

Greece

Theme: City-states as an alternative to
centralized empire

Lesson 7

ID & SIG

- advantages of women in Sparta, architecture, *Hellenikon*, helot, Homer, myths, Olympic Games, patriarchal society, polis, tragic drama



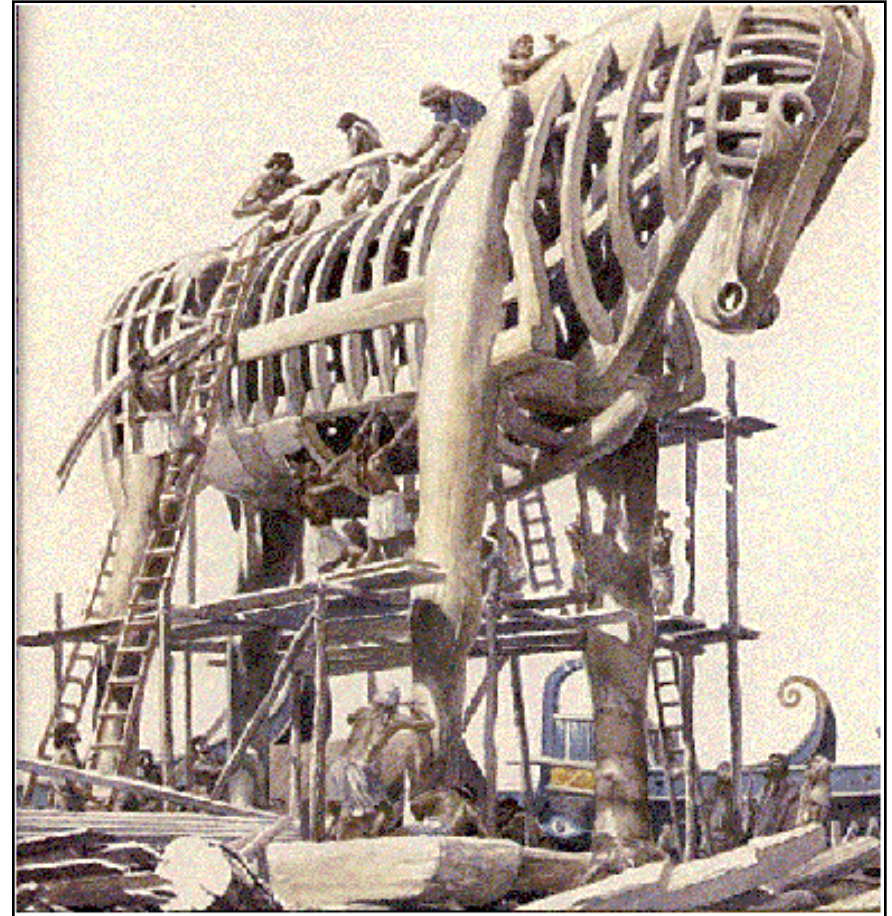
Mycenaean Society

- The Mycenaeans established a society on the Greek peninsula beginning with migrations in 2200 B.C.
- From 1500 to 1100 B.C., they expanded their influence beyond the Greek peninsula, overpowering Minoan society in Crete



Trojan War

- About 1200 B.C., the Mycenaeans fought the Trojan War with the city of Troy in Anatolia
- At the same time, foreigners invaded the Mycenaean homeland
- From 1100 to 800 B.C., chaos reigned throughout the eastern Mediterranean
- In the absence of a centralized state or empire, local institutions took the lead in restoring political order to Greece
 - City-states



