

Name: _____

Date: _____

The Cradle of Western Civilization

The civilization of ancient Greece flowered more than 2500 years ago, but it influences the way we live today. Greece is a peninsula and group of islands in southeastern Europe. A peninsula is a piece of land that is almost surrounded by water. The people of the region attempted to explain the world through the laws of nature. The Greeks made important discoveries in science. They developed democracy, where people govern themselves rather than being ruled by a king. The Greeks also valued beauty and imagination. They wrote many stories and plays that continue to be performed today.

The people of ancient Greece could not farm most

of their mountainous, rocky land, so they became excellent sailors who traveled to distant lands. Greek sailors learned from many different cultures and spread their ideas to many lands far from their home. The Greeks learned the alphabet from the Phoenicians, a sea faring people from modern day Syria and Lebanon.

Ancient Greek geographers divided the world into regions we still use today. The lands west of Greece are still known as the western world, while the lands east of Greece are often referred to as the east. The ancient Greeks developed a great deal of what we take for granted. This is why Greece is often known as the Cradle of Western Civilization.

Fill in the Blanks

Use the passage above to find the correct answers.

The ancient G_____ introduced many valuable i_____ that i_____ the way we live today. The Greeks lived on a small, rocky p_____ in southeast E_____. The ancient Greeks were unable to f_____ most of their l_____, so they turned to the s_____, where they became excellent s_____.

Answer in complete sentences

Use the passage above to find the correct answers.

*1. Why is most of Florida a peninsula?

*2. Why is the United States a democracy?

*3. Give examples of describing how ancient Greece influences our lives today.

*4. Why is the United States considered part of the western world?

*5. Explain why the Greeks might not have had a great influence on the world if they had better farmland?

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Name: _____

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Mr. Dowling's class
Ancient Greece
Assignment 1, Side 2

The Greek *Poli*

Ancient Greece was not a unified nation, but a collection of *poli*. *Poli* is the plural of *polis*, a word often translated as city. When we think of a city, we generally think of a place. A Greek *polis* consisted of a small walled area that was generally no larger than a few city blocks, the farmland that surrounded it, and most importantly, the people who lived there. Today we think of the people who live in a place as citizens, but to the ancient Greeks the people were as much of the *poli* as the land or the buildings. The word politics is derived from the Greek *polis*.

The *poli* often developed alliances, called leagues, for protection against other cities and foreign invaders. The *poli* of ancient Greece were eventually conquered, but their advanced ideas

eventually spread across far from their homeland and have influenced the way we live today.

Each polis was a nation of its own, but the poli of ancient Greece had many things in common. The Greek *poli* developed independently of one another because they were isolated by rugged mountains or were located on small islands, but the people of ancient Greece spoke a common language. The *poli* were also small and often had to depend on one another to survive. Further, the *poli* met every four years at a great athletic contest known as the Olympics. *Poli* that were at war would suspend hostilities until the contests ended. There is a modern nation known as Greece, but the *poli* of ancient Greece extended east to land we today know as Turkey.

Answer in complete sentences

Use the passage above to find the correct answers.

*6. Imagine the area you live was a Greek *poli*. Where would the walled area of your *poli* be?

7. What other area *poli* might your polis join in a league?

8. What did the Greek *poli* have in common?

9. Why were the Olympics an important element in the development of the Greek *poli*?

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Name: _____

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Greek Mythology

The ancient Greeks were polytheistic. This means they believed in many gods. Writers and artists use the stories and symbols of Greek stories to this day. While most people no longer view the Greek stories as religion, many people still enjoy reading them. Today, most people who live in the Western Hemisphere believe in one God. People who believe in one God are monotheistic.

Myths are traditional stories. The Greeks used myths to explain things they did not understand. At first, myths were passed down from generation to generation by word of mouth. Later, Greek poets created epic stories based on those legends. An epic is a long poem about great heroes and their deeds.

