of his lasting contributions to the field as the founder of the Hippocratic school of medicine.

Very little is known about what Hippocrates actually thought, wrote and did. Nevertheless, Hippocrates is commonly portrayed as the perfect example of the ancient physician. In particular, he is credited with greatly advancing the systematic study of clinical medicine, summing up the medical knowledge of previous schools, and prescribing practices for physicians through the **Hippocratic Oath** and other works.

A modernized version of the Hippocratic Oath is still used today to induct new doctors into the field of medicine. In Classical Greece, the Oath required physicians to swear to Greek gods, the modern version does not.

Excerpt from the modern Hippocratic Oath

I swear to fulfill, to the best of my ability and judgment, this covenant:

I will respect the hard-won scientific gains of those physicians in whose steps I walk, and gladly share such knowledge as is mine with those who are to follow.

I will apply, for the benefit of the sick, all measures which are required...

I will remember that there is art to medicine as well as science, and that warmth, sympathy, and understanding may outweigh the surgeon's knife or the chemist's drug.

I will not be ashamed to say "I know not," nor will I fail to call in my colleagues when the skills of another are needed for a patient's recovery.

I will respect the privacy of my patients, for their problems are not disclosed to me that the world may know. Most especially must I tread with care in matters of life and death. If it is given me to save a life, all thanks. But it may also be within my power to take a life; this awesome responsibility must be faced with great humbleness and awareness of my own frailty. Above all, I must not play at God...

I will prevent disease whenever I can, for prevention is preferable to cure.

I will remember that I remain a member of society, with special obligations to all my fellow human beings, those sound of mind and body as well as the infirm.

If I do not violate this oath...May I always act so as to preserve the finest traditions of my calling and may I long experience the joy of healing those who seek my help.

Written in 1964 by Louis Lasagna, Academic Dean of the School of Medicine at Tufts University, and used in many medical schools today.

