

# GEOGRAPHY OF ANCIENT GREECE



## **GEOGRAPHY-PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT AND HOW IT MAY INFLUENCE AN ECONOMY AND CULTURE.**

**M**odern day Greece sits on the Balkan Peninsula. To its west is the Ionian Sea and to its east is the Aegean Sea. The most southern part of Greece is called Peloponnesus. It's only connected to the mainland by an isthmus (narrow strip of land). Three quarters of Greece is covered by mountains, leaving the soil thin and rocky. The Pindus Mountains run north to south, creating many narrow valleys with small plains. People in Ancient Greece settled in the valleys between mountains, which kept them from uniting. The mountains made trade and travel difficult. Only 20% of the land was good for agriculture due to the dry and rocky soil.

People adapted to the land by raising animals that needed little land to survive like sheep, goats, and pigs. These animals provided them with wool, hides, and cheese. They planted crops that needed little water like barley and wheat that they used to make bread and cakes. They also grew drought tolerant olive trees. Olives provided them with oil that was used for cooking, lamp fuel, bathing and perfume. Grapes grew well in this region, which they ate and used to make wine. People mostly settled by the coast as the Ionian and Aegean seas provided fish and travel routes. This also created a route of communication in which people shared ideas and beliefs.



1. Where did most of the Ancient Greeks settle?
2. Predict: How would the geography of Greece encourage the formation of Greek city-states?
3. Describe two ways Ancient Greeks adapted to the geography of Greece.

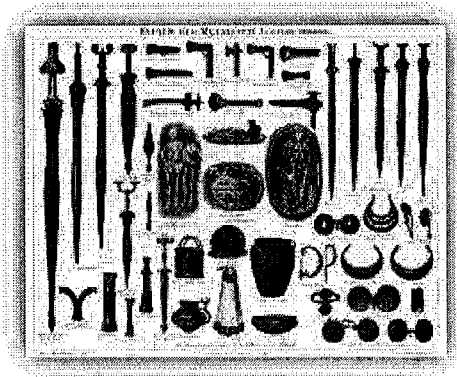
# ECONOMY OF ANCIENT GREECE

★ **ECONOMY-HOW A CIVILIZATION MAKES MONEY THROUGH THE BUYING AND SELLING OF GOODS AND SERVICES.**

**M**any Ancient Greeks took to farming, fishing, sailing, and trading. With the success of farmers, food was more plentiful enabling a new era of Greek craft workers. Craft workers specialized in tool-making, along with novelties out of wood, clay, bone, wool, steal, and metal. Potters made jars from clay for holding olive oil and wine for easy transport. Greeks began to trade with other people in the Mediterranean, often exporting wine, olive oil, pottery, and wood, and importing wheat.

Around 700 B.C. Greeks achieved large-scale trade. Among their own city-states they traded grain, wine, olive oil, wood, pottery, and metal works. Iron was found in the mountains enabling the new technological advancement of iron tools. Iron tools were stronger, which helped farmers to produce more food that was needed for the growing population. By 500 B.C., people in search for more land had moved along the coastline of the Mediterranean and Black Seas. Greeks settled in new colonies along Europe, Africa, and Asia. They operated independently, but were tied to the homeland by their cultural identity such as language, history, writing, religion, and athletics.

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1. How did the increase in food production benefit the Greek economy?
  2. List three goods that Greeks produced and traded along the Mediterranean Sea.
  3. How did finding iron affect Greece?



