

## Ancient Greece Textbook Notes

### **Ancient Greece: Section 1**

#### Greece's Geographic Setting

- Greece: A peninsula made up of many small peninsulas
- Peninsula: An area surrounded by water on three sides
- Mountain is a major landform
- Islands, mostly mountain peaks
- Little farmland (small patches and not in many places)
- Greeks were called islanders approx 3,000 years ago

#### Greek history

- Mostly fighting was done
- Spoke same language
- Worshipped same gods
- Had a common heritage
- Developed own beliefs

#### Greek Beginnings

- Shared - wealth of stories and myths
- Myths - explain the creation of the universe
- Stories - told about Trojan War
- Trojan War - great heroes joined the war

#### The Trojan War

- Kidnapping - Prince Paris kidnaps Helen and takes her to Troy
- War to get Helen - lasted ten years
- Kidnapping- broke law of gods
- Getting Helen back-had to attack Troy
- Greeks won- Trojan Horse (tricked them)
- Epics-long poems
- Trojan War epics - Iliad and the Odyssey
- Credited Poet - Homer
- Epics taught- gods were like and how heroes behaved

#### The Dark Age of Greece

- End of Troy - Greece collapsed
- Life- poverty everywhere
- No longer- traded
- Western part Asia Minor- had to move here
- Without writing- depended on word of mouth
- Dark Age - 1100 BC to 750 BC
- Found- place where people could grow crops and raise animals
- Building farms- near rocky hills to protect
- Acropolis - rocky hills safe from attack "High City"

#### Governing the City-States

- Ruler - kings of city-states
- City-states ruled - aristocrats
- Aristocrats - member of rich and power families

## A New Type of Ruler

- Greeks traded - olive oil, marble and more
- Couldn't afford to equip with- horses and chariots for war
- Could afford- armor, swords and spears
- Government - aristocrat government was overthrown by Tyrants
- Tyrants - ruler who seized power by force
- Others - ruled wisely and well
- Democracy - ruled by the people
- City-state people - overthrew tyrants
- Democracy - citizens govern themselves
- City-state with democracy – Athens
- 594 BC - leader of Athens Solon- known for fairness- allowed citizens to debate the law (men)
- - 1st law- canceled all debts from enslaved citizens
- Men Citizens - free and self-governing

## Unit 6 Section 2 Notes

### What was The Golden Age of Athens about ?

- Years from 479 B.C. to 431 B.C. called The Golden Age of Athens
- Athenians made amazing achievements in arts, philosophy and literature
- Pericles was a member of aristocratic family, he supported democracy
- For about 30 years during The Golden Age, Pericles was most powerful man in Athens

### What was Flourishing Arts ?

- Pericles probably known for making Athens beautiful city
- 480 B.C., during one of city's many wars, Acropolis of Athens been destroyed
- Pericles decided rebuild Acropolis and create new buildings to glorify the city
- He hired Greek world's finest architects and sculptors for project

### What was the Magnificent Architecture ?

- Builders of the new Acropolis brought Greek architecture to it's highest point
- Their most magnificent work was Parthenon, temple to goddess Athena
- Temple was made of fine marble
- Rows of columns surrounded it on Athena, made of wood, ivory, and gold

### What was the Lifelike Sculpture ?

- Great statue of Athena disappeared long ago
- However, much of the sculpture on inside and outside and outside of the temple still exists
- Many of the scenes that decorate the Parthenon have three important characteristics
- First, they are full of action

### The search for knowledge:

- A family of gods and goddesses called the Twelve Olympians and Greeks worshiped them.
- Zeus was the king of the gods and goddesses. He was also the ruler of the sky. Hera, Wife to Zeus was the Goddess of marriage and woman. Apollo, was the young god of poetry, music & medicine.
- There was also Athena, the Goddess of crafts. Poseidon was the lord of horses. He was also the ruler of the sea & cause of earthquakes

## **What Was Greek Religion?**

- Greeks built temples to the gods wherever they lived.
- The gods they worshiped were immortal, which means they lived forever.
- The Greeks also worshiped Achilles, a mythical hero.
- Achilles did many great things during the Trojan war.

## **What was Greek science and Philosophy?**

- People who thought about ways besides myths to understand the world are Philosophers.
- Thales was one of the first Philosophers. He believed water was the basic material of the world. He - believed everything was made from it.
- One man called Socrates was an important Philosopher who taught in Athens.
- Socrates wanted people to consider the true meaning of qualities such as justice and courage.
- To do this, made others think about their beliefs by asking questions.