The Trojan Horse

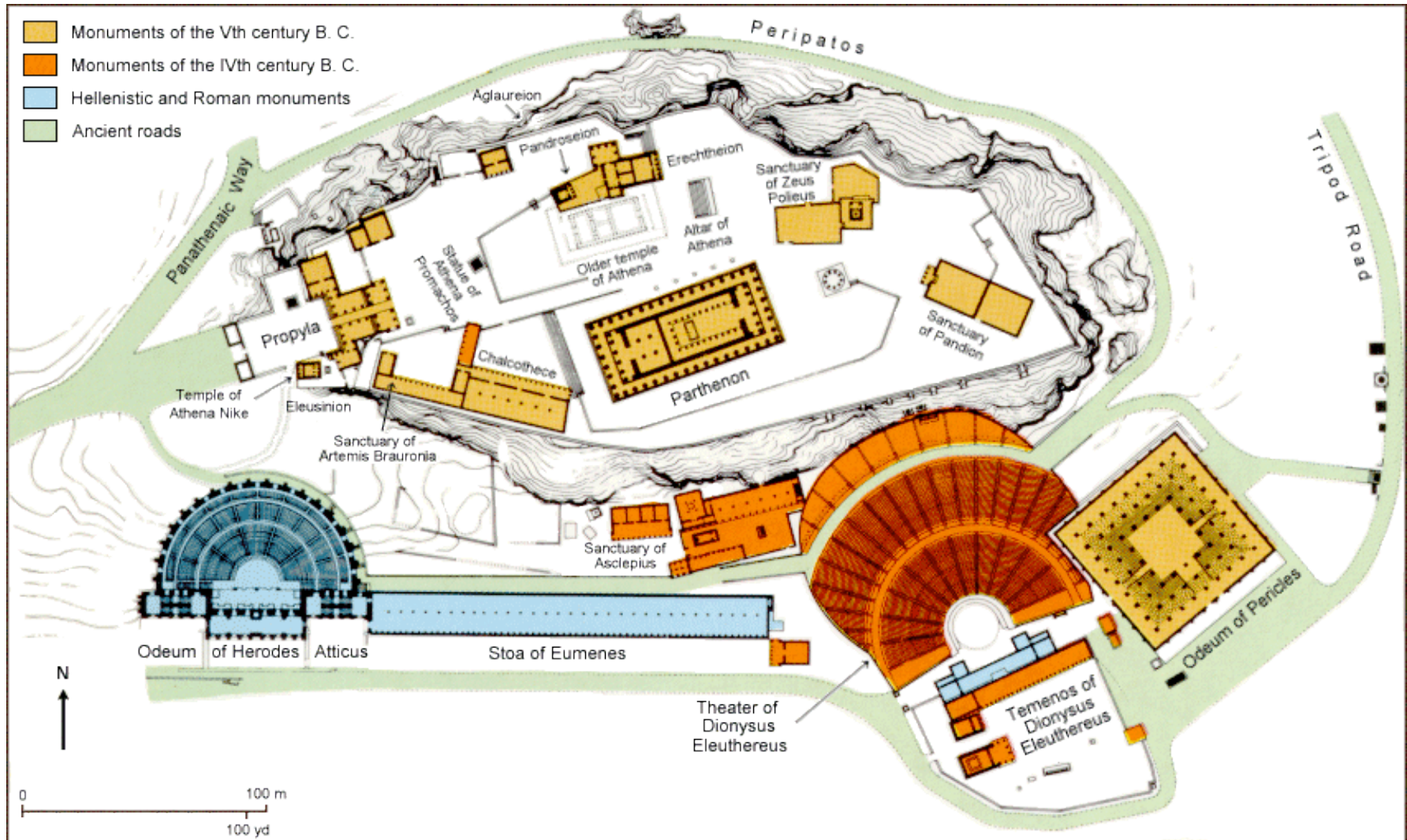
Hellenikon

- Concept of Herodotus to reflect the Greeks' being of "shared blood, shared language, shared religion, and shared customs"
- Established an ethnic identity that set them apart from the "barbarians"
- However, *Hellenikon* lacked a common political component
 - In the absence of a centralized state or empire, local institutions took the lead in restoring political order to Greece
 - City-states (*polis*)

Characteristics of a Civilization

- Intensive agricultural techniques
- Specialization of labor
- Cities (additional information in Lsn 15)
- A social hierarchy (additional information in Lsn 15)
- Organized religion and education (additional information in Lsn 15)
- Development of complex forms of economic exchange
- Development of new technologies
- Advanced development of the arts. (This can include writing.)

Cities



The Acropolis of Athens

Cities: The *Polis*

- The city-state or *polis* was originally a fortified site that provided refuge in war or other emergencies
 - Gradually they attracted increasing populations, took on an urban character, and began to exert authority over the surrounding regions
 - Levied taxes on their hinterlands and appropriated a portion of the agriculture surplus to support the urban population



Athens

Cities: The *Polis*

- *Poleis* were different because they developed independently of each other
 - Different traditions, economies, political systems, etc
- Athens, Sparta, Corinth, Thebes are examples
 - These will be discussed in greater detail in Lesson 15.

