

Classical Greece

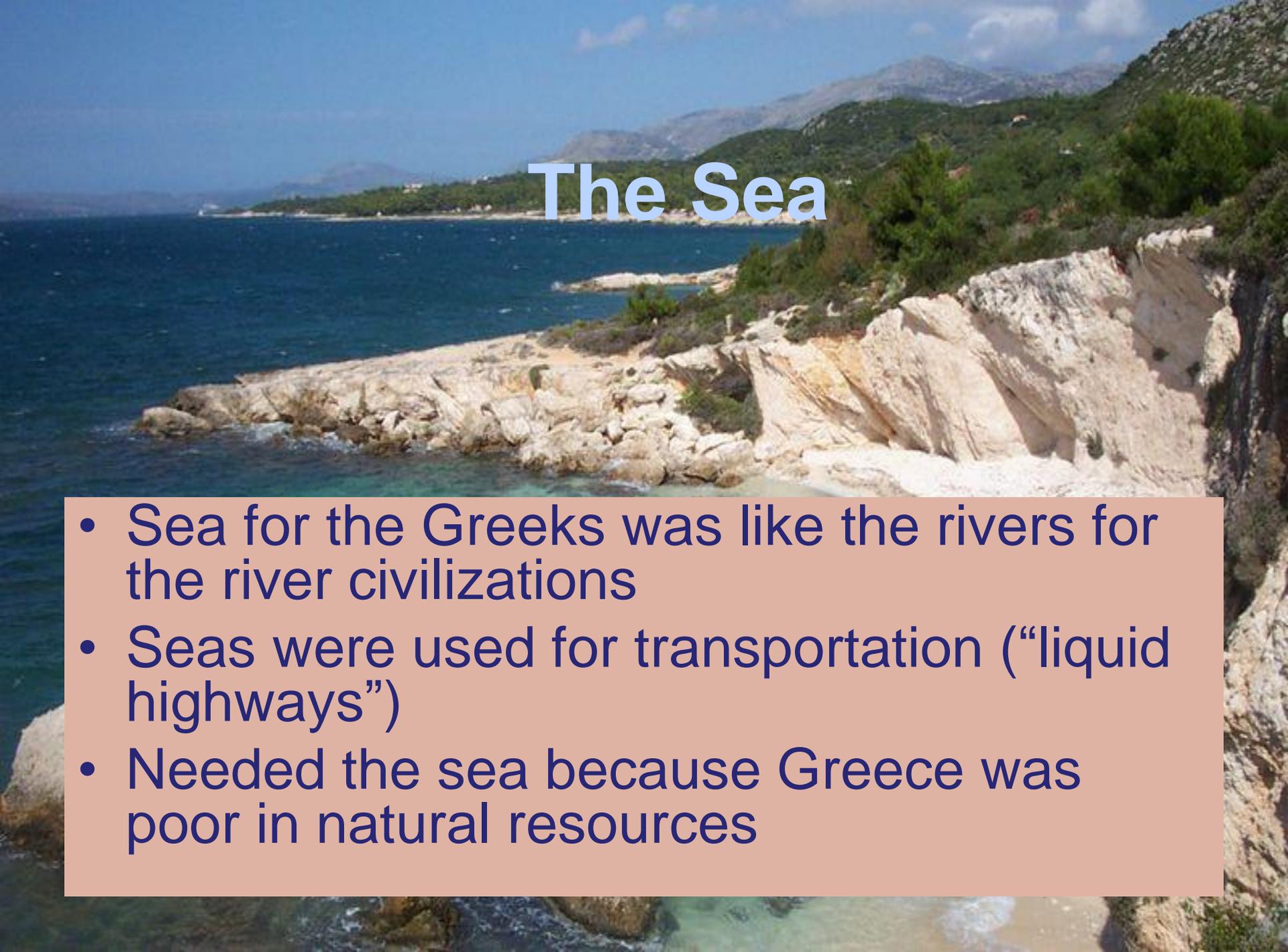
c.1000 B.C.-
c.150 B.C.



Geography

- Mountainous peninsula jutting out into the Mediterranean Sea
- Approximately 1,400 islands
- Geography directly shaped traditions and customs



The background image shows a coastal landscape. In the foreground, there are light-colored, layered rock formations. The sea is a deep blue, and the sky is clear with some light clouds. In the distance, there are green hills and mountains under a bright sky.

The Sea

- Sea for the Greeks was like the rivers for the river civilizations
- Seas were used for transportation (“liquid highways”)
- Needed the sea because Greece was poor in natural resources

The Land



- $\frac{3}{4}$ of Greece is covered with mountains
- Difficult to unite Greece because mountains separated Greeks
- Greeks developed small, independent communities

The Climate

- Temperatures only varied from 48-80 degrees Fahrenheit, so life was outdoors



Ancient Greece: *Order vs. Creativity*

- Combination of many different **city-states** around the Aegean Sea.
- City-states shared a common culture, many other systems were different.
- Civilization was spread throughout the world due to diversity and travels around the Med.
- Left physical structures like the Parthenon, much of the legacy is non- tangible- ideas represented in writings and art.
- Higher standard of living than other civilizations of the time.
 - lived longer, in better conditions, enough food
 - others seemed to want what they had - looked to Greeks to tutor their children
- Treated with more respect than in other civilizations of the time.

Mycenaeans & Minoans

◎ Mycenaeans were one of the first people to settle Greece

> Warrior-like

◎ Minoans lived in Crete

> Seaborne people

> Mycenaeans conquered the Minoans



Trojan War



- ◎ Mycenaeans vs. Troy
- ◎ According to legend, a Greek army besieged and destroyed Troy because a Trojan youth kidnapped Helen, a beautiful wife of a Greek king
- ◎ First was thought to be a myth, but archaeologists have found evidence that maybe these were true events



Dorians

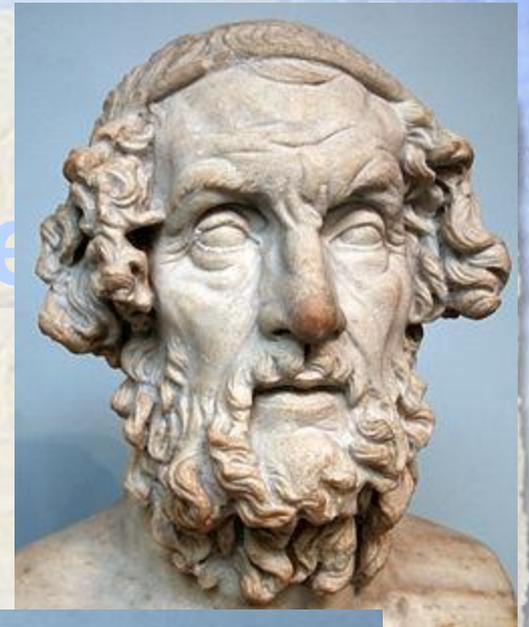


- ◎ After Mycenaean collapsed the Dorians came onto the war-torn countryside
- ◎ Dorians were less advanced than the Mycenaean
- ◎ Appeared that the Greeks temporarily forgotten the art of writing

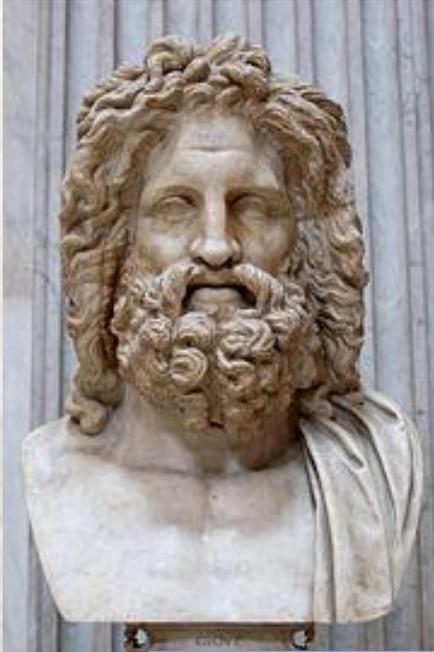


Epics of Homer

- ◎ Homer = greatest storyteller, blind
 - > *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey* (about Trojan War)
- ◎ Epics = narrative poems celebrating heroic deeds



Greek R



- Gods, polytheistic
- Attributed human qualities, such as love, hate and jealousy, to their gods
- Gods lived forever
- Zeus= ruler of Gods
- Hera= Zeus' wife
- Mount Olympus= where the gods lived
- Athena= goddess of wisdom, Zeus' favorite child

City-States

- ◎ City-state = polis, fundamental political unit in ancient Greece
- ◎ Acropolis = fortified hilltop



Greek Politics

- All city-states ruled differently:
 - Monarchy= rule by one
 - Aristocracy= rule by elite
 - Oligarchy= rule by a few people



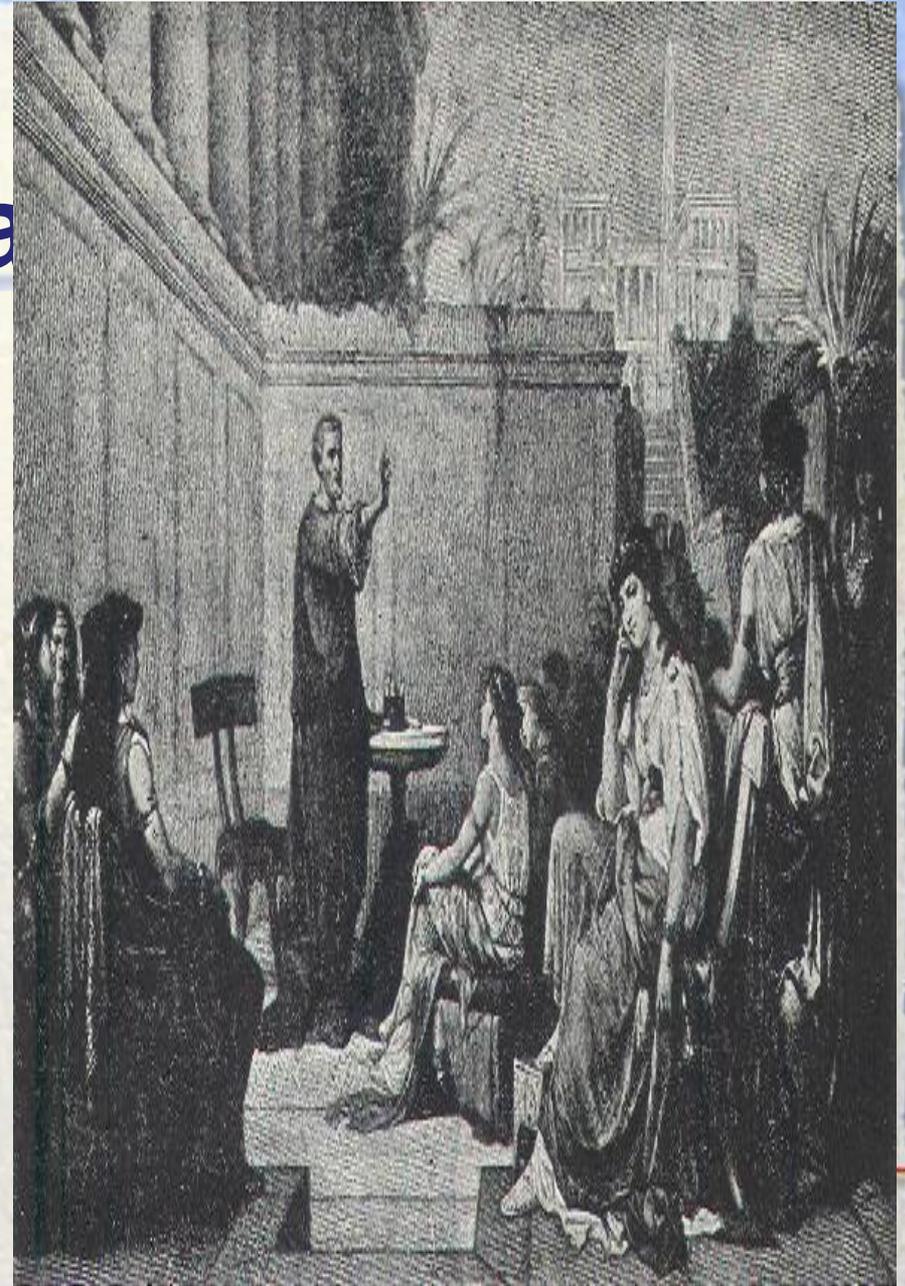
New Kind of Army



- Iron was better than bronze (which was harder and cheaper)
- Citizens were expected to defend their polis
- Phalanx=a military formation of foot soldiers armed with shields and swords

