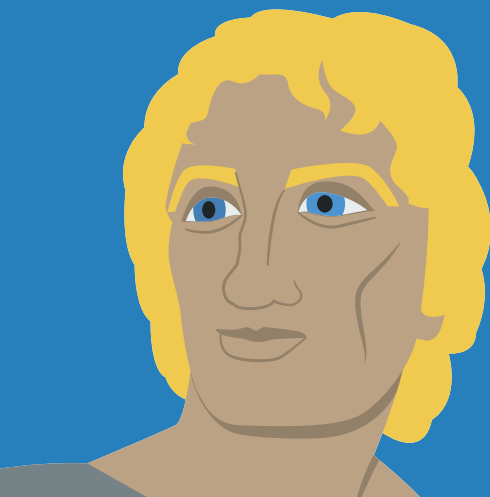


WHO WERE THE...

ANCIENT GREEKS?



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WHO WERE THE ANCIENT GREEKS?



The Ancient Greeks were people who lived in the area around the Greek Peninsula between 4,000 and 2,500 years ago. They spoke the same language and worshiped the same gods but they lived in independent city-states.

CITY-STATES

In ancient times, Greece was not a country like it is today. Instead, the people were ruled by independent city-states. These city-states were sometimes allied with each other, and sometimes enemies.

A city-state included not just the main city but the villages and the countryside around the city. There were hundreds of city-states, but the most powerful were Athens and Sparta.

Greek city-states shared a language and a religion, but they had different laws, governments, and currency. Sometimes, the city-states allied together to fight a common enemy, like Persia, the ancient land in what is now southwestern Asia.

RELIGION

Ancient Greeks worshiped a pantheon of gods and goddesses as part of their everyday life. The actions of gods explained things they didn't understand or couldn't control, like lightning and the seasons. Cities built temples to their patron god or goddess, a place people could visit to worship. The Parthenon of Athens was dedicated to Athena, their patron goddess.

LANGUAGE

While Greeks shared a common language (Ancient Greek), city-states had their own dialects (ways of speaking). They also had slightly different spellings for words, and some city-states used different letters.

The modern Greek language evolved from Ancient Greek, and the English alphabet is derived from the Greek alphabet. The alphabet is even named after the first two letters of the Greek alphabet, alpha and beta.

TIME PERIODS

Ancient Greek history can be split into three different periods.

During the Archaic Period (750– 480 BCE) city-states were formed, the Olympics began, Homer wrote the Iliad and the Persian wars began.

The Classical Period (480 BCE - 323 BCE) is the time when philosophers flourished, democracy was instituted in Athens, and Alexander the Great conquered Persia.

The Hellenistic period (323 BCE - 31 BCE) lasted from the death of Alexander the Great, to the annexation of Greece by the Romans. During this time, Greek culture spread across Mediterranean and West and Central Asia.

LEGACY

Ancient Greece developed many ideas about government, art, theatre, sports, architecture, philosophy, science and math that still influence the modern world. Democracy, the Olympics, the golden ratio and the Pythagorean theorem are a few examples of ideas from Ancient Greece that are still in use today.

Did you know?

In the Ancient Greek language, the word for Greece was "Hellas." The word "Greek" was used by the Romans. Greeks called themselves "Hellenes" after Hellen, a king from Greek mythology.



FAMOUS ANCIENT GREEKS

Alexander the Great was a Macedonian king who united the Greeks and defeated the Persians, creating an empire that stretched across the known world.

Greek philosophers like **Socrates**, **Plato** and **Aristotle** introduced a new way of thinking to the ancient world. Instead of explaining the world through mythology, philosophers looked for explanations using logic and reason, inspiring a new way of thinking about big questions.

The Ancient Greeks valued the arts, and many works of art, theatre, and literature have survived for thousands of years. The poet **Homer** is famous for writing the Iliad, an epic poem about the Trojan war and the Odyssey, a 24-book poem about the journey of Odysseus home after the Trojan War.

CRYPTIC WORD SEARCH

Fill in the blanks and find the answers in the word search below:

1. Ancient Greeks called themselves H_____.
2. The first two letters of the Greek alphabet are alpha and B_____.
3. Alexander the G_____ united the Greeks and defeated the Persians
4. Homer wrote the Iliad during the A_____ period.
5. Greek culture spread across Mediterranean and Asia during the H_____ period.
6. The two most powerful city-states were A_____ and Sparta.
7. The poet Homer, is famous for writing epic poems like the Iliad and the O_____.
8. The Parthenon is dedicated to the Greek goddess A_____.
9. The C_____ period was between 480 BCE and 323 BCE.
10. Greek philosophers like S_____, P_____ and A_____ introduced a new way of thinking to the ancient world.

A	F	N	I	U	V	F	S	H	D	B	J	F	P	G
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E	R	Y	H	J	Z	N	Q	I	H	U	O	L	K	C
F	N	D	R	T	A	P	L	O	T	A	D	L	P	H
S	O	C	R	A	T	E	S	I	D	R	Y	M	J	A
C	G	A	R	T	H	P	A	U	Y	N	S	W	L	I
C	L	O	S	H	E	L	L	E	N	I	S	T	I	C
M	O	O	N	S	N	D	E	M	O	C	E	R	A	T
I	S	Y	O	N	S	Y	R	E	D	P	Y	L	O	G

CRYPTIC WORD SEARCH

Fill in the blanks and find the answers in the word search below:

1. Ancient Greeks called themselves HELLENES.
2. The first two letters of the Greek alphabet are alpha and BETA.
3. Alexander the GREAT united the Greeks and defeated the Persians
4. Homer wrote the Iliad during the ARCHAIC period.
5. Greek culture spread across Mediterranean and Asia during the HELLENISTIC period.
6. The two most powerful city-states were ATHENS and Sparta.
7. The poet Homer, is famous for writing epic poems like the Iliad and the ODYSSEY.
8. The Parthenon is dedicated to the Greek goddess ATHENA.
9. The CLASSICAL period was between 480 BCE and 323 BCE.
10. Greek philosophers like SOCRATES, PLATO and ARISTOTLE introduced a new way of thinking to the ancient world.

A										P	
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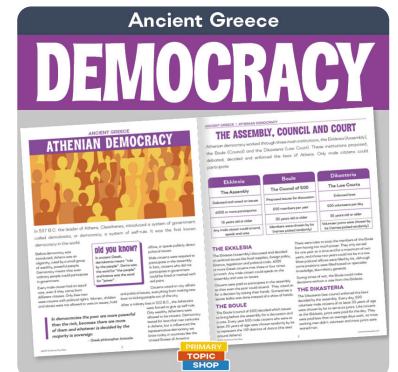
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