Agriculture



Olive grove in rocky Greek soil

Agriculture

- Good climate but bad terrain (very mountainous)
 - Hilly ground: grapes
 - Rocky soil: olives
 - Good soil: corn and wheat
- Sea was very important
 - Homer describes various fishing methods using hooks, nets, and harpoon in both the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*

Agriculture: Theophrastus

- Aristotle and his pupil Theophrastus were pioneers in the field of botany
- In *The Causes of Plants* and *The History of Plants*, Theophrastus classified 500 plants, developed a scientific terminology for describing biological structures, distinguished between the internal organs and external tissues of plants, and gave the first clear account of plant sexual reproduction



Theophrastus
“The Father of Botany”

Social Hierarchy



Edgar Degas, *The Young Spartans* (ca. 1860)

Sparta: *Helots*

- Expanded their control from Sparta throughout the Peloponnesus
- Reduced neighboring people to *helots*
 - *Helots* were servants of the Sparta state
 - Not chattel slaves, but not free either
 - Could form families, but could not leave the land
 - By the 6th Century B.C., helots probably outnumbered Sparta citizens by 10 to 1
 - The large number of helots allowed the Spartans to cultivate their region efficiently, but also posed the threat of constant rebellion

Sparta: Society

- In theory, all Spartans citizens were equal
 - To discourage economic and social distinctions, Spartans observed an extraordinarily austere lifestyle as a matter of policy
 - No jewelry, elaborate clothes, luxuries, or accumulation of great private wealth
 - Even today, “spartan” means
 - Practicing great self-denial
 - Unsparing and uncompromising in discipline or judgment
 - Resolute in the face of pain or danger or adversity

Sparta: Society

- What distinctions did exist in Spartan society were based not on wealth or social status, but on prowess, discipline, and military talent
- Spartan educational system cultivated such attributes from an early age
 - Boys left their homes at age seven to live in military barracks under a rigorous regime of physical training
 - At age 20 they went into the military where they served until retirement

Sparta: Society

- Women married at age 18 or 20 but did not live with their husbands
 - The men stayed in the barracks until about age 30 when they began to set up households with their wives and children
 - Women maintained strict physical regimes in the hopes of bearing strong children



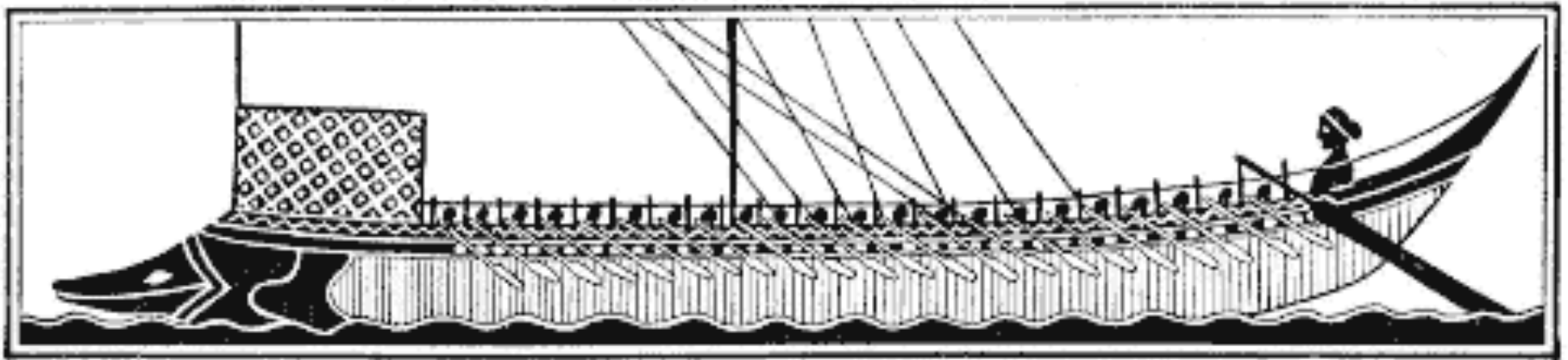
Patriarchal Society

- Male family heads ruled their households
 - Greek women fell under the control of their fathers, husbands, or sons
- In most *poleis*, women could not own landed property
- The only public position open to Greek women was priestess of a religious cult
- In Sparta, men were still the family authorities, but women had more opportunities

Advantages of Women in Sparta over Women in Athens

- Girls were given a good education in both the arts and athletics.
- Women were encouraged to develop their intellect.
- Women owned more than a third of the land.
- There was less difference in age between husbands and wives
 - Girls in Sparta married at a later age than their sisters in Athens.
- Husbands spent most of their time with other men in the military barracks
 - Since the men were rarely home, the women were free to take charge of almost everything outside of the army.
- Mothers reared their sons until age 7 and then society took over.
 - Fathers played little or no role in child care.

Specialization



Greek ship ca 600 B.C.