Tyrants

- =powerful individuals who gained control of the government by appealing to the poor and the discontented for support
- Many peasants and farmers joined together to revolt



Rivals: Athens vs. Sparta



Rivals

- 2 leading city-states = Sparta & Athens
→ very different from one another



Sparta

- Founded by descendants of Dorian invaders (from “dark ages”)
- Located on the Peloponnesus Peninsula (southern Greece)
- Invaded neighboring city-states & enslaved people
 - Slaves were called helots
 - Slaves farmed the estates of the Spartans



Sparta

- Spartans developed a militaristic society to keep control over the people
 - Started this after they suppressed a 30 year revolt by the helots



A Military Society

- All life revolved around the army
 - Only healthy babies were allowed to live
 - Boys entered the military at age 7
 - Stayed in the military until age 60



Role of Women



- Women, like men, were expected to exercise and be strong
 - Spartan women trained in gymnastics, boxing, and wrestling
 - Needed to produce healthy babies
 - Had more freedoms than other Greek women
 - Could go shopping in the marketplace, express political opinions, own property, etc. → could NOT take part in government though

Sparta's Government

- 2 kings ruled Sparta, but had little power
 - Led the army & conducted religious services – that's it
- Assembly had most power = group of male citizens over age of 30
- Council of Elders served as Supreme Court and proposed laws to the Assembly = 28 men over age of 60

Sparta's Government

- Sparta was behind other city-states in economics, philosophy, science, and arts
 - Rulers afraid of change; afraid of outside influence

Athens

- Founded by descendants of Mycenaeans
- Lived on Attica peninsula (northeast of Peloponnesus)
- Named after the goddess Athena

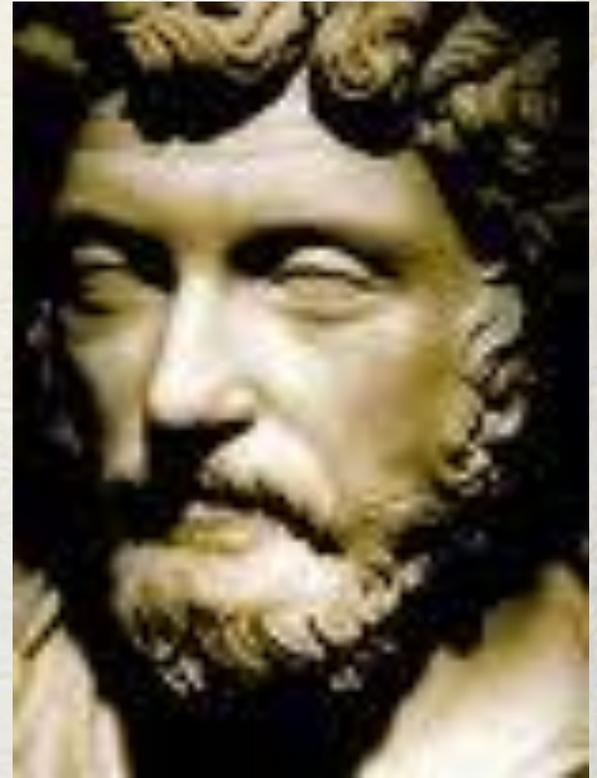


Athens

- Athens' citizenship included more people than Sparta's did
 - **Constitution** (plan of government) = said that all free, Athenian-born men were citizens, whether they owned land or not
 - Reduced friction between social classes

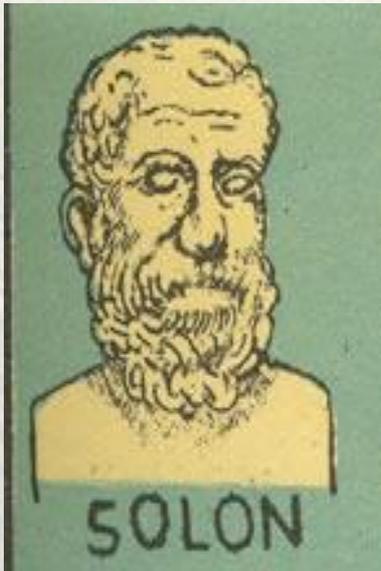
Athenian Rulers

- Draco = 621 BCE
 - Issued an improved code of laws with very harsh penalties
 - Because the laws were written down, everyone knew what they were
 - *Draconian* = word that has come to mean harsh or severe



Athenian Rulers

- Solon = 594 BCE
 - Cancelled all land debt & freed debtors from slavery
 - Placed limits on how much land a person could own
 - Promoted trade by making farmers grow cash crops
 - Required fathers to teach their sons a skill
 - Allowed all citizens to participate in the Assembly & courts of law



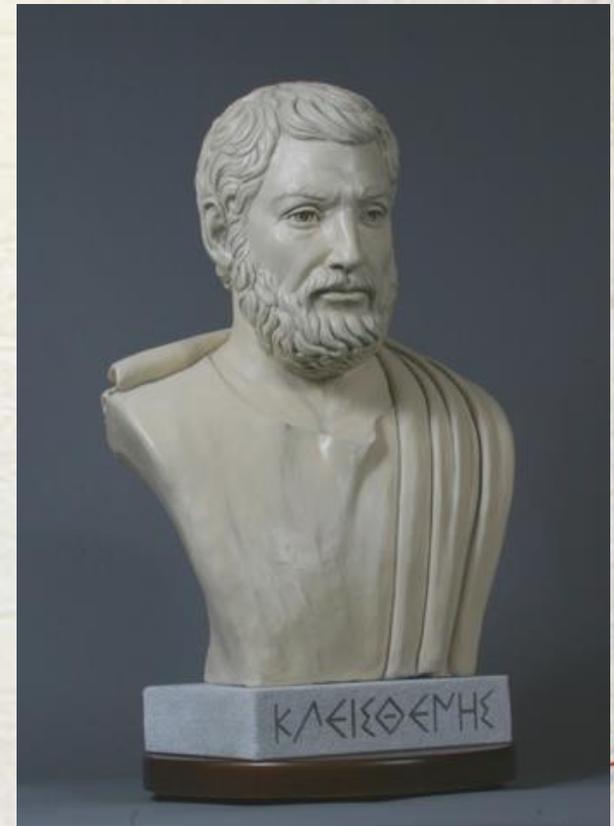
Athenian Rulers

- Peisistratus = 546 BCE
 - Divided large estates among landless farmers
 - Helped the poor → loaned them money; gave them public works jobs



Athenian Democracy

- Cleisthenes (ruler – 508 BCE) established democracy in Athens
- Assembly became the most powerful political body
 - Members were chosen by a lottery system – limit of 500 people
 - Open to all citizens

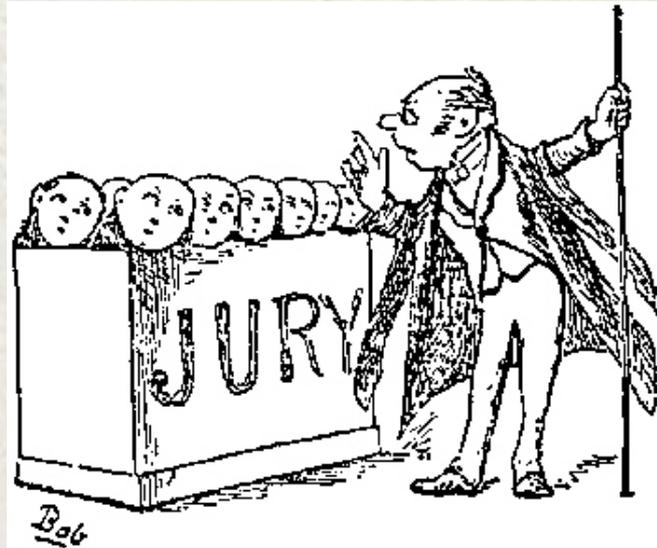


Athenian Democracy

- Note: Citizens still only 20% of population → excluded slaves, women, and foreign-born
- Citizens considered equal before the law; granted freedom of speech

Athenian Democracy

- Jury system established
- System of Ostracism = Athenians could get rid of undesirable politicians



Athenian Education

- Depended on social & economic status
- Athenian citizens were required to educate their sons
- Girls didn't receive a formal education – were trained in household duties

Athenian Education

- Main textbooks were *the Iliad* and *the Odyssey*
- Learned arithmetic, geometry, drawing, music, gymnastics, and **rhetoric** (art of public speaking)
- At 18, boys entered the military for 2 years

War, Glory, and Decline



Quick Overview

- 400s BCE → Persian Empire had strongest military in the world
- Persian Empire wanted to invade Europe and expand
- Greek city-states cooperated in resisting Persian attacks
- After victory against Persia, the Greeks enjoyed a “golden age”
- Then – Greek city-states began to fight each other

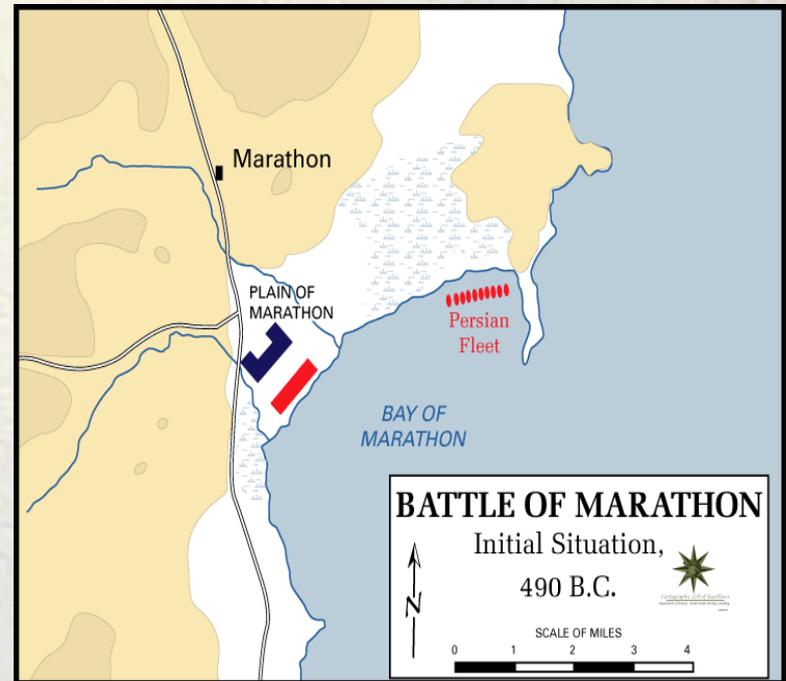
The Persian Wars

- Persians took over the Greek city-states in Ionia (in Asia)
- Ionians revolted against Persians, with help from other city-states like Athens
- Persians (led by King Darius) defeated the Ionians & decided to punish the other city-states on mainland Greece for helping the Ionians