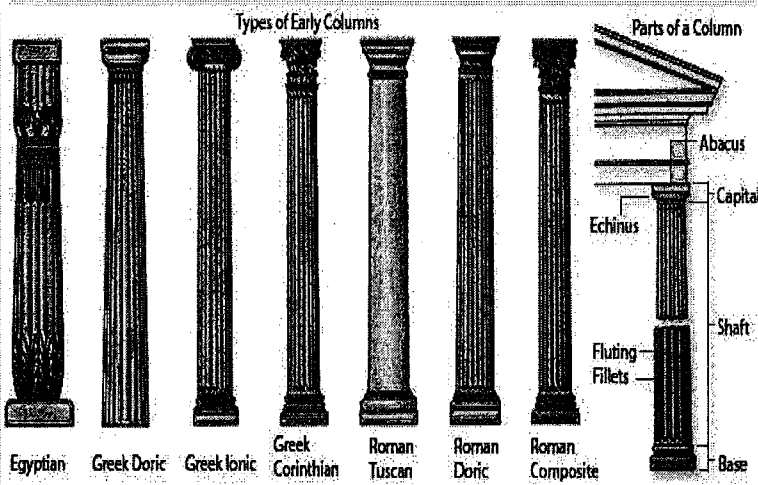
# ACHIEVEMENTS OF ANCIENT GREECE #1



## ACHIEVEMENTS—THE LASTING CONTRIBUTIONS OF A CIVILIZATION.

The Greeks had created their own alphabet in the 700's B.C., based off the Phoenician writing system. It allowed them to record business and trade, codes of law, and government taxes.

The Greeks started the Olympics as an Athletic Festival to honor Zeus. The first Olympics included wrestling, long jumping, discus and javelin throwing, boxing, and running. Winners from each city-state were treated as heroes.



Currently, most countries around the world participate in both a Winter and Summer Olympics that were inspired by the Ancient Greek Olympics.

Much of Greek art and architecture is still admired and replicated around the world today. Intricately carved Greek columns are typical supports of many Greek structures. An example of Greek Architecture of this period is the Parthenon. Athenian leader Pericles oversaw the building of the Parthenon, which took nine years

and was completed in 438 B.C. It was decorated with statues of Greek Gods and people. Artists covered walls with murals and portraits that often depicted scenes from Greek myths.

A, α	a	N, ν	n
B, β	v, as in vital	Ξ, ξ	x or ks
Γ, γ	similar to y in yard	Ο, ο	o
Δ, δ	th as in this	Π, π	p
Ε, ε	e as in egg	Ρ, ρ	r
Ζ, ζ	z as in zorbas	Σ, σ	s
Η, η	e as in era	Τ, τ	t
Θ, θ	th as in throne	Υ, υ	e as in era
Ι, ι	e as in era	Φ, φ	f
Κ, κ	k	Χ, χ	h as in he
Λ, λ	l	Ψ, ψ	ps
Μ, μ	m	Ω, ω	o

Trips to Greek theaters were all day events. They often told tragedies or comedies which dealt with issues of Greek life. The word theater is based off the Greek word meaning, "a place to see". Greek tragedies were among the favorites to see. Homer wrote the Iliad and Odyssey, two exceptional Greek tragedies both set in the Trojan War.

1. You try it! Write the word *opera* in Greek.



**THE PARTHENON**

2. **YOU TRY IT!** Use the translation to write your own word in Greek.