Specialization

- Greek wealth, especially in Athens, allowed for much specialization, to include in cultural areas
 - Architecture
 - Philosophy (We'll discuss in Lesson 15)
 - Art and Theater
 - Literature
 - Athletes
- Shipping
- Silver mining and silversmiths



Greek silver coins

Religion and Education



Temple of Apollo



Oracle at Delphi

Religion

- Over the centuries, Greeks personified the supernatural powers they associated with the natural elements into gods
- They constructed myths that related the stories of the gods, their relations with one another, and their roles in bringing the world into its present state
- As the gods struggled among one another, Zeus emerged as paramount ruler



Poseidon: God of
Sea and
Earthquakes

Religion

- Zeus's court included scores of subordinate deities who had various responsibilities



Poseidon:
Sea,
Earthquakes



Athena:
Wisdom, War



Apollo:
Truth, Light,
Music, Healing

Religion: Cults

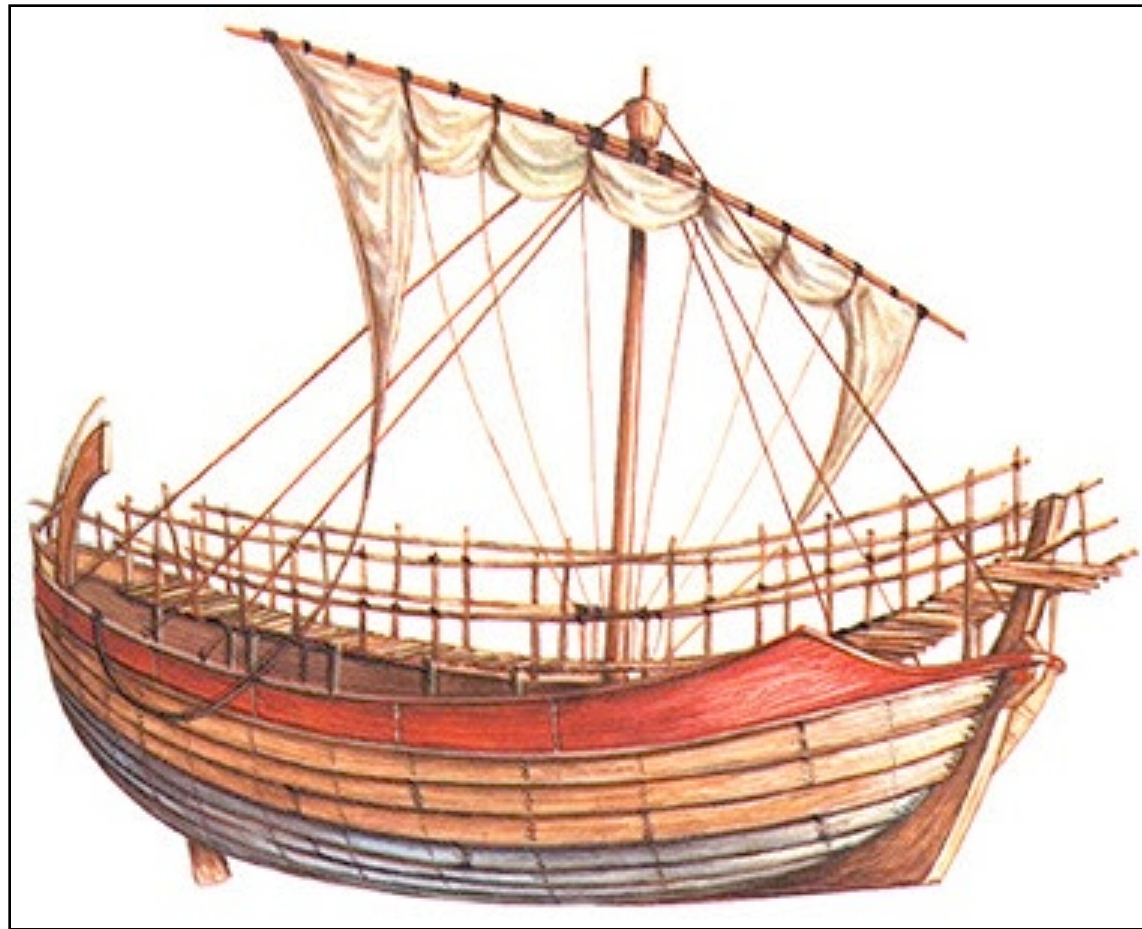
- Myths served as foundations for religious cults
 - Involved elaborate ritual observances
 - Provided a powerful sense of community
 - Some admitted only women such as the cult of Demeter
 - Provided opportunities for women who were excluded from legal and political life to play roles outside the home

Cult of Dionysus

- Dionysus was god of wine
- Women were the most prominent devotees
- Involved wild celebrations of song and dance during the spring
- The cult of Dionysus, like most others, became more restrained as the *poleis* strengthened their grip on public and political life in the 5th Century B.C.



