

Year 3 Human Science

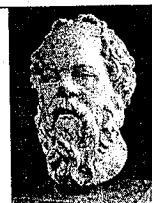
History – Classical Greece 8 – Classical Greek Culture

The civilization of Ancient Greece has been immensely influential on all aspects of philosophy, science, and the arts. Along with the culture of the Roman Empire, Greek culture is the foundation of Western culture in general.

Philosophy

Philosophy is the study of fundamental problems concerning matters such as existence, knowledge, values, reason, mind, and language. The word 'Philosophy' comes from the Greek φιλοσοφία [philosophia], which literally means 'love of wisdom'. When we begin to study philosophy today, we usually begin by studying the philosophy of ancient Greece.

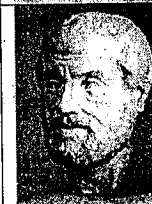
Socrates (469-399 B.C.) used to teach by asking his students questions and showing up weaknesses in their thinking. He always encouraged his students to think for themselves and not always to accept what other people said. 'As for me', he wrote, 'all I know is that I know nothing'. They accused him of corrupting the minds of young people and sentenced him to death.



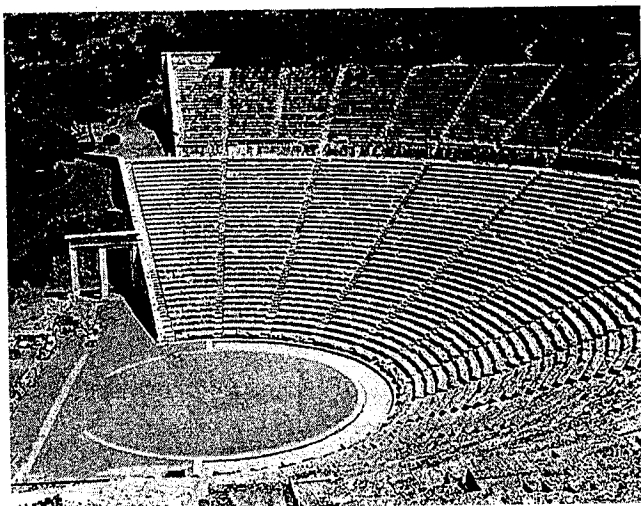
Plato (428-348 B.C.) was Socrates' student. He taught in a place called the Academy. Plato's most famous book - called *The Republic* - described how an ideal state might be best governed. *The Republic* is usually one of the first books a philosophy student studies today. For Plato the ideal society is that in which only philosophers are fit to rule.



Aristotle (384– 322 BC) was a student of Plato and taught in a school called the Lyceum. He was also tutor to Alexander the Great. His writings cover many subjects, including physics, metaphysics, poetry, theatre, music, logic, rhetoric, politics, government, ethics, biology, and zoology. He was the most influential ancient philosopher, many of his ideas went unchallenged for thousands of years.



Literature and Drama



Many consider the western literary tradition to have begun with the epic poems of Homer, *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*. A Greek playwright named **Aeschylus** (c. 525-456 BC) changed Western literature forever when he introduced the ideas of dialogue and interacting characters to playwriting. In doing so, he essentially invented "drama": Other great Greek playwrights were **Sophocles** (c. 496-406 B.C.), **Euripides** (c. 480-406 B.C.) and **Aristophanes** (c. 448-380 B.C.)