Word: \_\_\_\_\_

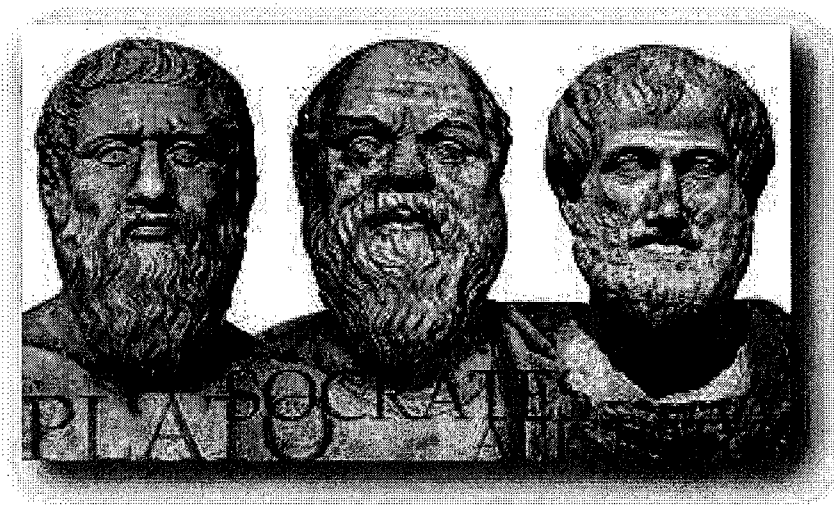
Greek translation: \_\_\_\_\_

3. In what way is the Parthenon a good example of Greek architecture?

# ACHIEVEMENTS OF ANCIENT GREECE #2

## ★ ACHIEVEMENTS—THE LASTING CONTRIBUTIONS OF A CIVILIZATION.

**A**ncient thinkers in Greece doubted Greek Gods created events in nature and sought to study the world. Scientists used scientific methods and developed theories much like they still do today. Pythagoras studied math and came up with the Pythagorean theorem still used today in geometry. *Hippocrates* was a Greek doctor that introduced the idea that illnesses had natural causes, as opposed to being punishment by the Gods. Democritus was a scientist that is attributed to discovering all living things are made of atoms. Herodotus was the first Greek historian and wrote books on the Persian Wars, which included opposing views on the wars and what caused them. Thucydides was also a Greek historian to write about Greek wars. He wrote about the Sparta and Athens war in which he was a General for the Athenian Army. He was noted for writing History without opinion. Socrates was a Greek philosopher who studied morals and taught through questioning his students, which is known as the Socratic method and is still used today as a method for debating. He was disliked for criticizing Athenian leaders, and in 399 B.C. was found guilty of teaching dangerous ideas, and was sentenced to drink poison to end his own life. Plato was a student of Socrates and after Socrates' death, opened the Academy in Athens where he taught law, philosophy, and science. Aristotle was a student of Plato who studied astronomy, law, and economics. He was also broke new ground in the fields of zoology and botany.



See achievements stations #2 questions

# SOCIAL CLASSES OF ANCIENT GREECE



**SOCIAL CLASS—HOW A CIVILIZATION IS DIVIDED INTO CLASSES THAT HAVE DIFFERENT ROLES, RESPONSIBILITIES AND PRIVILEGES.**

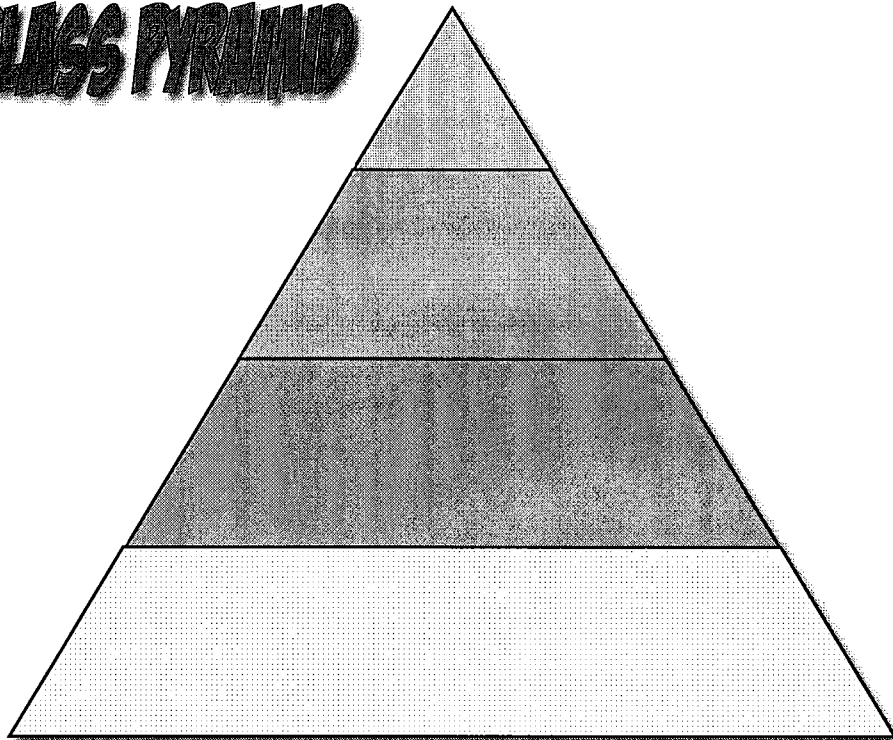
In Greek armies, a man's wealth determined his rank. The wealthiest men were leaders, followed by those who could afford a horse, as Cavalry. The Armies were mostly made up of Hoplites, which were foot soldiers, and the lowest rank were archers and stone throwers.