The Greek believed their gods lived atop Mount Olympus, the highest mountain in Greece. Zeus was the head of the pantheon, or family of gods. Zeus ruled the sky with his powerful thunderbolt. One of Zeus' brothers, Poseidon, ruled the sea; another brother, Hades, ruled the "underworld." Zeus's wife, Hera, was the goddess of women and marriage.

The ancient Greeks would often consult priests or priestesses called oracles before making important decisions. Many ancient Greeks believed that the gods spoke to the oracles. The Greek oracles were said to be able to read the rustling of leaves or marks on animals as signs from the gods. The oracles would often respond in unclear ways so it would be difficult for people to prove them wrong.

Answer in complete sentences

Use the passage above to find the correct answers.

*10. Explain why monotheists do not believe in Greek mythology.

*11. If you are growing up in ancient Greece, how would you learn about an epic poem?

12. How were Zeus, Poseidon, and Hades related?

*13. Zeus was the most powerful Greek god. Who do his powers suggest the people of ancient Greece feared?

*14. Make a prediction about modern society that would be similar to what a Greek oracle would make. Consider how the oracles madder sure they could not be proven wrong.

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Name: _____

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Mr. Dowling's class
Ancient Greece
Assignment 2, Side 2

Homer

Greek literature includes the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*, two epics poems written about 1200 years before the Common Era (or before the birth of Jesus). The Greeks believed a storyteller named Homer wrote the poems. We don't know much about Homer, but the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* give us an insight into early Greek civilization.

The ancient Greeks considered the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* to be great literature. The dialect of the poems suggests that Homer came from the western coast of the modern nation of Turkey. A dialect is a local variety of a language that has its own pronunciation, grammar, or vocabulary.

Greek legends suggest that Homer was blind, but the vivid imagery of the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* suggest that the author of the poems must have had sight at some point in his life. Modern scholars believe that the epics were based on oral legends, but it would be difficult for most people to memorize the poems as long as the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*, suggesting that the Greeks had some form of writing long before their civilization flourished.

Fill in the Blanks

Use the passage above to find the correct answers.

The Greeks believed a b_____ storyteller named H_____ wrote two e_____ poems: the I_____ and the O_____. We don't know much about H_____, but stories that were attributed to him were passed down by word of mouth for *g_____.

Answer in complete sentences

Use the passage above to find the correct answers.

*15. How long ago was the sixth century BC?

16. Where do scholars believe Homer came from? How did they reach that conclusion?

*17. Do you think it is possible for a blind person to write with vivid imagery? Explain your reasoning.

18. What leads scholars to suggest that the Greeks developed writing before their civilization flourished?

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Name: _____

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Sparta

Sparta was a polis that valued physical courage, strength, and bravery in war. The Spartans gave their complete loyalty to their polis. Seven-year-old Spartan boys left their homes to train as soldiers in military camps. Spartan men lived and trained together. When a man married, he would continue to live with his fellow soldiers until he was about thirty years old. Both men and women in Sparta participated in athletic contests to make them strong.

Sparta is on the Peloponnesus, a hilly, rocky area at the southern end of the Greek peninsula. The Spartans conquered many people in the region and forced them to work as slaves. The Spartans developed their disciplined society because they were outnumbered by slaves and always needed to be prepared for a revolt.

Spartan men were constantly in training for war, so women played a significant role in Sparta that was unusual for their time. Spartan women were the sole

owners of at least one third of the land of their polis. When Spartan soldiers went to battle, their wives would present them with their shield and say: "With this, or upon this." This means the soldier would return to Sparta either victorious, with his shield in hand, or carried dead upon his shield. If a Spartan soldier returned home alive and without his shield, he faced death or banishment from Sparta.

Spartan laws discouraged anything that would distract people from their disciplined military life. Sparta did not welcome visitors from other cities, and Spartans were not allowed to travel. The Spartans were not interested in other ways of life and did not want to bring new ideas to their polis.