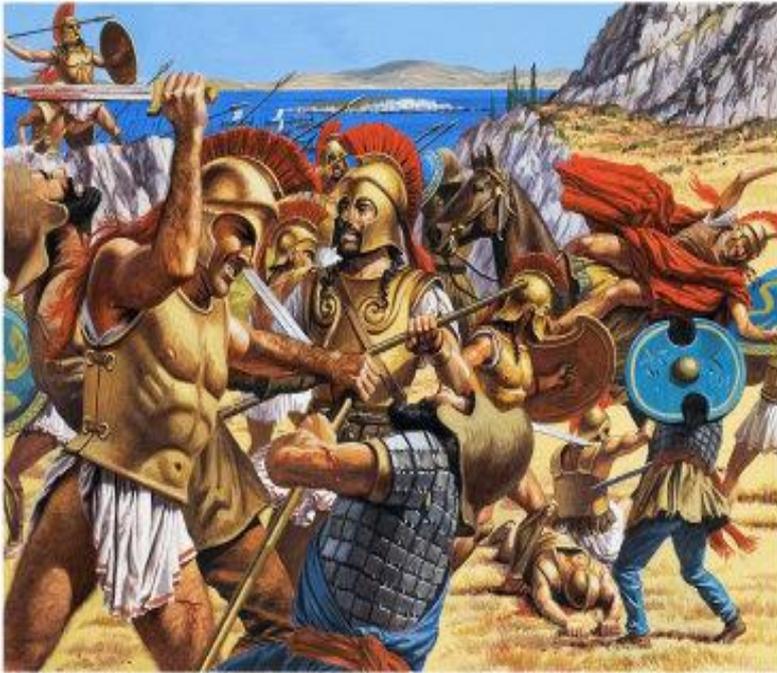
Battle at Marathon

- Darius sent a Persian fleet across the Aegean Sea to city of Marathon
- Persians waited for the Athenians, but the Athenians were outnumbered and didn't move



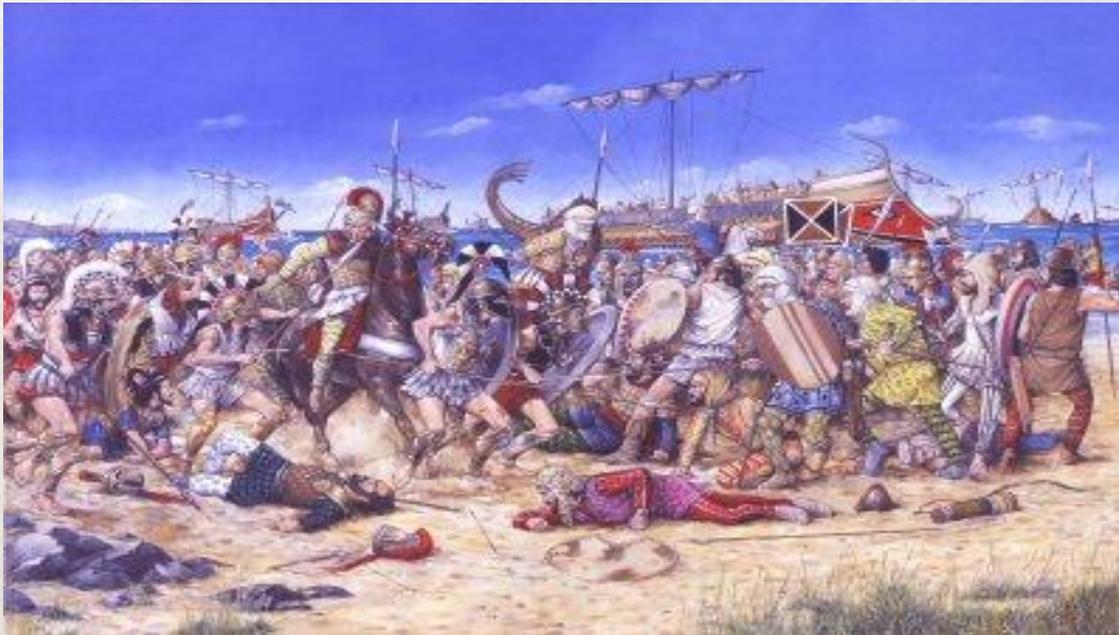
Battle at Marathon

- Persians decided to attack Athens directly
 - Loaded cavalry & infantry on ships and went north to Athens
 - Athens decides to strike
 - Athens sends foot soldiers to attack Persian troops while they are in shallow water waiting to board ships



Battle at Marathon

- Persians were caught off guard and lost to the Greeks in this battle

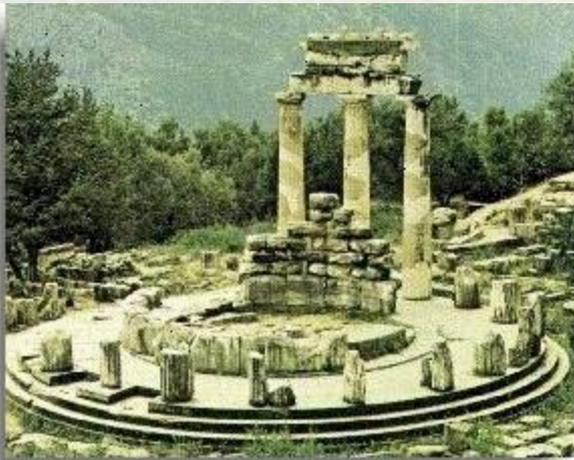


Battle of Salamis

- 10 years later → Darius's son Xerxes invades Greece from the north
- Xerxes brought 200,000 troops – couldn't live off the land so offshore supply ships came with them
- Greeks under the leadership of Sparta this time



Battle of Salamis



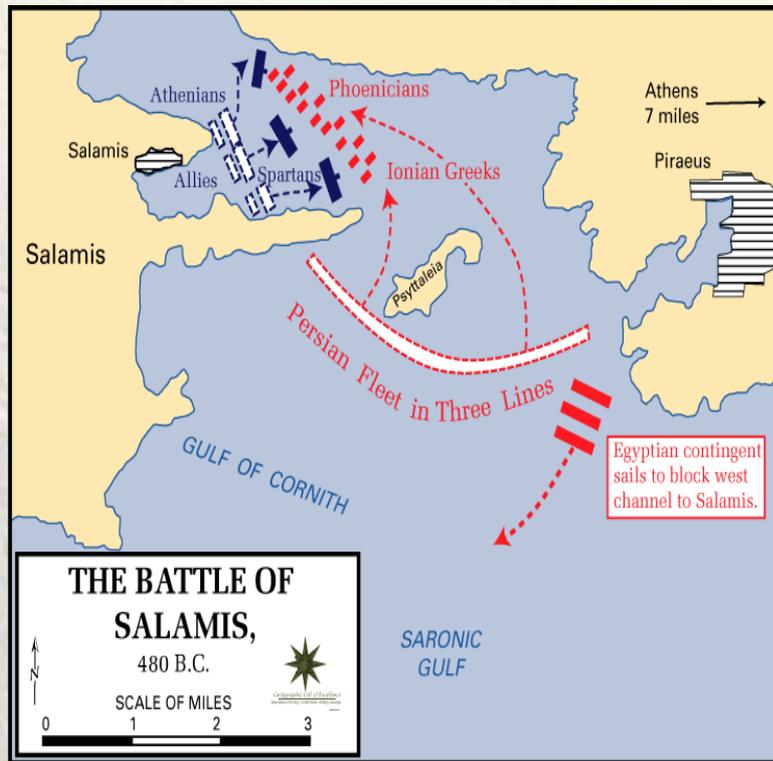
- Oracle at Delphi said Greeks would be safe behind a “wooden wall”
 - Athenian General Themistocles believed “wooden wall” meant fleet of ships & that they needed to challenge the Persians at sea
 - Greek army had to set up a distraction on land to build this fleet at sea
 - Greeks chose Thermopylae as place for distraction

The 300

- At Thermopylae – 7,000 Greeks led by King Leonidas stood firm for 3 days
- Greek traitor showed Persians a trail they could use to attack the Greeks
 - Leonidas sent home most of his troops to save them
 - He and 300 Spartans stayed to fight
 - They lost, but gave Themistocles time to carry out his plan at sea



Battle of Salamis



- Themistocles drew the Persian fleet to the Strait of Salamis
 - Greek navy destroyed Persian fleet in the strait
- Persians never came back → Greeks won the Persian Wars
- Athens emerged as a powerful city-state

Golden Age of Athens

- Athenian general Pericles rebuilt Athens to become the most beautiful city in Greece
- Public buildings = fancy; Athenian homes = simple
- Most famous building built = Parthenon atop the Acropolis



The Golden Age of Athens



Quest for Beauty & Meaning

- Greek civilization reached its peak in the mid-400s BCE, particularly in Athens
 - Known as the Golden Age
 - Artists created beautiful architecture, sculptures, paintings
 - Artistic style was **classical** = simple, graceful, and balanced
 - Advancements in philosophy, literature, and drama



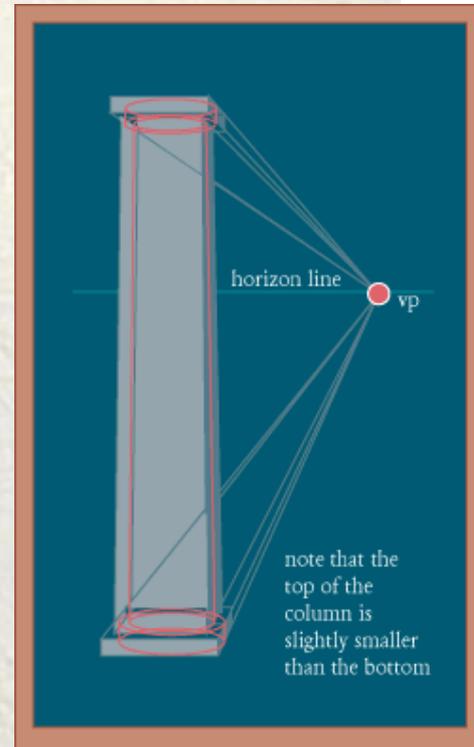
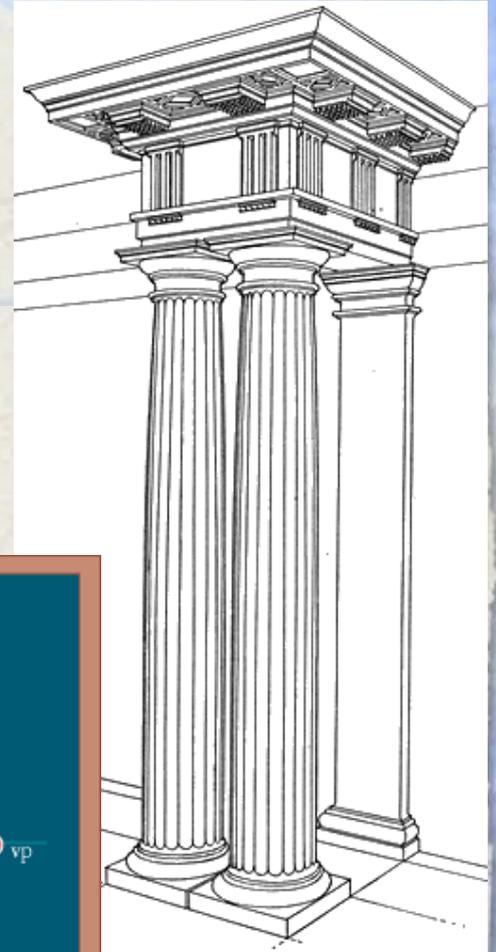
Building for the Gods



