

Greek City States

- What does it mean to be a city-state?
- What are some of the names of the Greek city-states?
- What were some of the similarities and differences between them?





What does it mean to be a Greek city-state?



Ancient Greeks became too overcrowded on the Greek mainland.

They spread out to the surrounding islands and formed colonies.

These colonies became city-states.

THE POLIS

The Greeks called their city-state The Polis.

Each Polis was an independent governing unit, and many had different types of government.

The Greeks built their polis around a hill called an Acropolis.

On this high ground stood their main temple.

Below, they built their homes and a marketplace.

People enjoyed life outdoors in the mild climate of Ancient Greece.

Most public business was conducted outdoors.

People also went to the theatre.

Social structure and citizenship in the Greek polis

1. Citizens free adult males had political rights and the responsibility of civic participation in government.
2. Women and foreigners had no political rights.
3. Slaves had no political rights.



Greek City-States



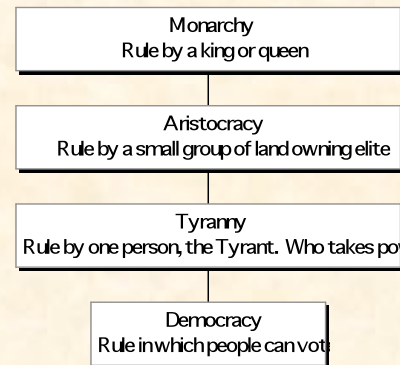
Athens

Athens was the primary city-state after the Persian War.

Athens was the cultural center of Greece, it had its golden age under the ruler Pericles.

The thing that set Athens apart from the other city-states was its government. Athens was a democracy.

The government of Athens, however, went through several stages before reaching democracy.



Reformers

On its way from a Monarchy to Democracy Athens had several people who made important reforms to develop their government

Early Athens was ruled by a king after it became a unified polis about 700 B.C.

Later Aristocrats took power as they controlled most of the land.

Increased trade led to the development of a merchant class, these merchants became the Tyrants

(Tyrants were not necessarily bad)

One of the Tyrants who worked for reform was:

DRACO

Draco, an Athenian lawgiver of the 7th century B.C. He was the first to codify and write down the laws of Athens, which previously had been interpreted and administered arbitrarily by aristocratic magistrates. His code, written about 621 B.C., became famous for its harshness; death was the penalty for almost all crimes. One advance was in the laws of homicide, which recognized the responsibility of the state, not the victim's family, in punishing a murderer; thus blood feuds were to be avoided.

(Grolier Online)

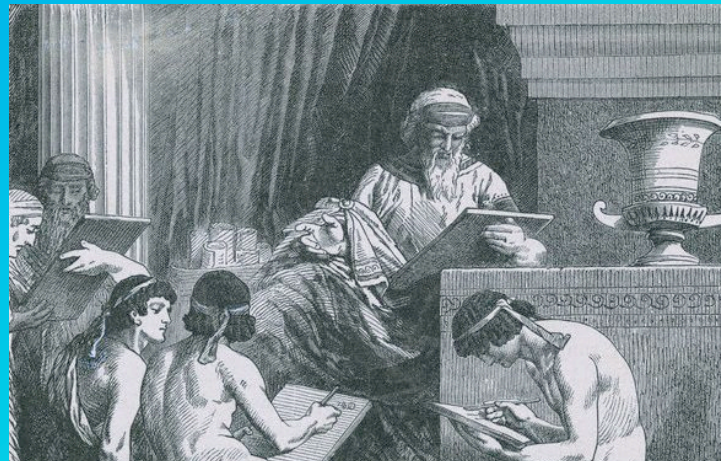
Solon

(638?-559? BC)

Solon was a statesman who laid the foundation for democracy in the ancient Greek city-state of Athens. Athens was ruled by a few rich, powerful families. They took over land from poor farmers and drove them out of Athens or made them slaves.

Solon drew up a clear, simple plan that balanced the rights of the citizens. It had built-in safeguards to keep any one group from oppressing the others. Solon began by passing a law that canceled all debts owed by the poor to rich landowners and forbade that anyone be enslaved for debt in the future. Then he divided the citizens into four classes according to the property they owned, each with a different share in the government. Finally, Solon wrote a code of laws, simpler and less brutal than the existing laws.

(Grolier Online)



Pisistratus

Aristocrat who took power in 560 B.C.