Answer in complete sentences

Use the passage above to find the correct answers.

19. What did the people of ancient Sparta value?

*20. Why do you think the leaders of ancient Sparta did not allow boys to remain with their families?

*21. Why did ancient Sparta not welcome visitors from other cities or allow their citizens to travel?

*22. What are the advantages of living in a society like ancient Sparta?

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Mr. Dowling's class
Ancient Greece
Assignment 3, Side 2

Athens

Athens was a *polis* on the southeastern part of the Greek mainland. The Athenian people valued reading, writing, and music, subjects that the Spartans scorned. Unlike Sparta, the leaders of Athens allowed the people born in their *polis* to visit other places and learn new ideas.

The people of Athens created a democracy: a government ruled by the people instead of a king. Adult males born in Athens became citizens and members of the assembly. The assembly voted on how the *polis* was governed. To ensure equal opportunity for every citizen, Athens chose its leaders by lot rather than by holding elections. The elected officials served for one year. At the end of the year, the leaders were called before the assembly to account for their work.



Not everyone participated in Athenian democracy. Women could own land, but could not actively participate in the assembly. Athens encouraged outsiders to move to their polis, but did not allow them to vote in the assembly. The members of the assembly accounted for only about one-sixteenth of the total population of Athens. About one in four people were slaves. Slaves were captured in war and had few rights in Athens. The slaves did most of the physical work in the polis, making it possible for the members of the assembly to spend more time on public affairs.

Athenian democracy was limited, but it gave some people the opportunity to make decisions about how they were governed. Participation in government by common people was a new idea that later became a model for other governments. The writers of the American Constitution were inspired by the model of democratic government in Athens.

Answer in complete sentences

Use the passage above to find the correct answers.

*23. What did the people of Athens value?

*25. Why did Athens choose its leaders by lot instead of election? Do you think that was a wise method of governing the *polis*?

*26. Did the Assembly represent the wishes of all of the people of Athens? Defend your answer.

*27. Would you have preferred to live in Sparta or Athens? Defend your answer.

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Mr. Dowling's class
Ancient Greece
Assignment 4, Side 1

Persia

Persia was a kingdom east of the Greek peninsula. The Persians created a vast empire that eventually stretched from Asia Minor (modern Turkey) to Babylon (modern Iraq). In 490BC, Darius was the king of Persia. Darius decided to expand his empire by attacking Athens. The Persians landed at Marathon, twenty-six miles from Athens. A messenger named Pheidippides ran to Athens without stopping to warn the Athenians of the invasion. Pheidippides died from exhaustion shortly after gasping out his news, but his "marathon run" alerted the Athenian army of the Persian landing. Soldiers from Athens marched to Marathon and forced the Persians to return to their ships. A modern marathon is a foot race that is named in honor of Pheidippides' run. Marathons are exactly 26 miles and 385 yards, which is exactly the distance Pheidippides is believed to have run.

Persia planned to conquer the Greek peninsula by defeating individual *poli*, but Athens convinced other *poli* to combine forces with one another. The combined forces were known as leagues. Many *poli*

fought the Persians, including fierce warriors from Sparta. The Greek leagues were outnumbered, but they managed to defeat the larger Persian army.

Ten years after the retreat at Marathon, Darius' son, Xerxes, prepared for another invasion of Greece. Xerxes sent about 200,000 soldiers and 800 ships to fight the Greeks at the Battle of Salamis in 480BC. The Persian king watched from a mountaintop as the Greeks again managed to destroy more than 200 ships and kill 20,000 sailors. Xerxes was so enraged that he beheaded the few captains who were able to escape the wrath of the Greek armies.

After the wars with the Persians, the Greeks felt a tremendous pride in their culture. The great Persian kingdom no longer awed them. This pride was especially strong in Athens. The artists, poets, sculptures, and architects developed a culture that was unique to Greece. The period that followed the Greek victory at the Battle of Salamis was known as the "Golden Age of Greece."

