

The Story of Ancient Greece





Geography of Greece

- Greece is a small country in Europe.
- Greece is near the Mediterranean Sea.
- The main part of Greece is on a peninsula.
- A peninsula is a body of land surrounded by water on three sides.
- The rest of Greece is made up of islands.



Greek City-States



- Because Greece is made up of many islands, and has many tall mountains, the Greeks began to build city-states instead of one country.
- A city-state is a city with its own laws, rulers, and money.
- City-states were cities that acted like countries.



Sparta



- Sparta was a Greek city-state.
- Sparta was very powerful and had its own army.
- Sparta conquered other city-states to gain wealth and power.
- There were three classes of people in Sparta.
- Citizens, non-citizens, and slaves.

Sparta's Classes



- Only men born in Sparta were citizens.
- Women were not allowed to become citizens, however, women were allowed to own land and businesses, which gave them more freedom than other Greek city-states.
- The second class in Sparta was people who came from other city-states or other countries. They could own businesses but not become citizens.
- The third class was slaves.

Sparta warriors



- Learning to read and write in Sparta was not very important.
- Training to become a good soldiers was important.
- Young boys were taken from their parents and trained to be soldiers as well as good in sports such as running.
- Girls were also trained to be good in sports.

Athens



- Athens was another important Greek city-state.
- The people of Athens wanted to rule themselves and not have a king or queen.
- Athens became the world's first democracy around 508 B.C.
- A democracy is a government in which all citizens can vote and have equal say in what happens.

Democracy in Athens



- Athens was a democracy because all citizens could vote, but only half the people in Athens were citizens.
- Women, people born outside of Athens, and slaves could not vote.



Pericles

- Pericles was the leader of creating democracy in Athens.
- He had many buildings constructed.
- Pericles had the Parthenon and the Acropolis built.





Parthenon and Acropolis



Education in Athens



- Education was very important in Athens.
- Boys went to school to learn to read and write. They also learned many sports.
- Girls were not allowed to go to school or learn to play sports.

The Greek Alphabet



- The Greeks borrowed their alphabet from the Phoenicians.
- Most European languages, including English borrowed ideas from the Greek alphabet.

A

Alpha

(al-fah)

B

Beta

(bay-tah)

Γ

Gamma

(gam-ah)

Δ

Delta

(del-ta)

E

Epsilon

(ep-si-lon)

Z

Zeta

(zay-tah)

H

Eta

(ay-tah)

Θ

Theta

(thay-tah)

I

Iota

(eye-o-tah)

K

Kappa

(cap-pah)

Λ

Lambda

(lamb-dah)

M

Mu

(mew)

N

Nu

(new)

Ξ

Xi

(zie)

Ο

Omicron

(om-e-cron)

Π

Pi

(pie)

Ρ

Rho

(roe)

Σ

Sigma

(sig-mah)

T

Tau

(taw)

Υ

Upsilon

(up-si-lon)

Φ

Phi

(fie)

Χ

Chi

(kie)

Ψ

Psi

(sigh)

Ω

Omega

(oh-may-gah)



Socrates

- Socrates was a philosopher of Ancient Greece.
- A philosopher is someone who tries to explain the nature of life.
- Socrates taught by asking questions. This method of questioning is still called the Socratic method.





Plato

- Plato was a student of Socrates.
- He started a school called The Academy.
- Plato's writing took the form of a dialogue between teacher and student.





Aristotle

- Aristotle was another Greek philosopher and student of Plato.
- He wrote about science, art, law, poetry, and government.





Alexander the Great

- Alexander the Great was the son of King Phillip II of Macedonia.
- Alexander conquered Persia, Egypt, the Middle East and Northern India.
- He died at age 33 from malaria.



Alexander's Empire