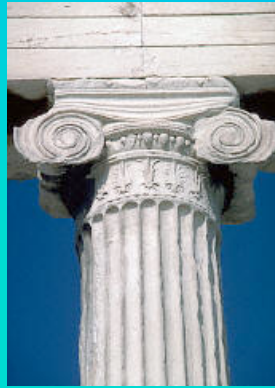
He took land from the rich and gave it to the poor.

This made him popular with the poor in Athens

Cleisthenes

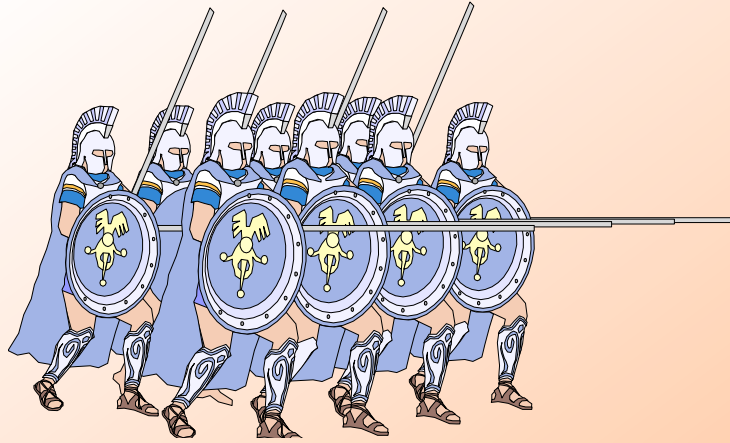
Created a new council of five-hundred that oversaw foreign affairs, and made laws that were voted on by the assembly

The Assembly came into prominence after his rule helping to shape Athenian Democracy.



Athens





Sparta

A nation of soldiers

Sparta

Oligarchy (rule by a small group)

Rigid social structure

Militaristic and aggressive society

Around 1100 B.C. the Spartans migrated to the Peloponnesus and built the city of Sparta

They enslaved the farmers who were there and called them helots.

There was one Spartan to every five Helots

The Spartan army was so fierce the Spartans didn't build a wall around the city, it was said they had a wall of men.

The Helots rebelled in 600 B.C. and were defeated by the Spartans, after this the Spartans killed any helot who made trouble.



Sparta's patron god was Ares, the god of war.

A Spartan's entire life revolved around preparation for war.

At birth, children were checked for defects, if they were not strong and healthy they were left on a hillside to die.

When a boy reached the age of seven he was sent to live in a barracks and was trained in military and athletic skills.

He was poorly fed and was encouraged to steal to eat. If he was caught he would be severely punished.

After 13 years of training they began service in the army.

He served until the age of sixty.

He was allowed to marry at 30, but still had to live in the military camp with the other soldiers.



Greek Cultural Contributions

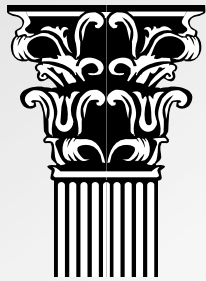


The Greeks made many contributions to our culture.

These included things such as architecture, medicine, philosophy, mathematics, drama, and other areas.

Architecture

The Greeks developed three types of columns



Corinthian



Ionic



Doric

The Parthenon



The Parthenon was built on the Acropolis in Athens.

It was dedicated to their patron goddess, Athena, the goddess of wisdom.

It had 46 Doric columns, was 237 feet long and 110 feet wide.

During construction, the builders knew the columns appeared to bend when viewed from a distance. Each column has a slight curve so it appears straight.

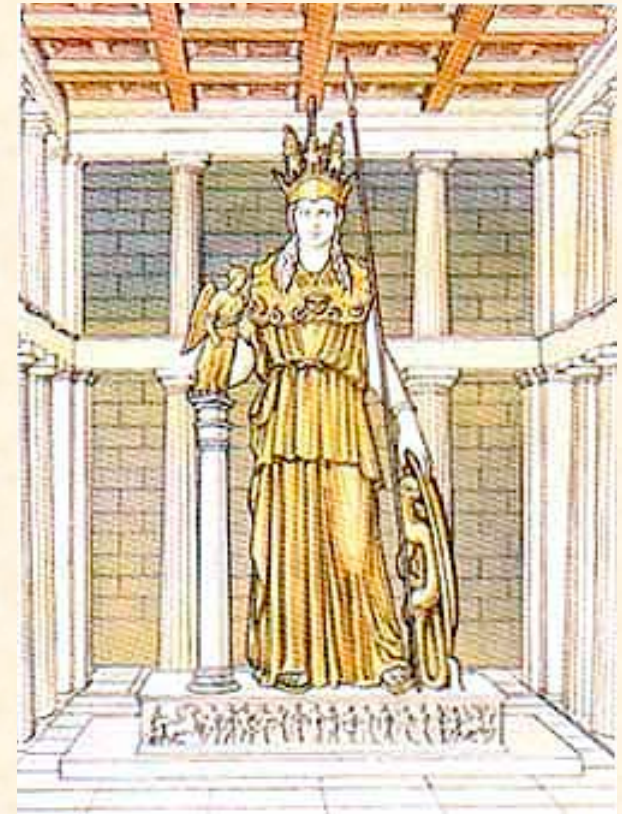
Phidias

c. 450 B.C. - ?