## **What was Greece's Science and Philosophy?**

- Socrates asked people questions, helping them think about their beliefs
- Socrates angered some people because he taught them they did not know what they were talking about
- Socrates died because he believed he dishonored Gods and misled young people
- Friends told him to run away but he refused and calmly drank poison and died

## **What was Greeks Entertainment?**

- Our plays, movies, and television were thought of by the Greeks
- Plays were written and produced during the Golden Age
- Plays soon became popular all over the Greek world

## **What were Some Greek Tragedies?**

- Some of the most famous Greek plays were tragedies
- Tragedies often told about fictional humans who are destroyed by impossible choices
- Between scenes a chorus chanted or sang songs
- Performances of tragedies were used in a contest at religious festivals

## **What was Greek Comedy?**

- Comic writers competed at dramatic festivals
- During the fifth century in Athens poets wrote comedies making fun of well known people
- Because of freedom in Athens, people accepted the humor and jokes

## SECTION 3 NOTES

### What was the Marketplace?

- The Acropolis was the center of Athens' religious life, and the Agora was the center of public life
- All Greek cities had agoras, or public market and meeting places
- Athens' agora was the busiest and most interesting of them all
- In the morning, many Athenian men wandered to the agora
- Liked being outdoors
- Mild climate of Athens made it possible to carry on business in the open
- Men talked about politics and philosophy
- Sometimes they just gossiped
- Heard cries of vendors, or seller of goods and the haggling over prices
- Some eager to find bargains
- Streets were lined with shops
- Just about any food an Athenian would want could be found in the Agora
- Everyday goods were also for sale - sheep's wool, pottery, hardware, cloth, and books
- Temples and government lined the Agora
- One building was headquarters for Athens' army.
- Another was a prison
- A board displayed public notices such as new laws and upcoming court cases

### What was life like at home?

- Homes made of mud bricks
- Homes plain with rooms set in an open courtyard
- Hidden from street
- Kitchens, storerooms, dining rooms, bedrooms, and sometimes bathrooms
- Most meals consisted of bread
- Dinner is cheese, fruits and sweet cake
- Not a lot of meat, only for religious festivals

### What did the women in Athens do?

- Running home and family was job of women
- women rarely left the house
- Pericles said " The greatest glory will belong to the women who is least talked about by men, whether they praise her or find fault with her

### What was slavery like in Ancient Greece?

- Women spin cloth
- Wealthy women used slaves
- Estimated one hundred thousand slaves in Athens one third of population
- Slaved by being captured in war
- Slaves known as foreigners
- Some mined for gold and silver and some farmed
- Household slaves cooks their food and tend for kids
- Household slaves had the best life
- Mine slaves suffered the most, they had a short life

## Section 4 Notes

### How did Spartans Live?

- story of boy and fox may or may not be true- tells about people of Sparta
- Life of Athens citizens free and open- Sparta was opposite- harsh and cruel- tough, silent, and grim
- Sparta's army easily equaled Athens' in 400s BC- never came close to equaling Athens' other achievements

### Why was Sparta a Different Kind of City?

- early days- Sparta developing as other city-states were
- 600s BC- wars inside and outside city led to changes in government and way people lived- turned Sparta into an awesome war machine
- One basic rule- always put the city's needs above your own
- Early in history, Spartans conquered land around their city- turned conquered people into helots (slaves)
- Helots did farm work on land owned by Spartan citizens- left Spartans free to wage war
- Helots highly outnumbered Spartans- living in fear of helot revolt, Spartans turned city into army camp and treated helots very harshly

### What was it Like Growing up in Sparta?

- life of every Spartan was in hands of government from first moment of life
- only healthiest children were raised- Spartans wanted only healthiest males for soldiers
- training began early
- age 7- left mother to live in barracks with other boys- training continued for next 13 years
- age 12- spent long hours practicing with swords and spears- 1 cloak and thin mat to sleep on- hardly live on food given, so were urged to steal
- stealing helped him learn how to live off land during a war
- if caught, severely punished, may be killed- must bear pain, hardship, and punishment in silence
- girls trained and competed in wrestling and spear throwing- not expected to become soldiers- girls who grew up strong and healthy would have strong, healthy children
- women had better life than other city- states
- they could own land and take part in business
- locked beauty and pleasures (Spartan life) found in Athens and other cities
- warriors known for skill and bravery
- fighting force was key role in war against Persians who lived across the Aegean Sea east of Greece

### Why and how did the Persians Invade?

- most history Greece tells war fought among selves
- 400s BC- threat loomed- growing might of Persia; 520 BC had gained control of Greek colonies to west of Asia Minor
- fall 490 BC- huge force of thousands of Persians landed in Greece- gathered at Marathon 25 miles north of Athens
- Athenians put together a small army- Persians outnumbered 2 to 1- several days armies stared tensely at each other across plain of Marathon
- Athenians rushed Persians who were overwhelmed by furious attack- battle over, 6400 Persians killed and Athens lost only 192 soldiers

### What was the Athenian Empire like after Persia?

- several more battles- Persians finally defeated
- influence of Athens spread over much of eastern Greece
- Athens joined itself with other city states and supported democratic groups within them
- Cities became more like subjects than allies