Answer in complete sentences

Use the passage above to find the correct answers.

*28. Why do you think the Persians landed at Marathon instead of going directly to Athens?

*29. Why did the other Greek *poli* send soldiers to help Athens?

*30. What city-state do you think provided the strongest soldiers in the war against Persia? Defend your answer.

*31. Why did the Greeks feel a tremendous pride in their culture after 480BC?

*32. What was significant about the "Golden Age of Greece?"

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Mr. Dowling's class
Ancient Greece
Assignment 4, Side 2

The Peloponnesian War

The Golden Age of Greece was short lived. Athens and Sparta were both powerful *poli*, and each wanted to spread their way of life. Sparta attacked Athens in 431BC, beginning the brutal 27-year long Peloponnesian War.

One out four people in Athens died shortly after the Peloponnesian War began, but not because they were defeated in battle. When Sparta attacked, the Athenian people crowded behind the walls of their *polis*. The cramped and dirty living conditions inside the walls of Athens were an easy target for disease. A plague, or great sickness, spread through the city. Sickness claimed the life of Pericles, the leader of Athens. Once Pericles died, the people began to listen

to demagogues. Demagogues were bad leaders who appealed to people's emotions and fears rather than logic. Demagogues often argue that a particular group causes the problems or suffering of their followers.

Sparta eventually defeated Athens by building a blockade around the walls of the city. This is called a siege. The people of Athens could not leave to get supplies or food from the countryside. Faced with starvation and disease, Athens surrendered to Sparta in 404 BC.

The Peloponnesian War robbed Athens of its Golden Age. Great thinkers and teachers lived in Athens during and after the Peloponnesian War but the era of support for new ideas and the spirit of democracy had passed.

Fill in the Blanks

Use the passage above to find the correct answers.

The G_____ Age of G_____ was short lived because both A_____ and S_____ wanted to dominate the Greek peninsula. S_____ attacked Athens _____ years ago, beginning the _____ year long P_____ War. Athens was at an immediate disadvantage as a p_____ wiped out a *q_____ of the city's p_____. When plague killed P_____, the leader of A_____, the A_____ people began listening to bad leaders called d_____. S_____ defeated Athens after building a b_____ around the city. Athens s_____ to Sparta in 404BC, ending a long period of glory for the *p_____.

Answer in complete sentences

Use the passage above to find the correct answers.

33. Why did the Golden Age of Greece end?

*34. Think of how a demagogue influences people. Imagine you are a speechwriter for an American politician who practices demagoguery. What might you say in that speech? Use contemporary issues if possible.

*35. How did Sparta defeat Athens?

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Name: _____

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Socrates

We have learned many things from the ancient Greeks, but perhaps the most important is the value of ideas. The Greeks believed in wisdom. Wisdom is the knowledge and the judgment needed to make good decisions. Ancient Greece was remembered for its many great philosophers. Philosophers were people who discussed, debated, and studied wisdom. The word philosophy comes from a Greek term meaning "the love of wisdom." The ancient Greeks were concerned with rhetorical skills. Rhetoric is speech that is used to persuade someone. Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle were three of the greatest philosophers of ancient Greece.

Socrates (born 469BC – died 399BC) was a philosopher who taught by asking questions. When teachers ask questions that encourage students to draw conclusions, they are using the "Socratic method" of teaching. The oracle of the prominent polis of Delphi pronounced Socrates the wisest man in Greece, but Socrates disagreed. Socrates concluded that while others professed knowledge they did not have, Socrates knew how little he knew. Socrates asked many questions, but he gave few answers. In fact, Socrates

often denied knowing the answers to the questions he asked.

Socrates was a well-known teacher in Athens. He drifted around the city with his students, engaging many people in arguments about justice, bravery, and piety. Socrates did not write any books because he believed in the superiority of argument over writing. What we know about Socrates comes from what others wrote about him.