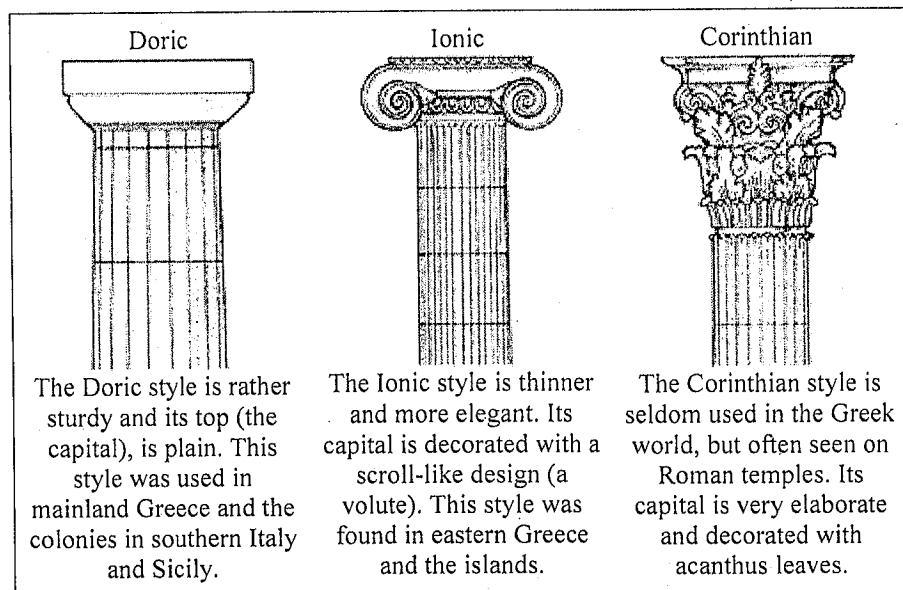
Epidauros theatre above) The orchestra (literally, 'dancing space') was normally circular and would be where the chorus would perform. In the centre of the orchestra there was often a thymele, or altar. The theatron (literally, "viewing-place") is where the spectators sat. The theatron was usually part of hillside overlooking the orchestra, and often wrapped around a large portion of the orchestra

Science and Technology

Ancient Greece mathematics contributed many important developments to the field of mathematics, including the basic rules of geometry. The discoveries of several Greek mathematicians, including **Pythagoras** (570-490 BC), **Euclid** (c. 300 BC), and **Archimedes** (c. 287 c. 212 BC), are still used in mathematical teaching today. The ancient Greeks also made important discoveries in the medical field. **Hippocrates** (460- 370 BC) was a doctor considered one of the most outstanding figures in the history of medicine. He is referred to as the 'father of medicine' and all modern doctors swear the Hippocratic Oath which governs their behaviour as doctors.

Art and Architecture

The arts of ancient Greece have exercised an enormous influence on the culture of many countries, particularly in the areas of sculpture and architecture. In the West, the art of the Roman Empire was largely derived from Greek models. The Greeks developed three architectural systems, called orders, each with their own distinctive proportions and detailing. The Greek orders are: Doric, Ionic, and Corinthian.



In the Classical period for the first time we know the names of individual sculptors. **Phidias** (c. 480-430 BC) oversaw the design and building of the Parthenon. The greatest works of the Classical period, the Statue of Zeus at Olympia and the Statue of Athena are lost, although smaller copies still exist. Their size and magnificence prompted emperors to seize them in the Byzantine period, and both were removed to Constantinople, where they were later destroyed in fire

Activity

Design a timeline of 'Great individuals of ancient Greece'. The timeline should include the name of each individual referred to in the text in bold, the dates of birth/death and whether they were artists, philosophers etc.

"It's All Greek to Me"—Language Legacy

How many Greek words can you create from common Greek roots? You may find that combinations of three, even four roots are possible. You may find it necessary to add or drop a letter from the Greek word in order to have the correct English spelling. You should, of course, know the meaning of the English terms that you create.

e.g., bio + ology = biology = the study of life forms

Greek Roots	English Meaning
acro	high
aero	air
anthrop(o)	human
auto	self
bio	life
-cracy	rule
demo(s)	people
geo	earth
-gamo(y)	marriage
-graph	writing
hydro	water
litho(o)	stone
micro	small
mono	one
neo	new
-ology	study of, body of
paleo	old
photo	light
poly	many
psycho	mind
scope	sight
tele	far
theo	god
thermo	heat

How many legitimate English words can you create in 20 minutes?

"The Greeks had a word for it."

Circle the three terms in each set that have something in common. Then, describe the relationship among the three terms in the space provided.

1. comedy hippodrome tragedy drama

2. Hellenistic Stoicism Socratic method Epicureanism

3. marathon acropolis agora polis

4. rhetoric olympiad geometry sophists

5. helots Spartans perioeci bards