Little is known about Phidias' life. When Pericles rose to power in 449, he initiated a great building program in Athens and placed Phidias in charge of all artistic undertakings.

Among works for which Phidias is famous are three monuments to Athena on the Athenian Acropolis (and the colossal seated Zeus for the Temple of Zeus at Olympia; none of these survive in the original.



It is believed that Phidias started the idealized style of sculpture in ancient Greece.

"Phidias." [Encyclopedia Britannica: Brittanica.com](http://www.brittanica.com). 4 February, 2001.

<www.brittanica.com>

Drama



The Greeks began the practice of performing plays in outdoor amphitheatres.

Theatre began as a festival worshipping Dionysus, the god of wine and fertility, but evolved into the art form we are familiar with today.

A group of actors, called the chorus, stood on stage and talked about what was happening in the play.

Only men were allowed to be actors.

The actors wore large masks, perhaps with amplification devices in them, perhaps so that it was easy to tell the emotion of the actor by looking at their mask.

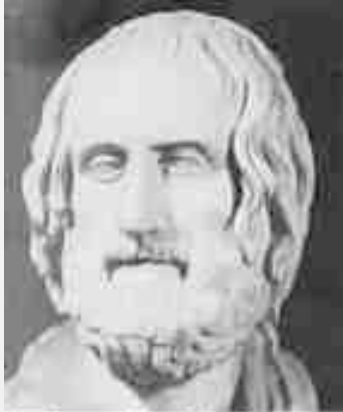
Playwrights

There were two types of Greek plays, Comedy and Tragedy.
Two of the fathers of Greek Tragedy were Aeschylus and Euripides



Aeschylus
(c525-456 BC)

"Greek playwright whose tragedies are the first known plays. He was a soldier in the Athenian army, and fought in the Athenian-Persian war, most notably at the historic battle of Marathon in 490 BC. The war was the subject of his play *Persians* (472), the earliest known play by any playwright."



Euripides
(c480-406 BC)

"Ancient Greek tragedy playwright. Along with Aeschylus and Sophocles, he is credited with turning Greek religious ceremonies into modern theatre. His contributions include the prologue, an opening scene which sets the stage for what is to come, and the *deus ex machina*, a storytelling device that ties up the loose ends. His most important contribution was realism; he focused on personal instead of religious subjects, depicted ordinary people as well as nobility, mixed comedy and drama. His 90 plays, of which 19 survive, are considered the most modern. The most highly regarded is *The Bacchae*. Others include *Medea*, *Electra* and *The Trojan Women*."

[Theatrepedia: Playwrights](http://www.perspicacity.com/elactheatre/library/library.htm). ELAC Theatre. February 4, 2001.

www.perspicacity.com/elactheatre/library/library.htm



Lovers of Wisdom



The word Philosopher means,
"a lover of wisdom."

Most philosophers ask themselves, and other people,
questions to try to find the "truth."

Ancient Greece was the home of three of the most
famous Philosophers.

Socrates

Plato

and

Aristotle

Socrates

c. 469-399 B.C.

Socrates Encouraged people to examine their own beliefs and ideas.

Most of our knowledge of Socrates comes from his student Plato.

He wrote no books, but questioned fellow citizens about their beliefs and ideas.

He used a method of questioning now called the Socratic method.

Socrates believed this was the way to seek truth and self-knowledge.

To the people he was an annoyance and a threat to their way life.

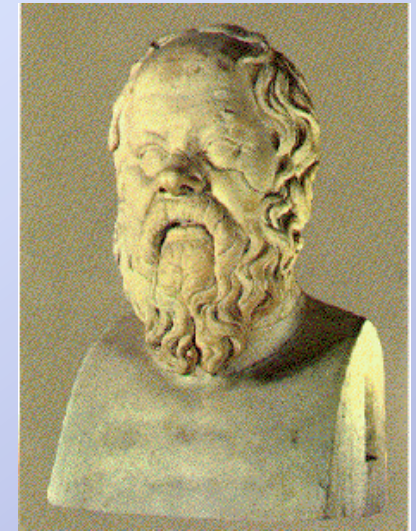
When Socrates was 70 he was put on trial for "corrupting the city's youth and failing to respect the gods." He spoke out in his own defense,

His cool reason seemed like arrogance and he was found guilty.