### Why did Sparta and Athens Go into War?

- Athens democracy at home- began acting unfairly toward other city-states
- Allies paid tribute to Athens for protection because Persians caused more trouble
- Athens used money for Parthenon and other projects- people of city-states began to fear and resent Athens' power
- Looked to Sparta(had not joined alliance) to protect them
- 431 BC- Athens and Sparta went to war- lasted 27 years- called Peloponnesian War, Sparta located in Peloponnesus (southern part) of Greece

### How did Athens Fall?

- early in war Athens was struck by a plague
- A plague is a widespread disease
- War ended 5 years later- 1/3 of Athens' people died from it- Pericles dead
- Athens never recovered from losses during plague
- Spartans staged a blockade
- A blockade was where the Spartans surrounded and closed the harbor where Athens received food shipments. The Athenians surrendered in 404 BC because they were starving and beaten.
- Spartans knocked down Athens' walls
- Athens never again dominated the Greek world

## Ancient Greece: Section 5 Notes

### Who were King Philip and Alexander?

- King Philip of Macedonia did not waste the money he spent on Greek tutors for son
- Alexander fine student- also eager
- Wanted to learn as much as he could especially about the ideas and deeds of the Greeks
- Macedonia- kingdom that lays just north of Greece
- Alexander thought of himself as Greek and spoke the Greek language
- People who lived to the south in such cities like Athens and Sparta did not accept Macedonians as Greeks- thought they were **barbarians**, or wild, uncivilized people
- Alexander's tutor was Greek philosopher Aristotle, who taught him Greek literature, philosophy, and science — Aristotle also passed on strong feelings that
- the Greeks were far better than other people and deserved to rule
- Alexander's role model was Achilles, the warrior hero of the Iliad
- Alexander vowed he would visit the site of Troy and lay a wreath on the tomb of his hero

### When does Alexander build an Empire?

- Before King Philip seized power in 359 BC Macedonia was poor and divided Philip united Macedonia and built army stronger than Sparta's Philip captured one Greek city-state after another
- 338 BC he controlled all of Greece like never before

### Why does Alexander Come to the Throne?

- Philip planed to attack Persia
- 336 BC he was **assassinated** .or murdered, by a rival before he carried out plan 20 yrs old-
- Alexander became king Alexander's chance to be as great of a hero as Achilles

### How did Alexander the Great Get his Name?

- One of Alex's first actions was invade Persian empire
- 11 yrs- conquered Persia, Egypt, and lands extending beyond Indus River in east Earned right to be called Alexander the Great
- Energy and military genius helped succeed- drove himself and army hard-advancing across vast lands at lightning speed Soldiers grumbled but obeyed him
- Alexander established cities wherever he went- many named after himself
- Numerous cities named Alexandria or Alexandropolis throughout western Asia
- Never stayed very long in cities- quickly pushed on- never lost a battle
- Weary troops refused to go another step east not far beyond the Indus River Alex angry but turned back
- Got as far as Babylon but came down with fever
- 323 BC- 13 yrs after came to throne- died- died young like Achilles- gone far beyond deeds of his hero-conquered practically all of known world

### How and When did Greek Culture Spread?

- Alex's death spelled death for empire
- 50 yrs- empire broken into three other kingdoms- each was ruled by family descended from one of commanders Empire broke apart but Greek culture remained alive and well in new kingdoms

### What were the Hellenistic Kingdoms?

- Alex took control of lands- tried not to destroy cultures of defeated people Hoped that in new cities the local cultures would mix with Greek culture Did not happen in three **Hellenistic** kingdoms( came to be called) Hellenistic come s from word Hellas- name Greeks gave land Cities of Hellenistic world modeled after Greek cities Greek kings ruled and Greeks held most important jobs Greek temples and agoras
- Citizens gathered at large theaters for performances of old Greek tragedies
- Greek language spoken in cities though people in the countryside spoke local languages

### What Hellenism like in Egypt?

- Greatest of all Hellenistic cities was Alexandria in Egypt- Alexander founded city in 332 BC at the edge of the Nile delta- became capital of Egypt Grew famous as center for business and trade
- Double harbor dominated by huge lighthouse that rose about 400 feet in the air-toppled by flame that guided ships safely into port
- Important Hellenistic cities centers of learning- Alexandria was greater than all rest- boasted largest library in world( half a million book rolls)- learning capital of Greek world- scholars and writers from all over came to use library Mathematics and science flourished in city
- 300 BC- mathematician named Euclid developed branch of mathematics called geometry
- started with accepted mathematical laws- wrote carefully thought out step by step proofs of mathematical principles- proofs helped explain qualities of figures as squares, cubes, angles, triangles, and cones
- Mathematicians still use Euclid's method today
- Hellenistic times- many scientists knew the earth was round
- Scientist named Eratosthenes calculated distance around Earth- answer 24,662 miles was very close
- Greatest scientist of times was Archimedes- discovered that people can use pulleys and levers to lift very heavy objects- story says that he hoisted up loaded ship with these devices- Boasted that he could use a lever to move the Earth