Economic Exchange



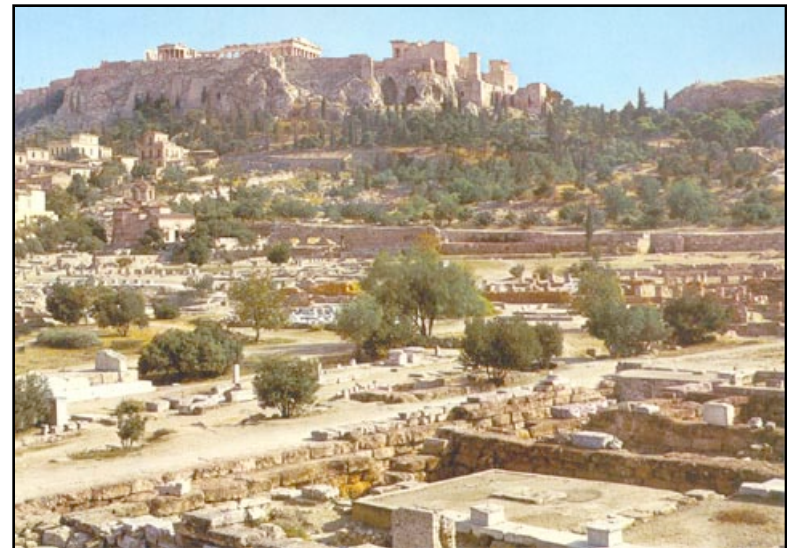
Kyrenia Trade Ship

Economic Exchange

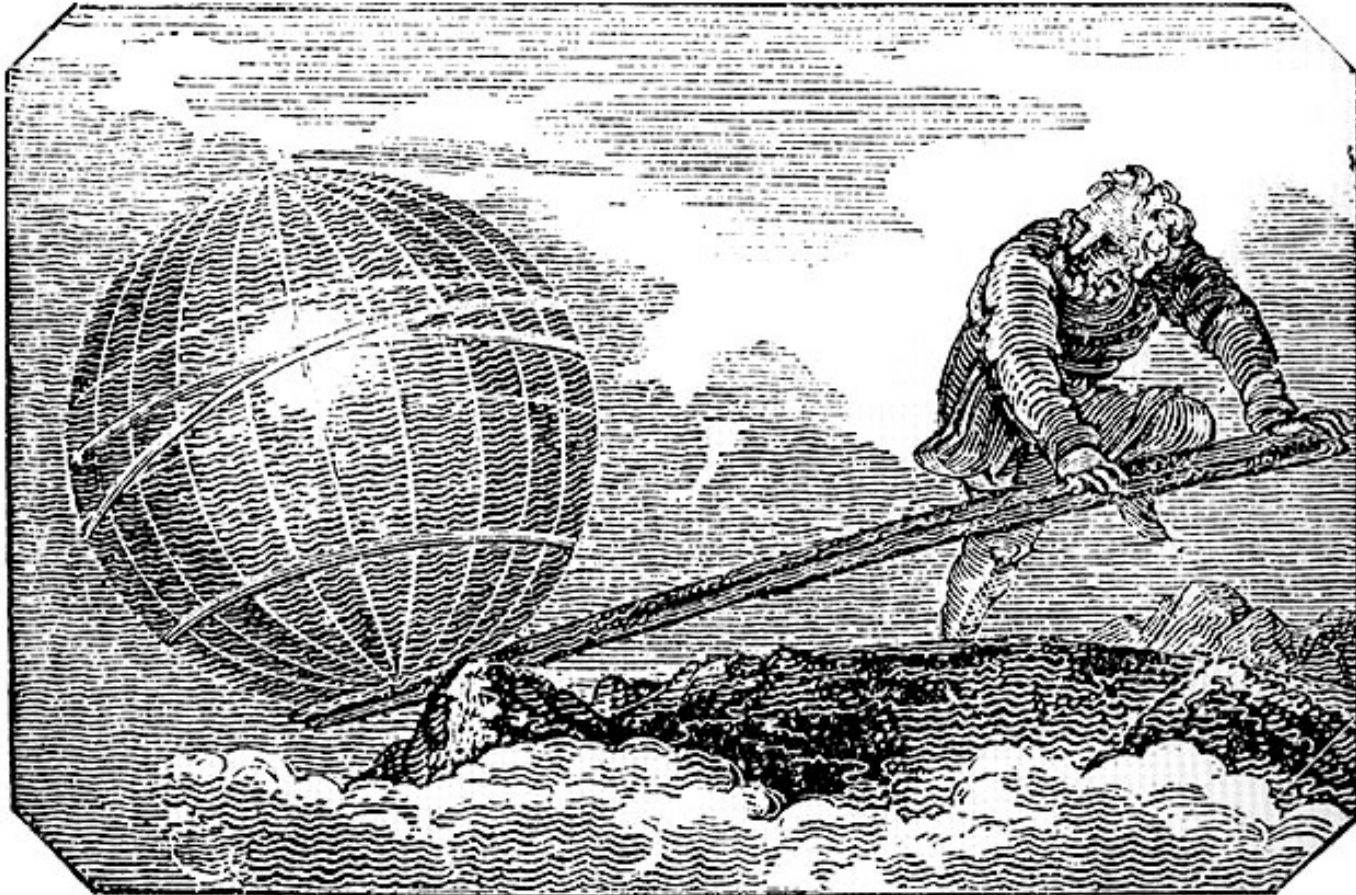
- Greek colonization did not produce a centralized imperial state, but it did sponsor more communication, interaction, and exchange than ever before among people of the Mediterranean
 - Greek language and cultural traditions spread throughout the Mediterranean basin
- Trade occurred among the *poleis* and throughout the region
- Shipping was integral to this exchange
- Exported olive oil, wine, and pottery