The leaders of Athens did not want a critic in their city, so they threatened to bring Socrates to trial. The Athenian leaders charged Socrates with neglecting the gods and corrupting the youth of Athens by encouraging them to consider new ideas. The leaders expected the seventy-year-old Socrates to leave Athens before his arrest, but Socrates remained in Athens, stood trial, and was found guilty. A friend tried to plan an escape from prison, but Socrates refused to participate. Socrates believed that he must obey the law, even if he disagreed with it. Socrates calmly drank from a cup of poison hemlock, the customary practice of execution at that time.

Answer in complete sentences

Use the passage above to find the correct answers.

*36. What does philosophy mean?

*37. Write a message to a parent, teacher, or friend where using your rhetorical skills. (You do not have to be concerned about a topic sentence or a conclusion.)

38. Describe the Socratic method of teaching.

*39. Name a person from today or the recent past who challenged society by asking uncomfortable questions. (You may need to ask your parent for help with this question.)

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Mr. Dowling's class
Ancient Greece
Assignment 5, Side 2

Aristotle

Aristotle was the greatest scientist of the ancient world. He is considered the father of the natural sciences. Aristotle believed in using logic and reason, rather than the anger or pleasure of gods, to explain events.

Aristotle was born in Macedonia, a mountainous land north of the Greek peninsula. At that time, many Greeks believed Macedonia was a backward place with no culture. Aristotle moved to Athens and studied at Plato's *Academy*. Plato was a well known philosopher and a student of Socrates. Aristotle remained at the school for more than twenty years until shortly after Plato died.

Aristotle then returned to Macedonia, where King Philip hired him to prepare his thirteen-year-old son, Alexander, for his future role as a military leader. His student would one day be known as Alexander the

Great, one of the greatest military conquerors of all time.

Once Alexander became King of Macedonia, Aristotle returned to Athens and opened a school he called the *Lyceum*. For the next twelve years, Aristotle organized his school as a center of research on astronomy, zoology, geography, geology, physics, anatomy, and many other fields.

Aristotle wrote 170 books, 47 of which still exist more than two thousand years later. Aristotle was also a philosopher who wrote about ethics, psychology, economics, theology, politics, and rhetoric. Later inventions like the telescope and microscope would prove many of Aristotle's theories to be incorrect, but his ideas formed the basis of modern science.



Fill in the Blanks

Use the passage above to find the correct answers.

Aristotle was the greatest s_____ of the a_____ world. He is considered the f_____ of the n_____ sciences. Aristotle believed in using l_____ and r_____ to explain events that happen in *n_____. Aristotle was b_____ in M_____, but he moved to A_____ and studied with P_____ at the A_____. Aristotle then returned home to M_____, where King P_____ hired him to t_____ his son, Alexander. Aristotle later opened a s_____ in A_____ called the L_____, where he conducted r_____ in many fields. Aristotle wrote about many topics, but his greatest i_____ was in the t_____ of l_____. Aristotle believed that there was an e_____ for e_____ that h_____ in the u_____.

Answer in complete sentences

Use the passage above to find the correct answers.

40. Explain why the people of Athens considered Aristotle an outsider.

41. What was significant about Aristotle's theory of logic?

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Name: _____

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Mr. Dowling's class
Ancient Greece
Assignment 6, Side 1

Alexander the Great

Macedonia was the mountainous land north of the Greek peninsula. Alexander the Great became King of Macedonia when his father was assassinated in 336BC. King Philip had conquered most of the Greek peninsula. The Greeks believed they could free themselves of Macedonian rule since their new king was a "mere boy."

Alexander proved the Greeks wrong by capturing the city of Thebes. Alexander destroyed the entire city as a warning to the others. Alexander then conquered Persia, the longtime enemy of Greece, and the mightiest empire in the world at that time.