He was loyal to the laws of Athens, and accepted his death penalty and drank a glass of Hemlock, a deadly poison.

"The unexamined life is not worth living."

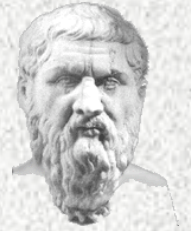
"Know Thyself"





Plato

c. 427-347 B.C.



Plato was shocked by the death of his teacher Socrates. He stayed away from Athens for 10 years.

When he returned, he established the Academy, a school that lasted for the next 900 years.

Plato emphasized the importance of reason.

He believed that through rational thought, people could recognize perfect beauty, and learn to organize an ideal society.

He believed in a world of "forms" where the perfect form of everything on earth existed.

He wrote *The Republic*, a book that describes an ideal state. He felt the state should regulate every aspect of citizens' lives. He believed society should be made up of three groups:

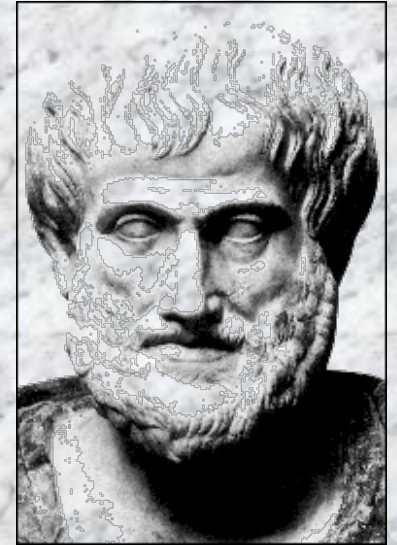
- Workers: to produce necessities of life.
- Soldiers: to defend the state
- Philosophers: to rule

He thought that women could rank among the elite. In general, he felt that men surpassed women in mental and physical tasks, but some women were better than some men.

He believed that talented women should be educated and all people should take military training and raise children in communal centers for the good of the republic.

Aristotle

c. 384-322 B.C.



Plato's most famous student, Aristotle, developed his own ideas about the best kind of government.

He found good and bad examples of all types of government.

He was suspicious of democracy, he thought it led to mob rule.

He supported rule by a single strong and virtuous leader.

He addressed the question of how people should live. He felt people should pursue the "golden mean," a moderate course between extremes.

He believed that reason should be the guiding force for learning.

He set up a school, the Lyceum.

He left behind many writings which became the basis for later educational systems in Europe.

Was the tutor of Alexander the Great.



History

Herodotus c. 480-430 B.C.

Herodotus is known as the "Father of History."

He was born in Asia Minor and had money so that he was able to travel throughout Egypt, the Middle East and the Greek world.

He wrote the first history of the ancient world.

He also wrote about stories and legends.

His book *History* contains two main parts.

The first, a description of the population of the Persian Empire, a guide to their customs and geography.

The second, the history of the wars between Persia and Greece.

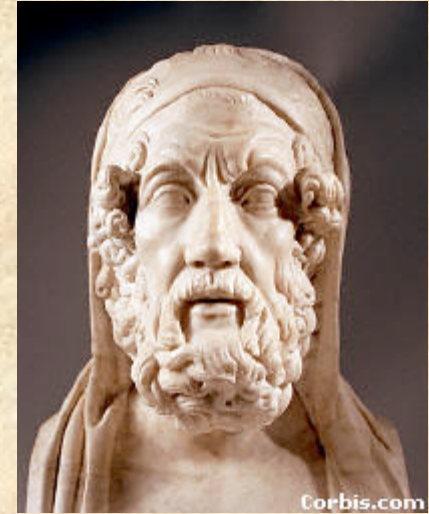


The Persian king Xerxes

Poetry

Homer

c. 850 B.C. -?



Homer was a blind poet who is credited with composing *The Iliad*, telling the story of the Trojan War, and *The Odyssey*, telling the story of the hero Odysseus and the trials he faced trying to return home from the Trojan War.