Economic Exchange

- City-states were usually built on two levels
 - On the hilltop was the *acropolis* and below was the living and business area
 - The market area called the *agora*
 - Trade included
 - Ivory and gems from Egypt
 - Elephants from India
 - Silk from China
 - Wool from countries surrounding Greece
 - Purple dye from the eastern countries
 - Grain from areas around the Black Sea



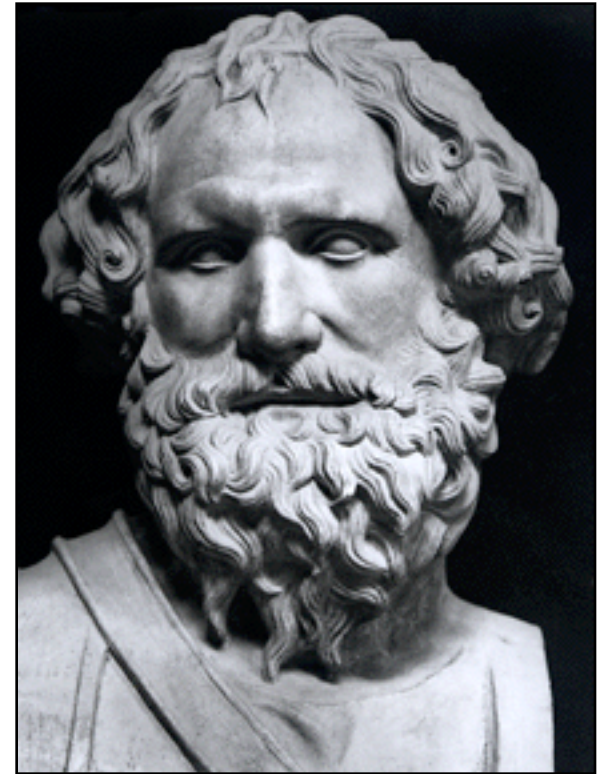
New Technologies



Archimedes: "Give me a lever and I can move the world."

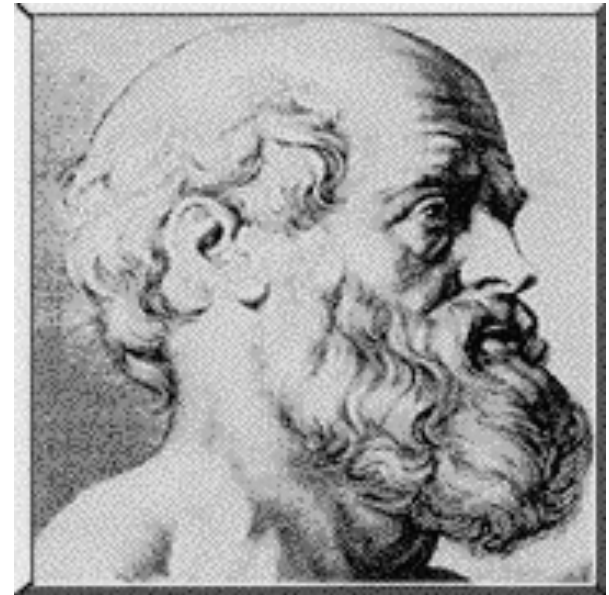
Archimedes (287-212 B.C)

- Greek mathematician and engineer
- In the field of geometry, he identified the relationship of a sphere and cylinder's volume.
- Discovered the principle of the lever and the importance of the fulcrum
 - “Give me a lever and I can move the world”
- Credited with the buoyancy principle, which gives the weight of an object floating in a liquid based on the weight of liquid the object displaces



Hippocrates (460-377 B.C.)