Agricultural wealth determined social status in Greece. Male citizens over the age of 18 were allowed to vote, while women and slaves were not.

In Athens, about 36% of people were slaves, while 19% were male citizens over the age of 18, 33% were families of male citizens and 12% were noncitizens. In 416 B.C., Pericles began to lead Athens toward more democratic reforms. He pushed for equality for the rich and poor in government decisions.

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1. What percentage of people were slaves in Greece?
  2. What percent of total citizens were able to vote in Greece?
  3. Categorize—Create a four tier pyramid of power on your paper with the people who had the most power at the top and those with the least power at the bottom.

## SOCIAL CLASS PYRAMID



# RELIGION OF ANCIENT GREECE



**RELIGION—A BELIEF SYSTEM THAT INFLUENCES THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CIVILIZATION.**



Mythology played an important part in Greek religion. They shared stories of Gods and Goddesses and passed them on from generation to generation. The myths explained how the actions of Gods and Goddesses affected their everyday lives. These stories would explain how things came to be in nature and in human life. Zeus was the God of thunder and lightning and was the king of all Gods. Hera was the Goddess of marriage and childbirth and was Zeus' wife. Athena was the Goddess of wisdom, and Poseidon was the God of the sea. Sailors often prayed to Poseidon for protection.



1. Why do you think Greeks told mythology?
2. Describe the powers of three Greek Gods.

# GOVERNMENT OF ANCIENT GREECE



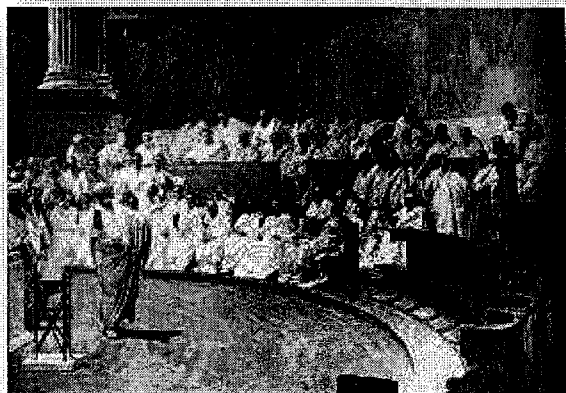
## LEADERSHIP / GOVERNMENT- HOW A CIVILIZATION CREATES AN ORGANIZED WAY OF LEADERSHIP.

**S**parta was the most powerful city-state of Ancient Greece. It was located on the Peloponnesus and was inland, off of the coast. Spartans conquered their neighbors and forced them to be slaves, or helots, which at one point, outnumbered them four to one. They were ruled by two kings in time of war which shared decision making power, and in times of peace were ruled by an oligarchy (a small ruling group), made up of thirty elders over sixty years old. The assembly voted on laws proposed by the oligarchy and they also assigned Ephors, five wealthy landowners to control day-to-day government responsibilities.

Athens, located on the coast of the Aegean Sea, had an excellent location for trade and wealth. In about 508 B.C., the leader Cleisthenes helped to create a direct democracy for Athens. This meant that instead of elected leaders making decisions, such as in a representative democracy, the citizens got to make decisions directly.