- Each city-state tried to turn its acropolis into an “architectural treasure”
- Parthenon best exemplified Greek architecture
- Greeks didn’t need large **sanctuaries** = places of worship
 - Worshipped at home or at outdoor altars

Building for the Gods

- Temples were where deities could live
- Greek architects understood illusion and **perspective** = the artistic showing of distances as they appear to the eye
- Created the impression of perfection

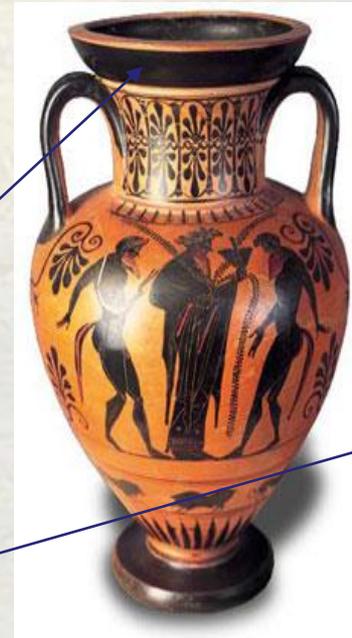


Greek Arts

- Excelled at portraying the human form
- Some ancient Greek vases still exist
 - Different shapes for different purposes
 - Krater = two-handled vase with a wide mouth --> good for mixing water and wine
 - **Amphora** = large vase for storing oil & other supplies --> decorated with art showing mythology
 - Kylix = drinking cup --> decorated with scenes of everyday life



[click for larger image](#)



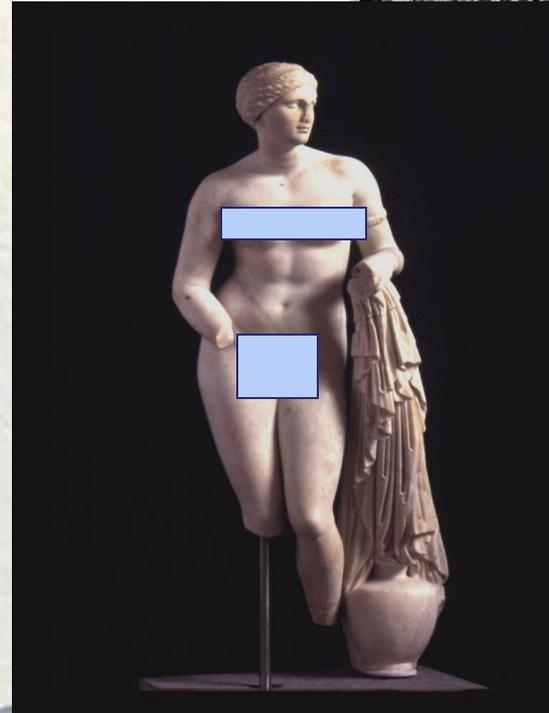
Greek Arts



- Myron = one of Greece's greatest sculptors
 - Sculpted what he thought people SHOULD look like
 - Sculpted the “Discus Thrower”

Greek Arts

- Phidias = another great Greek sculptor
 - Created statues for inside the Parthenon, including one of Athena
- Praxiteles = sculptor who carved more realistic human sculptures



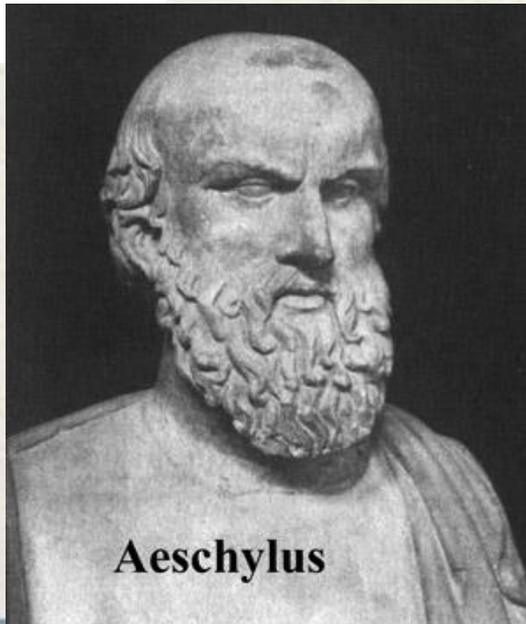
Drama and Theater



- Greeks = 1st to write and perform plays
- Earliest Greek plays = tragedies

– Had unhappy endings after main character struggled against the fates

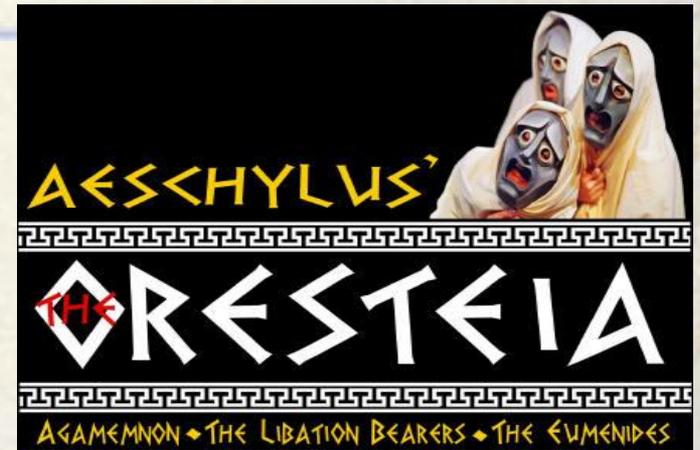
– **Aeschylus** = Greek tragedy writer who wrote 90 plays



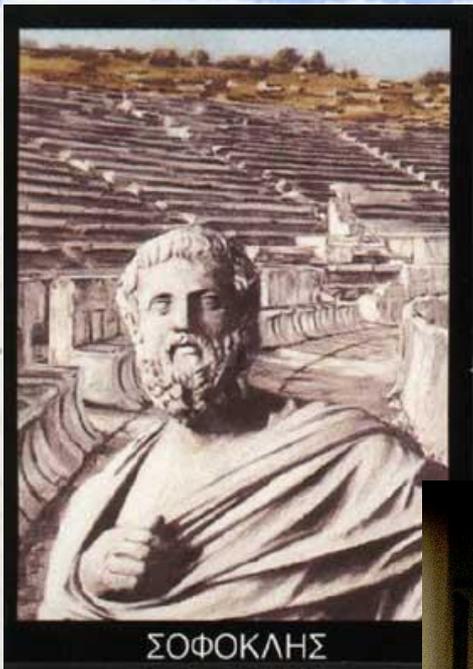
Aeschylus

Aeschylus

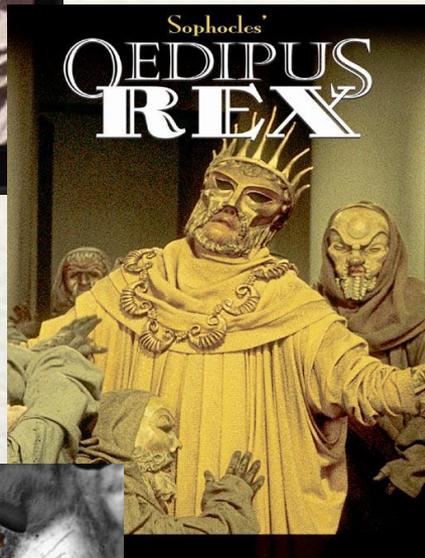
- His trilogy of plays called *Oresteia* shows how the consequences of one's actions are carried down from generation to generation
- Law of community, not personal revenge, should decide punishment



Sophocles



ΣΟΦΟΚΛΗΣ



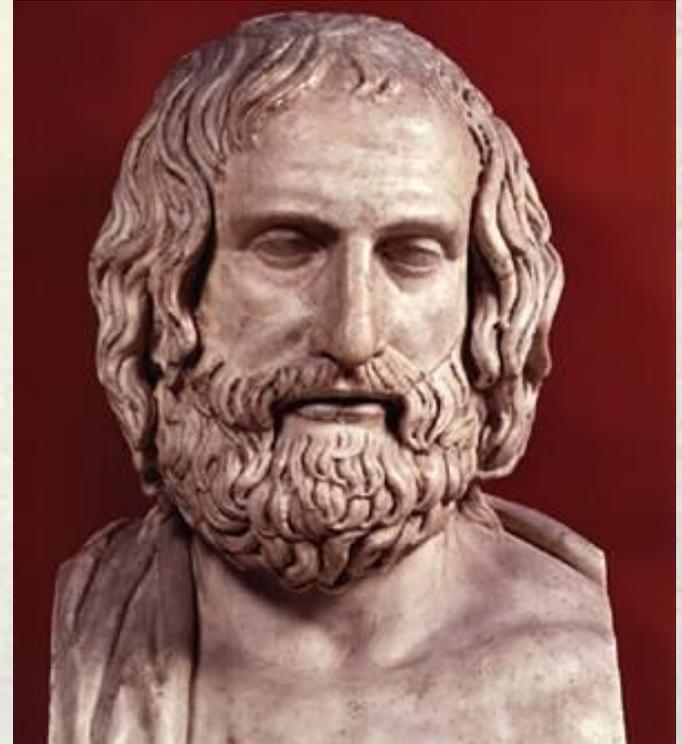
Sophocles'
**OEDIPUS
REX**

- General in Athenian army
- Wrote tragedies
- Accepted human suffering as an unavoidable part of life
- Wrote *Oedipus Rex* = deals with King Oedipus's struggle to beat the fates, but he can't win against them



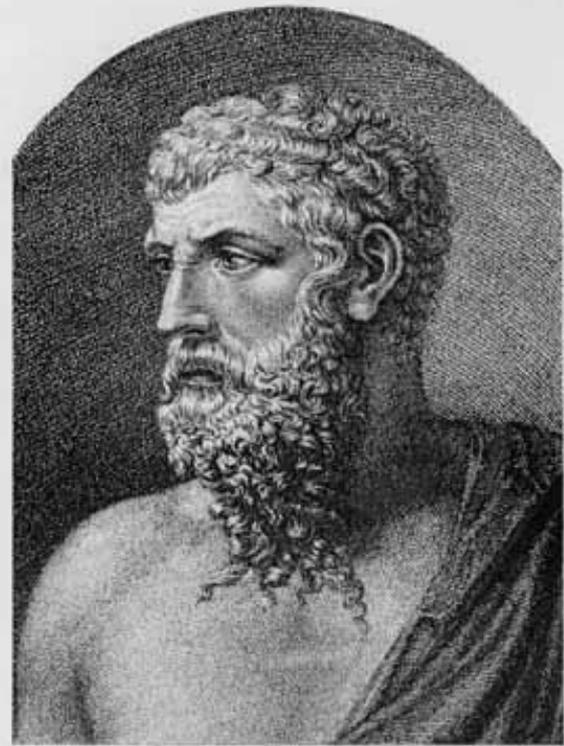
Euripedes

- Wrote tragedies
- Hated war and his plays often showed the misery of war
- Focused on human behavior that brought disaster