- “Father of Medicine”
- Based his medical practice on observations and on the study of the human body
- Believed that illness had a physical and a rational explanation
 - Rejected the views of his time that considered illness to be caused by superstitions and by possession of evil spirits and disfavor of the gods
- Believed that the body must be treated as a whole and not just a series of parts

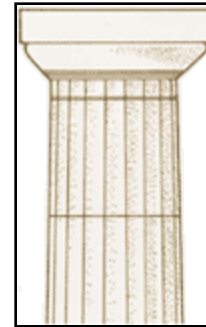
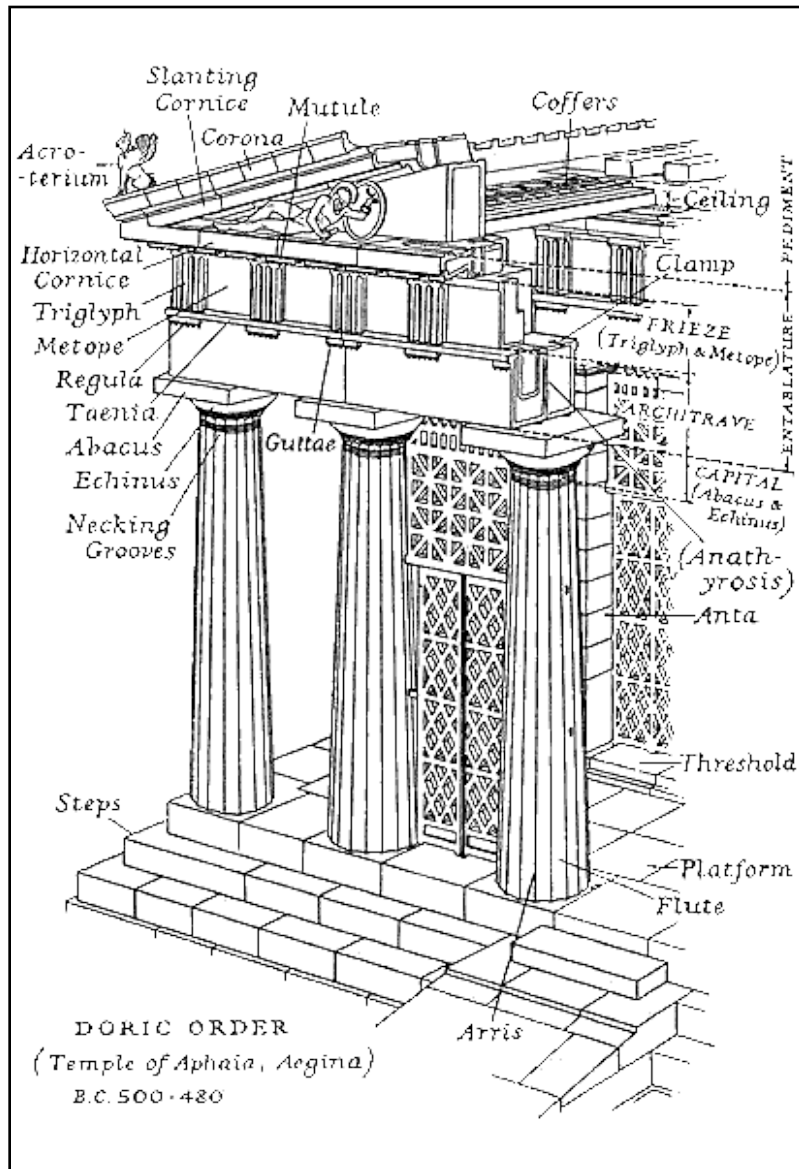


Architecture

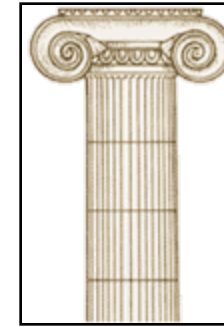
- The architecture of ancient Greece is the basis for virtually all Western architectural developments
 - Invented the entablature, which allowed roofs to be hipped (inverted V-shape)
 - Used a technique they called *entasis* to make their columns look straight
 - Bowed them slightly outward to compensate for the optical illusion that makes vertical lines look curved from a distance



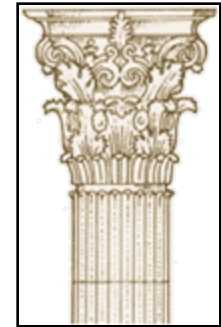
Architecture



Doric



Ionic



Corinthian

- Used three orders (Doric, Ionic, Corinthian) to relate proportionally the individual architectural components to the whole building.