Alexander was a military genius, possibly the greatest warrior of all time. His troops were better trained and organized than the Persian army. His soldiers admired Alexander because of his personal courage. Alexander led his soldiers in battle instead of remaining behind the lines. The troops saw that Alexander was sharing their danger and was not asking them to take any risks he would not take himself.

Once he conquered the Persians, Alexander quickly assembled a huge empire, which was the largest empire the world had seen up to that time. In 332BC, Alexander moved south to Egypt, where he rested his troops. The Egyptians welcomed Alexander as a hero because he freed them from harsh Persian rule. They crowned Alexander Pharaoh and declared him a god.

Alexander eventually created an empire that stretched as far east as India. As a child, Alexander was tutored by Aristotle. Aristotle was a well known Greek philosopher who was influenced by the ideas of Socrates. Aristotle taught Alexander that the Greeks were the most advanced people in the world, and that all other cultures were barbarians. Once Alexander defeated the Persians, he came to see the Persians very differently. Alexander saw that many Persians were intelligent people and were worthy of his

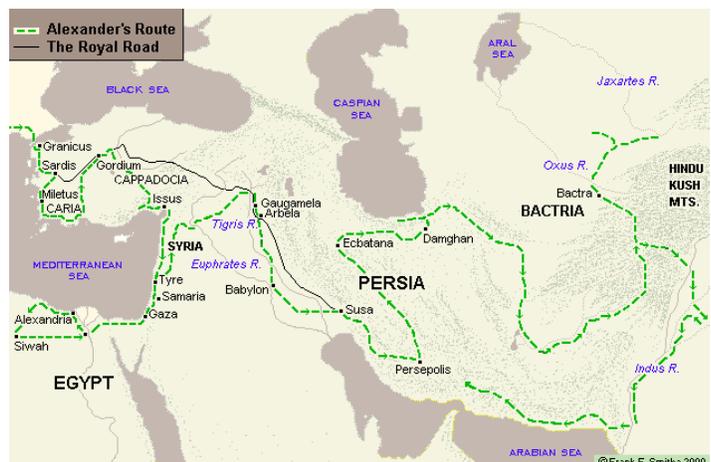
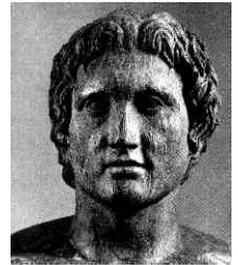
respect. Alexander accepted many Persians into his army and married the daughter of a Persian king.

In 323BC, when Alexander was only thirty-three years old, he fell ill from a fever and died a week later.

Alexander had created a huge empire in less than thirteen years, but it quickly crumbled after his death.

Alexander changed the world, but not through his accomplishments on the battlefield. Alexander's empire combined Greek culture with the cultures of Persia and the other lands he conquered. Later historians called this combination of cultures the Hellenistic civilization. Hellenism is a word derived from the Greeks' traditional name for themselves. Long after Alexander's empire fell apart, Hellenism produced great advances in science, philosophy, and drama.

The Egyptian city of Alexandria became the center of Hellenistic learning and culture. A library in Alexandria housed the accumulated knowledge of the Greeks. This would become very important in the centuries that followed because the Greek civilization and the Roman civilization that followed would eventually fall to tribes who could not read.



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Name: _____

Date: _____

Mr. Dowling's class
Ancient Greece
Assignment 6, Side 2

Answer in complete sentences

Use the passage on the other side to find the correct answers.

*42. Explain why history remembers Alexander as “Alexander the Great?”

43. How did destroying the city of Thebes prove Alexander to be more than a “mere boy?”

*44. What do you think may have caused Alexander’s change of heart about the Persians?

45. In what year was Alexander the Great born? [Remember that Alexander was born before the Common Era]

46. What was the Hellenistic Civilization? Why was the Hellenistic Civilization important?

47. What was significant about the library built in Alexandria, Egypt?

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