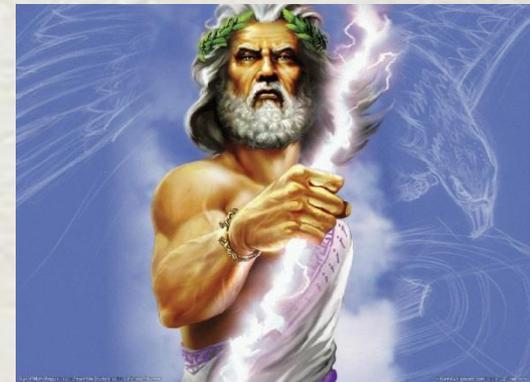
Comedies

- Had humorous plots and happy endings
- **Aristophanes** = most famous writer of Greek comedies



The Olympic Games

- Ancient Greeks stressed athletics in school
- Greek men often spent their afternoons exercising
- Olympic games were held every 4 years in Olympia
 - To honor Zeus
 - Fighting and trade stopped



The Olympic Games

- Only males were able to participate
 - Women weren't even allowed to watch
 - Greek women had their own games honoring Hera



LIBBY DAVIDSON 1999

The Olympic Games

- Individual, not team, events
 - Footrace, broad jump, discus throwing, boxing, wrestling, pentathlon
- Winners = crowned with olive leaves; parades held in their honor
- Olympic athletes often given special privileges, like not having to pay taxes



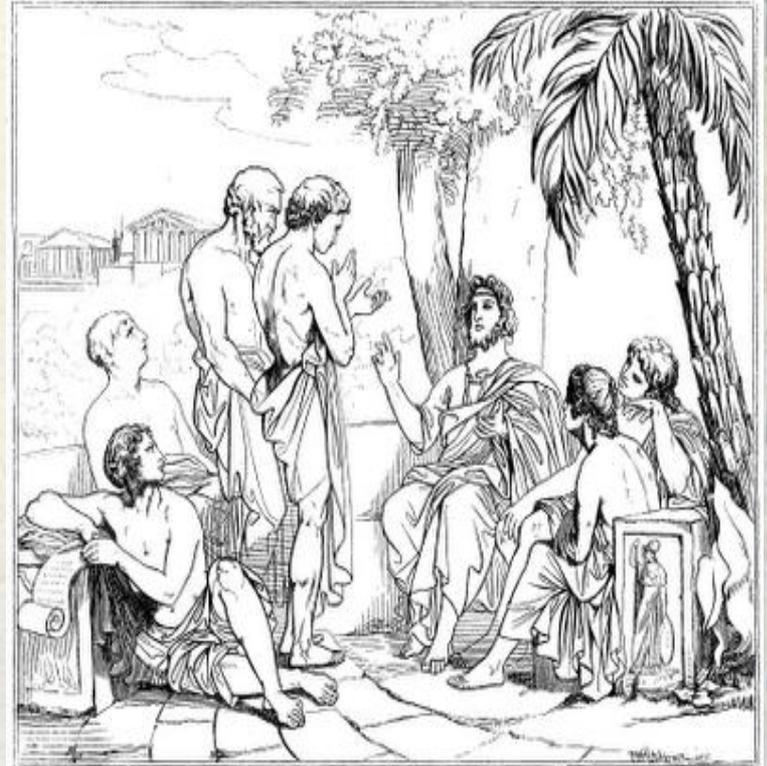
The Greek Mind



- Greek philosophers = thinkers --> produced some remarkable ideas
- Their philosophy laid the foundations for history, political science, biology and logic (science of reasoning)

The Sophists

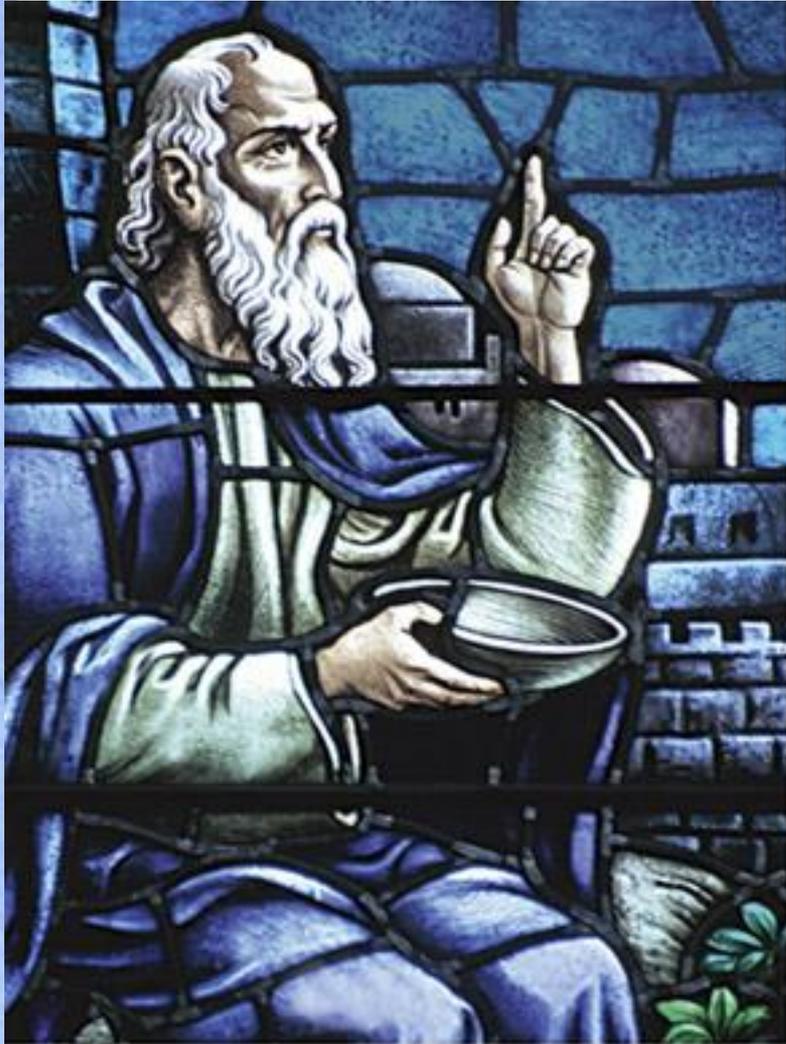
- Higher education was provided by professional teachers, called Sophists
- Traveled from polis to polis, but usually gathered in Athens because more freedom of speech there
- Said they could find the answers to all questions



The Sophists

- Rejected the idea that gods could influence human behavior
- Challenged traditional Greek beliefs
- Believed “truth” was different for each individual
- Criticized by Socrates and Plato

Socrates



- Sculptor by trade, but spent most of his time teaching
- Believed in absolute truth vs. relative truth
- Interested in the process by which people learn to think for themselves

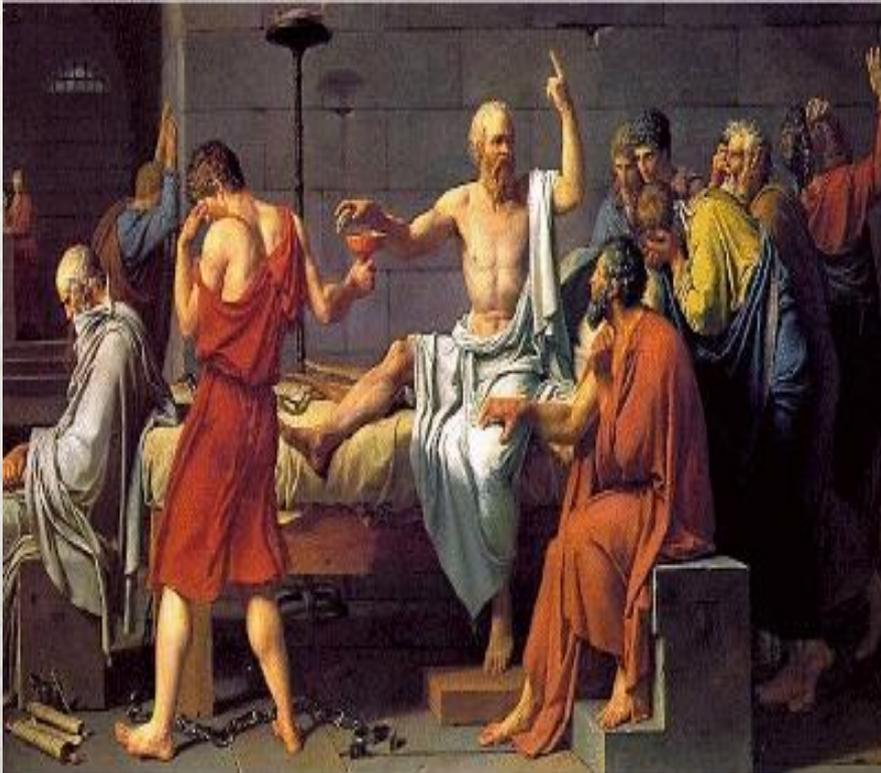
Socratic Method

- Developed a teaching method called the Socratic Method
 - Asked students questions, then argued with their answers
 - Forced students to clarify their thoughts



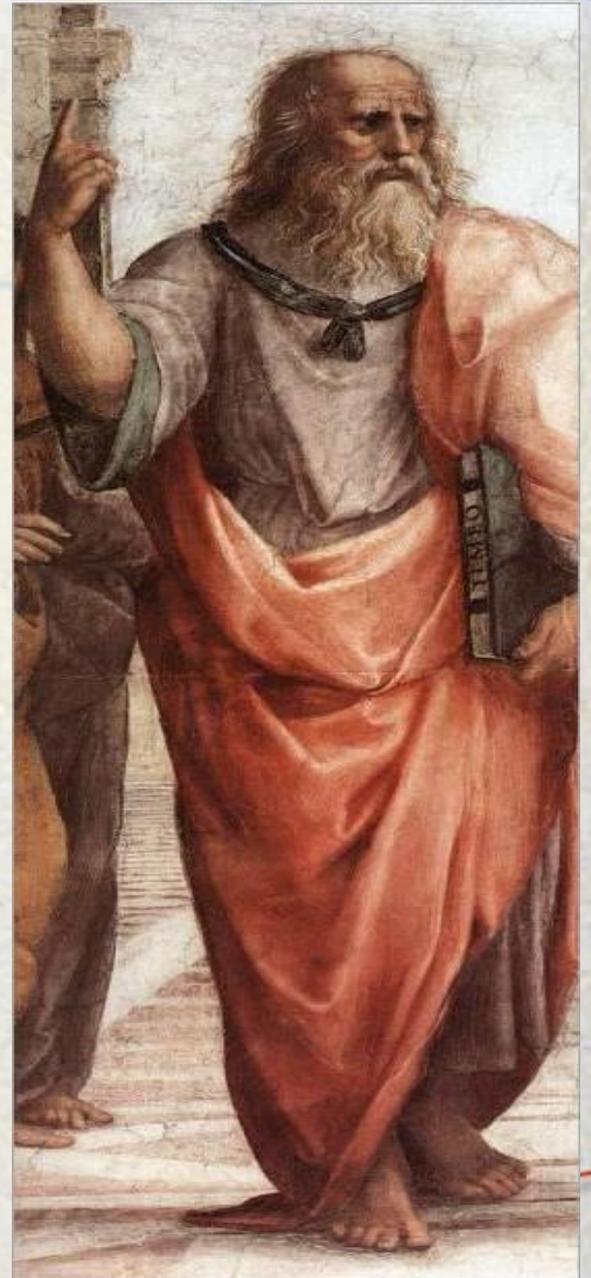
Socrates

- Accused of corrupting the young & not worshipping Greek gods
 - Jury found him guilty and sentenced him to death
 - Killed himself by drinking poison and died among his followers