Influence of Greek Architecture



The Parthenon



The Lincoln Memorial

Art and Writing



Colossus of Rhodes



Statue of Zeus at Olympia

Two of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World

Greek Tragic Drama

- Theaters were always outdoors and sat thousands of people
- Central character (the tragic hero) suffers some serious misfortune that is logically connected with the hero's actions (the tragic flaw)
- Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides



Theater at Epidaurus
held 14,000 people

Greek Tragic Drama

- Aeschylus (525-456 B.C.)
 - Transformed the tragedy from a dance-drama led by the chorus to a more sophisticated dramatic form that focused on the role of individual actors
- Sophocles (496-406 B.C.)
 - *Oedipus the King*
 - Oedipus's tragic flaw was hubris
 - Known for his treatment of the individual and addressing complex issues
- Euripides (485-406 B.C.)
 - Bold and irreverent



Sophocles

Writing

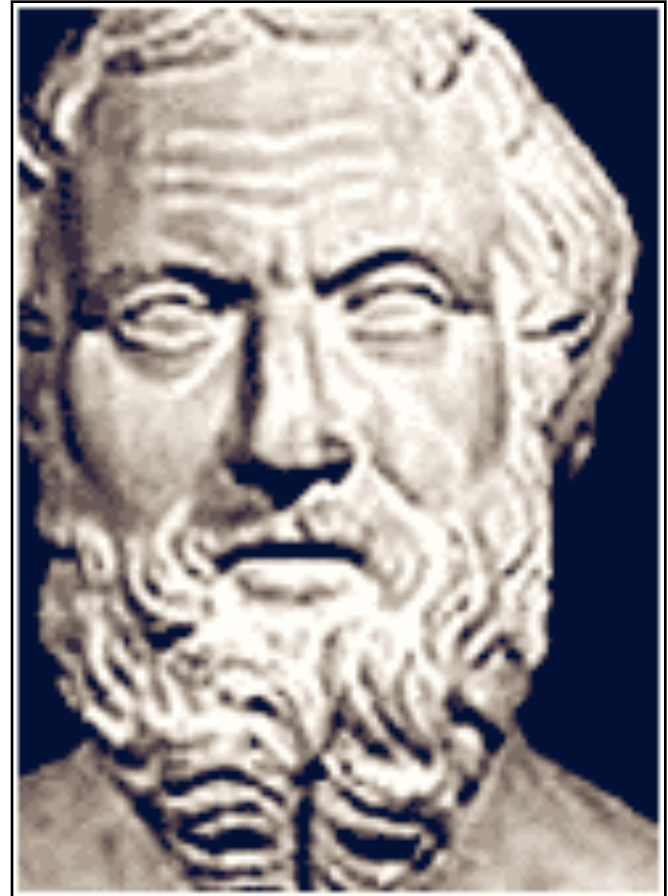
- Homer
 - Epic: a long poem which tells a story involving gods, heroes, and heroic exploits
 - *Iliad*: Greek perspective on the war against Troy in the 12th Century B.C.
 - *Odyssey*: Experiences of the Greek hero Odysseus as he sailed home after the Trojan War
 - Depict not just heroic adventures but also much about Greek travel, communication, and interaction in the Mediterranean basin



Bust of Homer in background of *O Brother, Where Art Thou?*

Writing

- Herodotus (484-420 B.C.)
 - The “Father of History”
- Not the world’s first historian, but the first to make investigation the key to history
 - Traveled to where the event occurred and interviewed witnesses
 - Established the concept that history requires research
 - *The Histories* chronicles Greece’s war with Persia



Olympic Games

- One of many Pan-Hellenic festivals that brought together the larger Greek community
- In 776 B.C., Greek communities from all parts of the Mediterranean sent their best athletes to Olympia to engage in sports competition
- Held every four years for the next thousand years



Vase ca. 550 B.C.
depicting two runners

Next

- Byzantium