Later, like Sparta, Athens was ruled by an oligarchy. Draco wrote the first laws in Athens, which were very harsh. After a crisis in 600 B.C., Solon, a well-respected leader, cleared debts and freed those who had sold themselves into slavery. He then laid the foundation for a democracy system based on wealth, not birth. One's agricultural wealth determined his/her social status. All citizens could attend assembly and decisions were made by majority rule. Solon also was responsible for creating a council, which decided which topics would be brought to assembly. He is admired for his groundbreaking contributions to democracy.

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1. **Compare:** How are representative democracy and direct democracy different?
  2. The end of the paragraph states that Solon is "admired for his groundbreaking contributions to democracy". Use a direct quote from the text that provides evidence that Solon made a contribution to democracy.
  3. In what way are principles of Greek government used in the U.S. government?



# ANCIENT GREECE QUESTIONS

## **GEOGRAPHY OF ANCIENT GREECE**

1. Where did most of the Ancient Greeks settle?

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2. Predict-How would the geography of Greece encourage the formation of Greek city-states?

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3. Describe two ways Ancient Greeks adapted to the geography of Greece.

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## **ECONOMY IN ANCIENT GREECE**

1. How did the increase in food production benefit the Greek economy?

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2. List three goods that Greeks produced and traded along the Mediterranean Sea.

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3. How did finding iron affect Greece?

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## **ACHIEVEMENTS OF ANCIENT GREECE #1**

1. You try it! Write the word *opera* in Greek.

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2. You try it! Use the translation to write your own word in Greek.

Word: \_\_\_\_\_ Greek translation: \_\_\_\_\_

3. In what way is the Parthenon a good example of Greek architecture?

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## **ACHIEVEMENTS OF ANCIENT GREECE #2**

1. How did Greek Thinker's doubt that the Gods created events in nature encourage education and curiosity?

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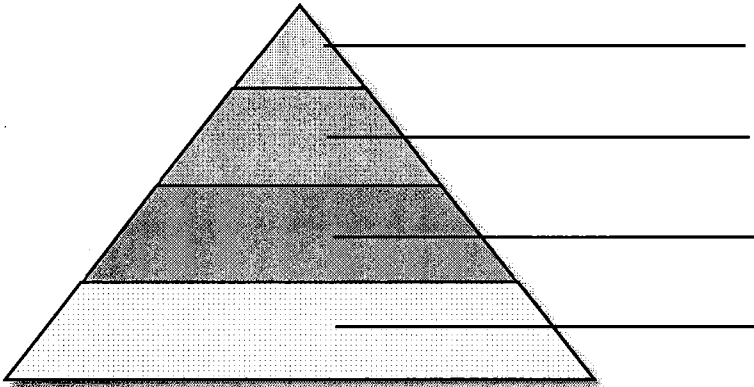
2. *Awards*: On a separate piece of paper, draw or trace three ribbons for first, second and third place. On the ribbons, write the top three Greek achievements, and why you think these selections are the most noteworthy. (see template)



# ANCIENT GREECE QUESTIONS

## **SOCIAL CLASSES OF ANCIENT GREECE**

1. What percentage of people were slaves in Greece? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What percent of total citizens were able to vote in Greece? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Categorize-Create a four tier pyramid of power on your paper with the people who had the most power at the top and those with the least power at the bottom.



## **RELIGION IN ANCIENT GREECE**

1. Why do you think Greeks told mythology?  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Describe the powers of three Greek Gods.  
\_\_\_\_\_

## **GOVERNMENT OF ANCIENT GREECE**

1. Compare-How are representative democracy and direct democracy different?  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. The end of the paragraph states that Solon is "admired for his groundbreaking contributions to democracy". Use a direct quote from the text that provides evidence that Solon made a contribution to democracy.  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. In what way are principles of Greek government used in the U.S. government?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# ANCIENT GREECE ANSWER KEY