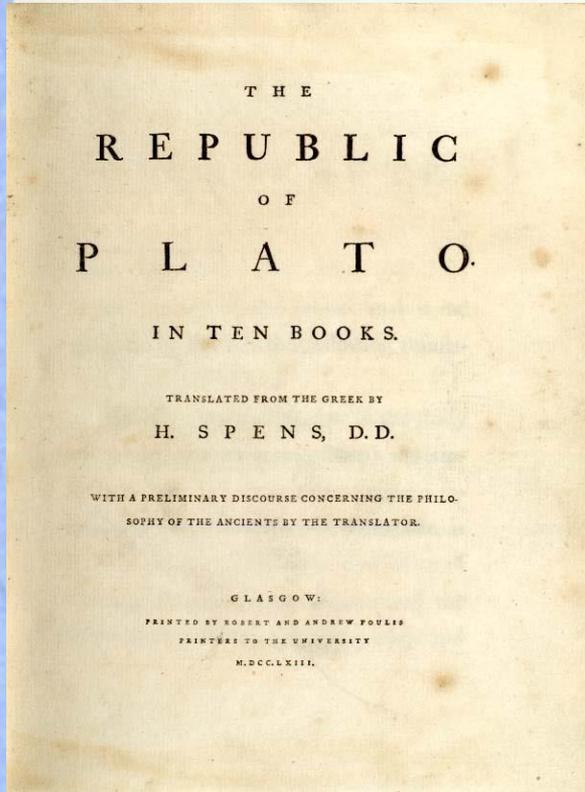


Plato

- Born an aristocrat
- Became a teacher and opened an academy
- Recorded conversations between Socrates and his followers from memory



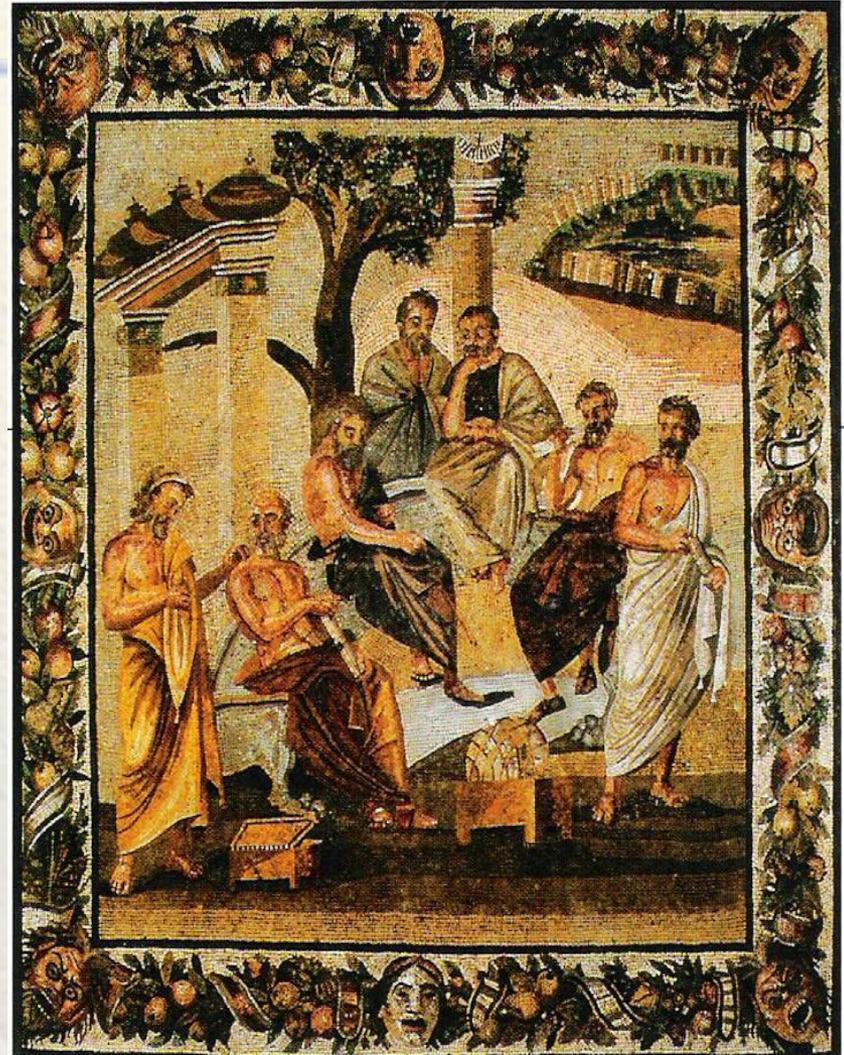
Plato



- Wrote the earliest book on political science = “The Republic”
 - Outlined his plan for what he considered ideal society and government
- Disliked Athenian democracy, preferred the government of Sparta
- Said the community should come before the individual

Plato

- Too much freedom = social disorder
- Disliked lower classes
- Thought only most intelligent and best-educated should participate in government
- Rejected the senses as a source of truth
- The real world was constructed from ideas

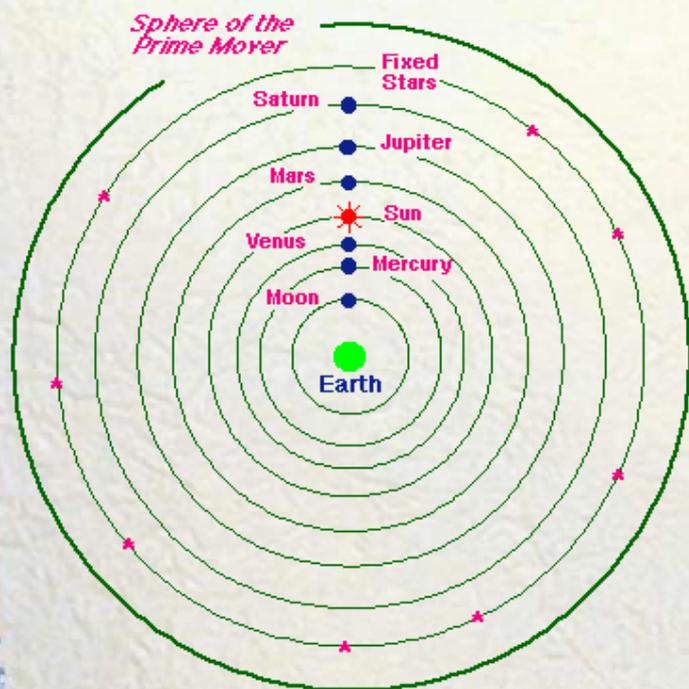


Aristotle

- Wrote more than 200 books ranging from astronomy to political science
- Started a school known as the Lyceum
- Taught the Golden Mean = to live moderately and avoid extremes



Aristotle



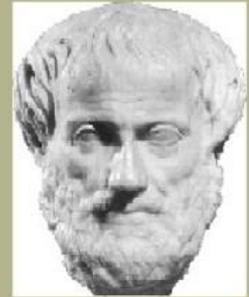
Aristotle's Universe

- Unlike Plato, Aristotle believed in knowledge gained through the senses
- First person to observe facts, then classify them into categories, and make generalizations
- Some of his ideas were incorrect (ex: Earth is center of the solar system)

Aristotle

- Compared the political structures in different Greek city-states
- Wrote a book called “Politics”
 - Idea form of government is a balance between a monarchy, aristocracy, and democracy
 - Middle class is the best suited to rule because they know how to command AND obey

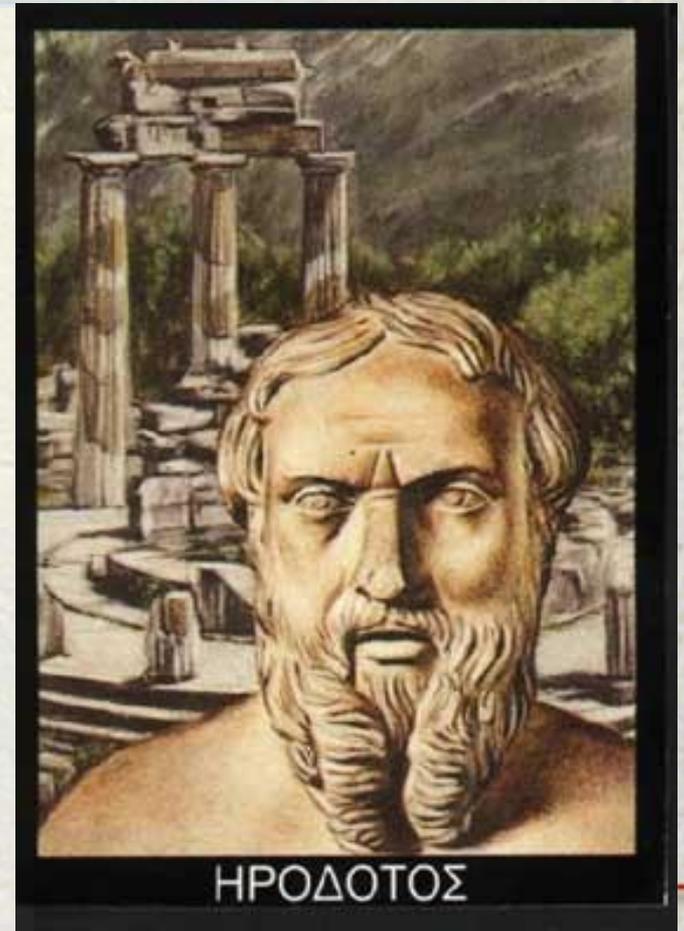
Politics



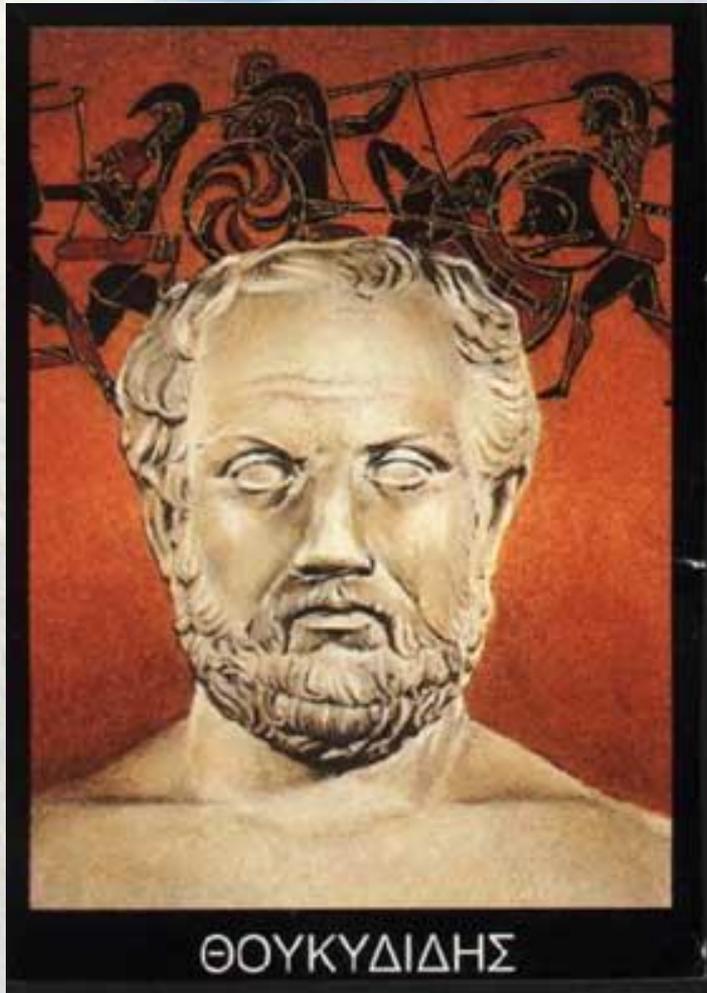
By: Aristotle

Writers of History

- Herodotus = “father of history”
 - Wrote about the Persian Wars in “Historia”
 - Sometimes accepted statements that weren’t true and exaggerated numbers
 - Sometimes offered supernatural explanations of events