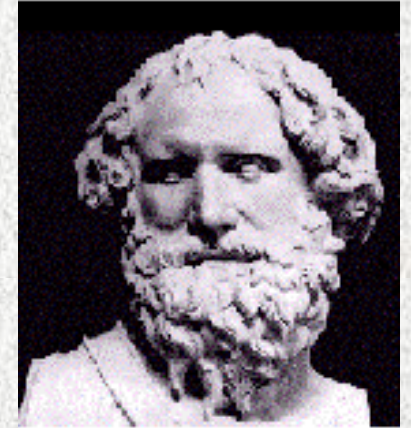
Very little is known about his life.



Science

Archimedes

c. 287 B.C. to 212 B.C.



A Greek mathematician, he was most likely educated in Alexandria, Egypt.

Legend says that while trying to solve a problem of measuring volume, he discovered the principle of the up-thrust on a floating body. He did this by getting into the bathtub and noticing the water overflow onto the floor at which time he shouted "Eureka," meaning "I have found it."

His major contributions to mathematics include discovering the formulae for the areas and volumes of spheres, cylinders, parabolas, and other geometric figures.

He was killed by a Roman soldier during the siege of the city of Syracuse because he ignored the soldier's challenge while he was engaged in a math problem.



Medicine

Hippocrates c. 460 B.C.-337 B.C.

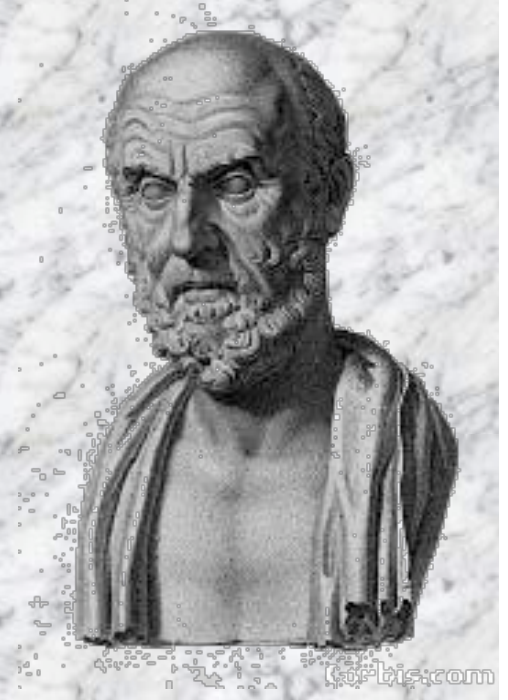


Hippocrates is known as the "Father of Medicine."

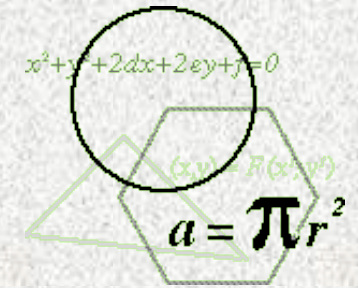
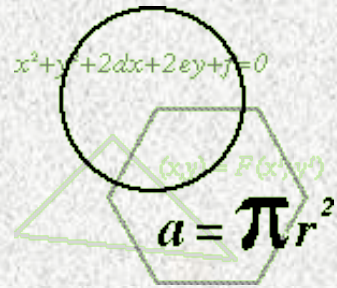
Very little is known about his personal life.

He was a philosophic doctor collecting information on the various parts of the body and seeing the body as the sum of its parts, not as all of the parts individually.

The Hippocratic oath, which doctors take today promising that they will deny no one medical attention, is associated with him, although he most likely did not write it.

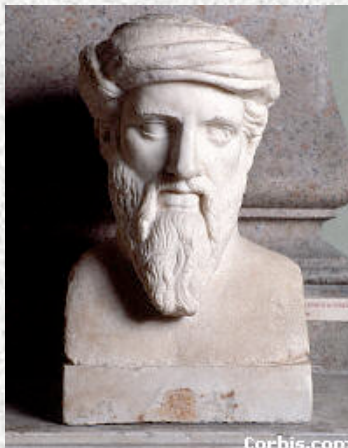


Mathematics



Euclid c. 365 B.C. - 300 B.C.

Often called the "Father of Geometry," Euclid wrote the book *The Elements*, which became the foundation for Geometry.



Pythagoras c. 580 B.C. - 500 B.C.

Pythagoras was a philosopher and a mathematician. He founded many schools and had a great following. His followers believed that (1) at its deepest level, reality is mathematical in nature; (2) philosophy can be used for spiritual purification; (3) the soul can rise to union with the divine; (4) certain symbols have a mystical significance; and (5) all brothers of the order should observe strict loyalty and secrecy.

The Pythagorean Theorem is attributed to Pythagoras and his followers $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$.