## **GEOGRAPHY OF ANCIENT GREECE**

1. Where did most of the Ancient Greeks settle? **People of Greece settled in valleys between mountains.**
2. Predict-How would the geography of Greece encourage the formation of Greek city-states? **Different groups would form based on their geographic locations, eventually creating different states.**
3. Describe two ways Ancient Greeks adapted to the geography of Greece. **People raised animals like sheep that need little to survive and planted crops such as barley that needed little water.**

## **ECONOMY IN ANCIENT GREECE**

1. How did the increase in food production benefit the Greek economy? **Since food was plentiful, a new era of craft workers emerged.**
2. List three goods that Greeks produced and traded along the Mediterranean Sea. **wine, olive oil, wood and pottery**
3. How did finding iron affect Greece? **Iron enabled more technological advancement and better farming.**

## **ACHIEVEMENTS OF ANCIENT GREECE #1**

1. You try it! Write the word *opera* in Greek. **See chart for answer**
2. You try it! Use the translation to write your own word in Greek.

Word: \_\_\_\_\_ Greek translation: **See chart for answer**

3. In what way is the Parthenon a good example of Greek architecture? **It has intricately carved columns.**

## **ACHIEVEMENTS OF ANCIENT GREECE #2**

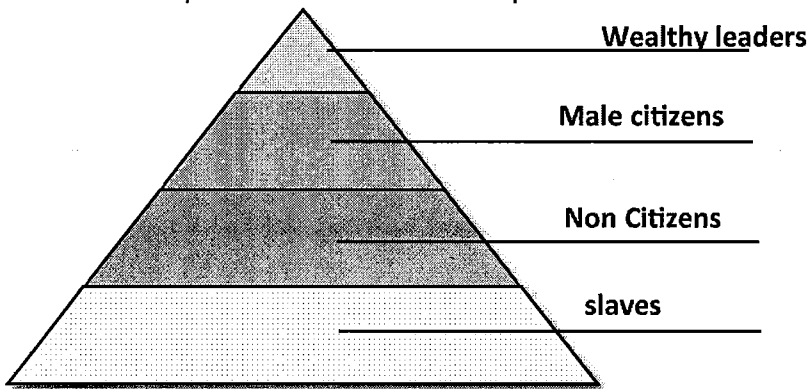
1. How did Greek Thinker's doubt that the Gods created events in nature encourage education and curiosity? **They worked to discover what explains natural phenomenon using the scientific method.**
2. *Awards*: On a separate piece of paper, draw or trace three ribbons for first, second and third place. On the ribbons, write the top three Greek achievements, and why you think these selections are the most noteworthy. (see template)

**Answers will vary, but should include why the student believes the achievement is important.**

# ANCIENT GREECE ANSWER KEY

## **SOCIAL CLASSES OF ANCIENT GREECE**

1. What percentage of people were slaves in Athens Greece? **36% were slaves in Athens.**
2. What percent of total citizens were able to vote in Greece? **19% were male citizens able to vote**
3. Categorize-Create a four tier pyramid of power on your paper with the people who had the most power at the top and those with the least power at the bottom.



**Wealthy leaders should be at the top and slaves at the bottom. Other answers may vary based on interpretation.**

## **RELIGION IN ANCIENT GREECE**

1. Why do you think Greeks told mythology?

**Stories explained how Gods and Goddesses affected everyday lives.**

2. Describe the powers of three Greek Gods. **Zeus was the God of thunder and king. Hera was the Goddess of childbirth. Athena was the Goddess of wisdom and Poseidon was the God of the sea.**

## **GOVERNMENT OF ANCIENT GREECE**

1. Compare-How are representative democracy and direct democracy different?

**In a representative democracy elected leaders make decisions. In a direct democracy, the citizens got to make decisions directly.**

2. The end of the paragraph states that Solon is “admired for his groundbreaking contributions to democracy”. Use a direct quote from the text that provides evidence that Solon made a contribution to democracy.

**During his reign, “All citizens could attend assembly and decisions were made by majority rule.”**

3. In what way are principles of Greek government used in the U.S. government? **We have a representative democracy. We elect assembly members and leaders that reflect our ideas to office.**