Writers of History



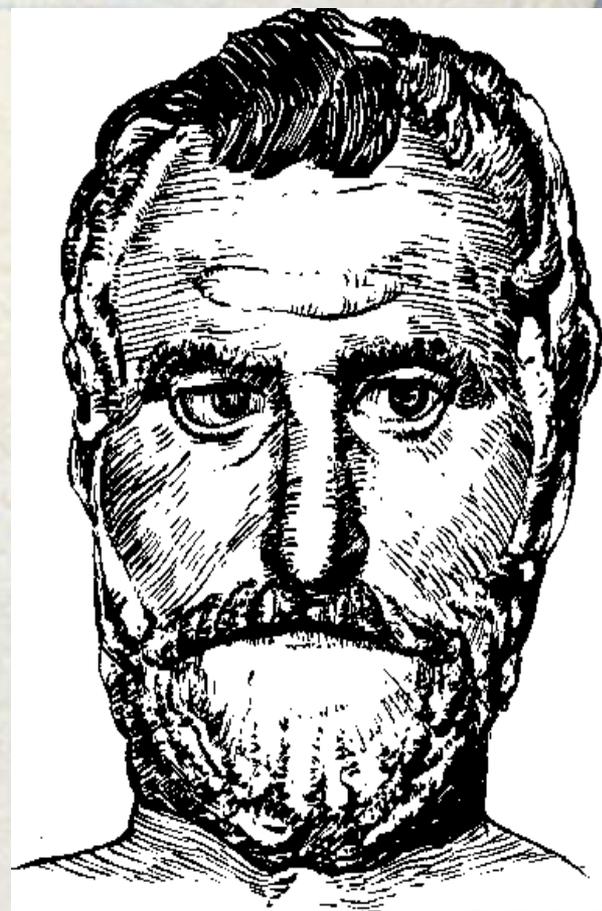
- Thucydides
 - Wrote about the Peloponnesian War
 - Rejected the idea that deities played a role in history
 - Writings were accurate and impartial
 - Believed that future generations could learn from the past

The First Scientists

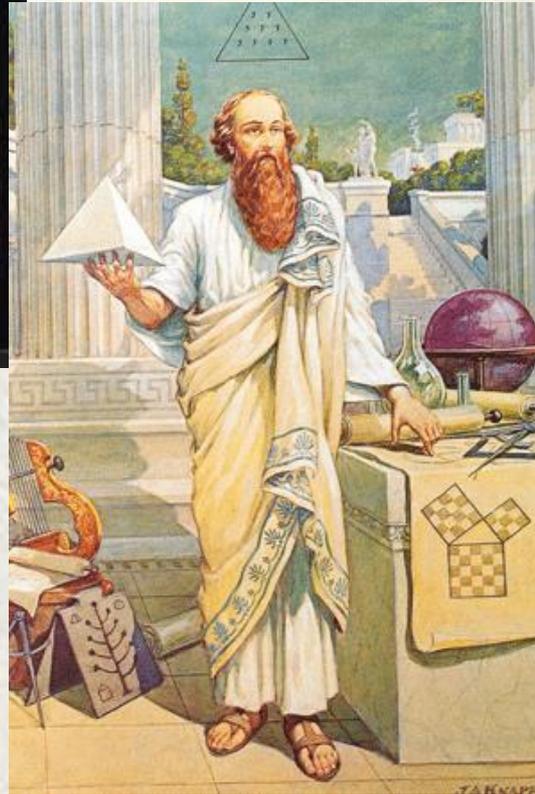
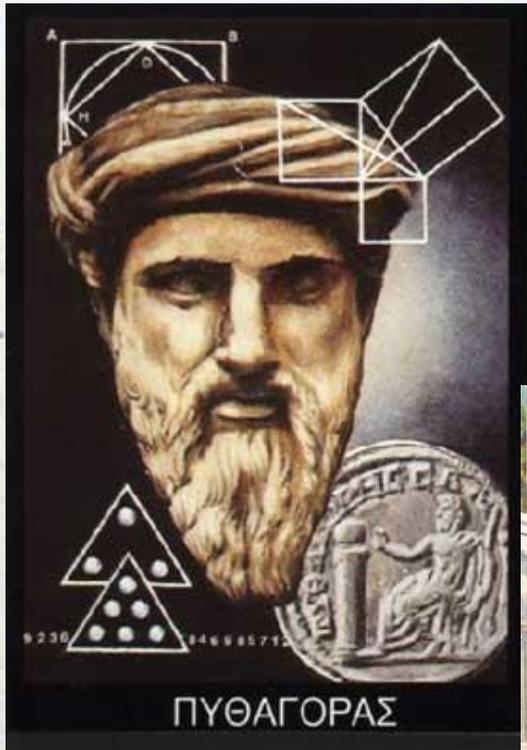
- Greeks made scientific discoveries through observation and thought

Mathematics

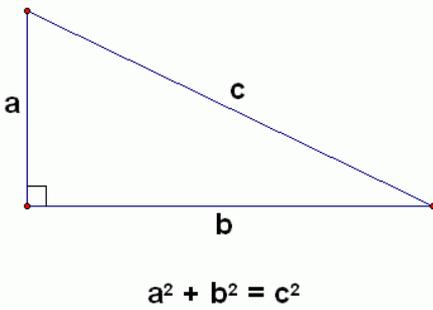
- Seen as a pure science
- Believed they could find absolute knowledge through math
- Thales = studied astronomy and mathematics
 - Could foretell a solar eclipse
 - Said water was substance from which everything was made



Mathematics

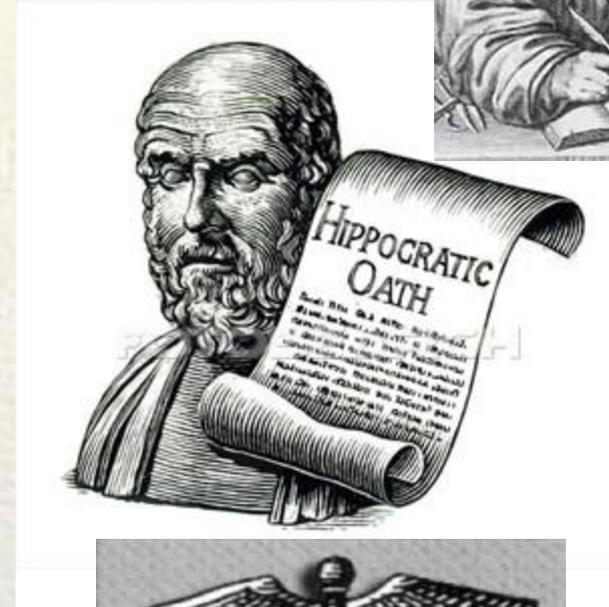


- Pythagoras = tried to explain all of life in mathematical terms
 - Pythagorean Theorem = relationship of sides of a right-angled triangle
 - Said the world was round



Medicine

- Hippocrates --> “father of medicine”
 - Believed that diseases had natural causes
 - Body can heal itself
 - Strongly advocated proper hygiene (**health care**), a good diet, and plenty of rest
 - Wrote a code for ethical medical conduct = Hippocratic Oath --> still used today



Daily Life in Athens

- Men worked in the morning as artisans, farmers, or merchants
- In the afternoon – men attended the Assembly or exercised

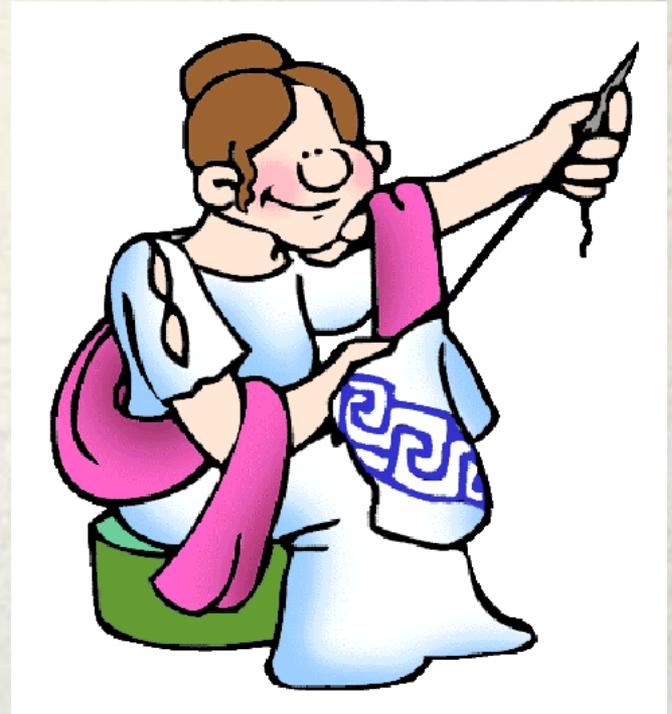


Daily Life in Athens

- Slaves (1/3 of population) = did heavy work in craft production and mining
 - Many slaves = also teachers and house servants
 - Slaves = prisoners of war; foreigners; debtors

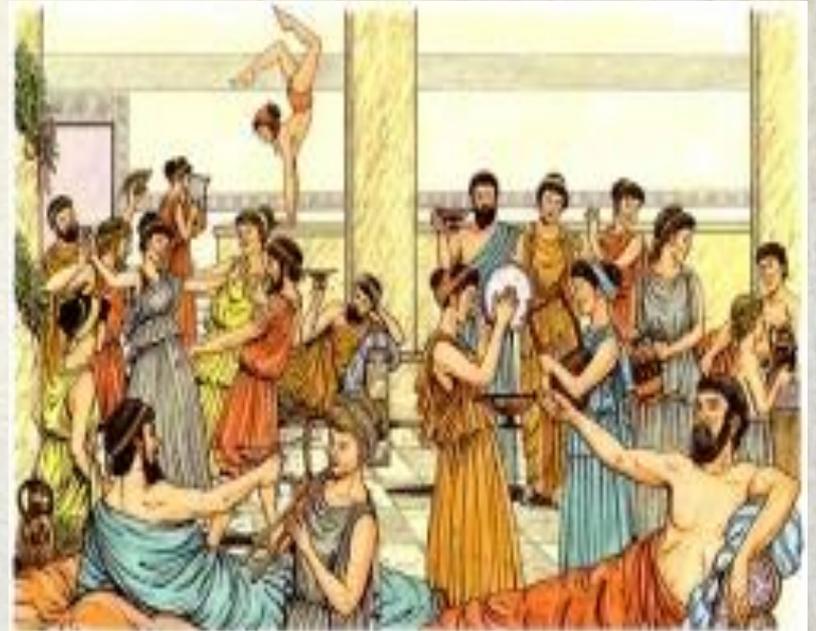
Daily Life in Athens

- Women stayed at home
→ cooked and made wool cloth
- Poor women worked in markets as food sellers and cloth weavers



Daily Life in Athens

- Upper-class men & men from other city-states participated in symposiums
 - **Symposium** = drinking session following a banquet
 - Discussed public affairs, philosophy, literature
 - Entertained by dancers, singers, magicians, acrobats



Athenian Women

- Many restrictions – but still some progress
- Many learned to read & write
- Many participated in city festivals

The Peloponnesian War

- Persian threat remained even though they lost the Persian Wars
- Most city-states (but not Sparta) joined together in Delian League to protect themselves from the Persians

The Delian League

- They freed Ionia from Persian rule
- Got rid of pirates in the Aegean Sea
- Made Greece rich because trade grew



The Delian League



- Athens began to dominate the other city-states
 - Several city-states formed an alliance against Athens
 - Led by Sparta
 - Threatened by Athens' economic and political power and influence
 - Sparta was afraid and jealous of Athens

The Conflict

[431 BCE - 404 BCE]

- Peloponnesian War = fought between Athens (and its allies) and Sparta (and its allies)
- Sparta allied itself with Persia -- made a deal for their help



The Conflict

[431 BCE - 404 BCE]



- Plague hit Athens -- killed 1/3 of its people (including General Pericles)
 - After Pericles died, some Athenians wanted to surrender and others wanted to keep fighting
 - No decision made -- fighting continued for many years



The Conflict

[431 BCE - 404 BCE]

- Several city-states switched sides and joined Sparta
- Spartans then destroyed Athenian navy
 - Athens surrendered in 404 BCE



Effects of the War

- War brought disaster to Greek city-states:
 - 1) Fields destroyed
 - 2) Unemployment high
 - 3) Populations declined
 - 4) Many men left and became mercenaries (hired soldiers) in Persian Army

Effects of the War

- 5) Lost ability to govern themselves
- 6) Increased tension between aristocrats and commoners
- 7) Limited democracy and free political discussion
- 8) Continual fighting among city-states
- 9) Unable to resist the invasion of the Macedonians (with Alexander the Great)



Alexander the Great



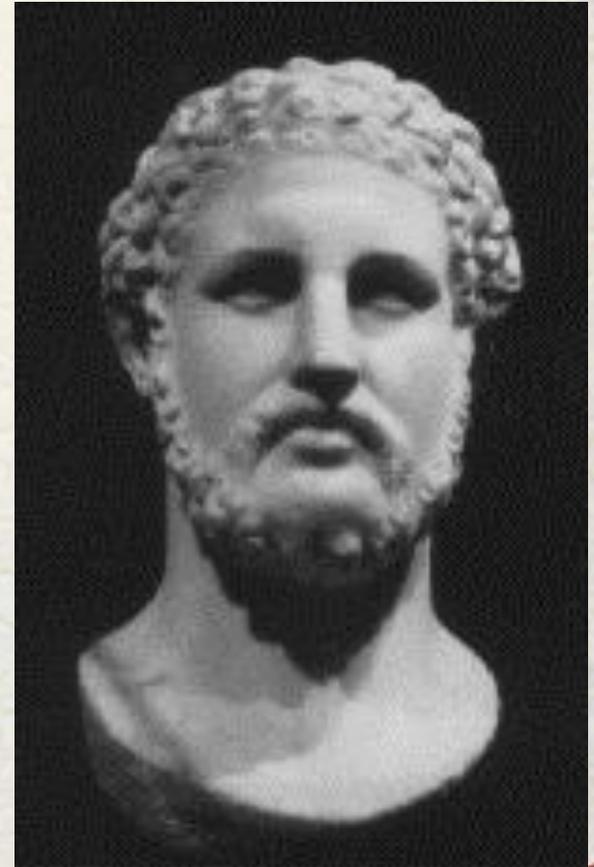
Rise of Macedonia

- Macedonians descended from the Dorians
- Lived just north of Greece
- Greeks looked down on them – saw them as backward mountain people



Rise of Macedonia

- Philip II became King of Macedonia in 359 BCE
 - Determined to do 3 things:
 - 1) Create a strong army
 - used Greek-style phalanxes
 - 2) Unify the Greeks under Macedonian rule
 - 3) Destroy the Persian Empire



Rise of Macedonia

- Pursued his ambition for the next 23 years:
 - Sometimes conquered a polis
 - Sometimes bribed a polis's leader to surrender
 - Sometimes made allies with a polis through marriage (had many wives)



Rise of Macedonia

- Greek city-states wouldn't cooperate with one another to fight off the Macedonians
- By 338 BCE = Philip II had conquered all of Greece except Sparta



Rise of Macedonia



- Just as he was preparing to conquer Persia, Philip II was murdered
 - Possibly by a Persian or an assassin hired by his 1st wife Olympias
 - Olympias and Phillip II's son = Alexander the Great – became king

Alexander's Conquest [336-323 BCE]

- Only 20 when he took over the empire
- Highly respected for his courage and military skill
- Tutored by Aristotle
- Conquered Persian territories – including Egypt and Mesopotamia
- Conquered India



Alexander's Conquests

- Died at 33, probably of malaria
- Wanted to unite Europe and Asia under 1 empire and combine the best of Greek and Persian cultures



Divided Domain

- 3 of Alexander's general divided his empire into separate domains = territories
 - 1) Ptolemy ruled Egypt, Libya, and party of Syria





2) Seleucus ruled the rest of Syria, Mesopotamia, Iran, and Afghanistan

- Forced to give up all by Syria

- Lost Jerusalem to the Jews = an event that's now remembered by the Jewish holiday Hanukkah

Divided Domain

3) Antigonus ruled Macedonia and Greece

- Would eventually be conquered by the Romans

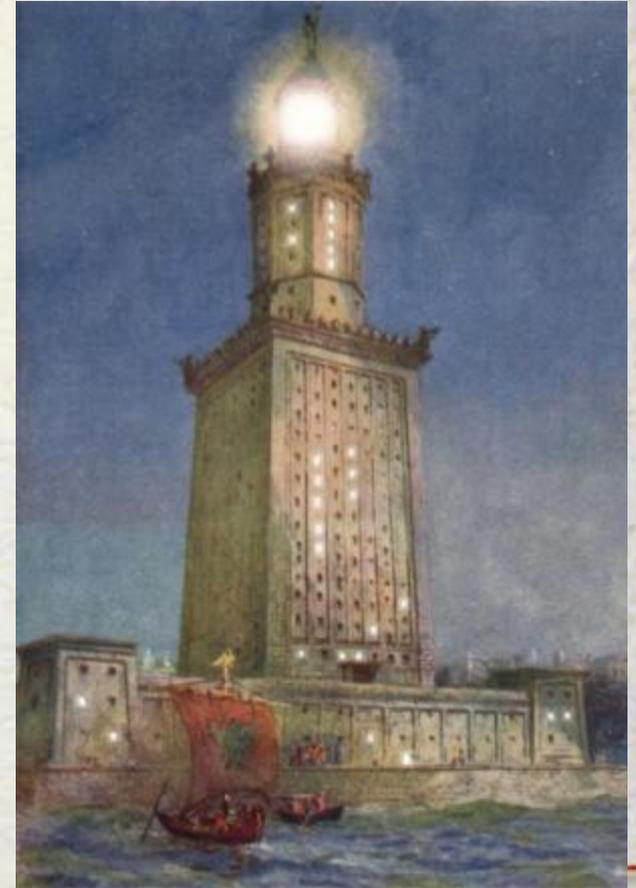


Hellenistic Culture

- Greek language and culture spread in the lands Alexander had conquered
- Greek (Hellenic) ways of life mixed with Persian culture of Middle East to form a new culture = **Hellenistic**
- Hellenistic culture was concentrated in cities

Hellenistic Culture

- Largest and wealthiest city was Alexandria in Egypt
 - Had a double harbor with a lighthouse
 - First ever museum
 - Large library
 - Scientific research institute
 - Zoo and botanical garden
 - It was here that Jewish scholars translated the Bible into Greek



Hellenistic Culture

- Social status of upper-class Greek women improved
 - Could move about freely, learn how to read and write, have certain jobs
 - Commoners' status didn't improve

Hellenistic Philosophers

- 3 systems of thought:
 - 1) Cynicism = live simply and avoid materialism
 - 2) Epicureanism = accept the world as it is, avoid politics, and live simply
 - 3) Stoicism = ignore emotions and follow reason

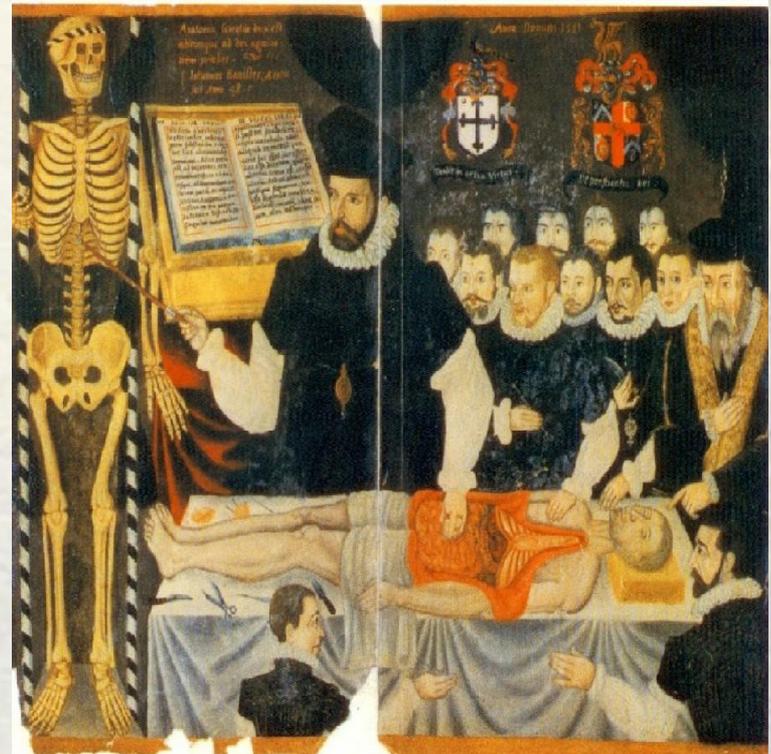
Hellenistic Art & Literature

- Art often showed people in the grip of emotions
- Wrote comedies about everyday life



Science, Medicine, and Math

- Performed experiments and developed new theories
- Eratosthenes estimated the circumference of the Earth within 1%
- Dissected corpses to learn about human anatomy
 - Learned how to use drugs to relieve pain



Science, Medicine, and Math

- Euclid organized a book about geometry
- Archimedes invented the compound pulley (used for lifting heavy objects) and the cylinder screw (for irrigation)

