

CHAPTER

6

Ancient Greece

SECTION 1 The Rise of Greek Civilization

SECTION 2 Greek Religion, Philosophy, and Literature

SECTION 3 Daily Life of the Ancient Greeks

SECTION 4 Athens and Sparta

TWO CITIES
IN CONFLICT

SECTION 5 The Spread of Greek Culture



MAP ACTIVITIES

The land of ancient Greece extended south into the Mediterranean Sea. It was a mountainous land. Ancient Greece also included a large number of islands in the Mediterranean. The ancient Greeks built colonies in places outside of Greece, such as the coast of Asia Minor, or modern-day Turkey. To help you get to know this region, carry out the following activities.

Describe the region

How would you describe the land of Greece? How would you compare the land of Greece to that of the United States?

Think about the people

From the map, make some guesses about how the people of ancient Greece earned their livelihood. What role did the sea probably have in their lives? Why do you think some Greeks left ancient Greece to build cities elsewhere?

The Rise of Greek Civilization

SECTION 1

BEFORE YOU READ

Reach Into Your Background

What makes the community where you live special? What makes it a community? Does it

have traditions and customs of its own? What are they? What does your community share with its neighbors?

Questions to Explore

1. How did geography influence the development of civilization in Greece?
2. How did democracy develop in Athens?

Key Terms

peninsula	aristocrat
epic	tyrant
acropolis	democracy
city-state	

Key People and Places

Homer
Solon
Troy

First there was nothing. Then came Mother Earth. The gods of Night and Day appeared next, and then starry Sky. Earth and Sky created the Twelve Titans (TYT unZ). These great gods rebelled against their father Sky and took away his power. The youngest of the Titans, Cronos, ruled in his father's place. In time, Cronos had six children. The youngest, mighty Zeus (zoos), toppled Cronos from his throne.

With such words, the people of ancient Greece described the struggles of their gods. Like their gods, the people of Greece had to struggle for power and independence. Their struggles began with the land itself.

Greece's Geographic Setting

The land of Greece looks as if the sea had smashed it to pieces. Some pieces have drifted away to form small, rocky islands. Others barely cling to the mainland. Greece is a peninsula made up of peninsulas. A **peninsula** is an area of land surrounded by water on three sides. Look at the map. As you can see, no part of Greece is very far from the sea.

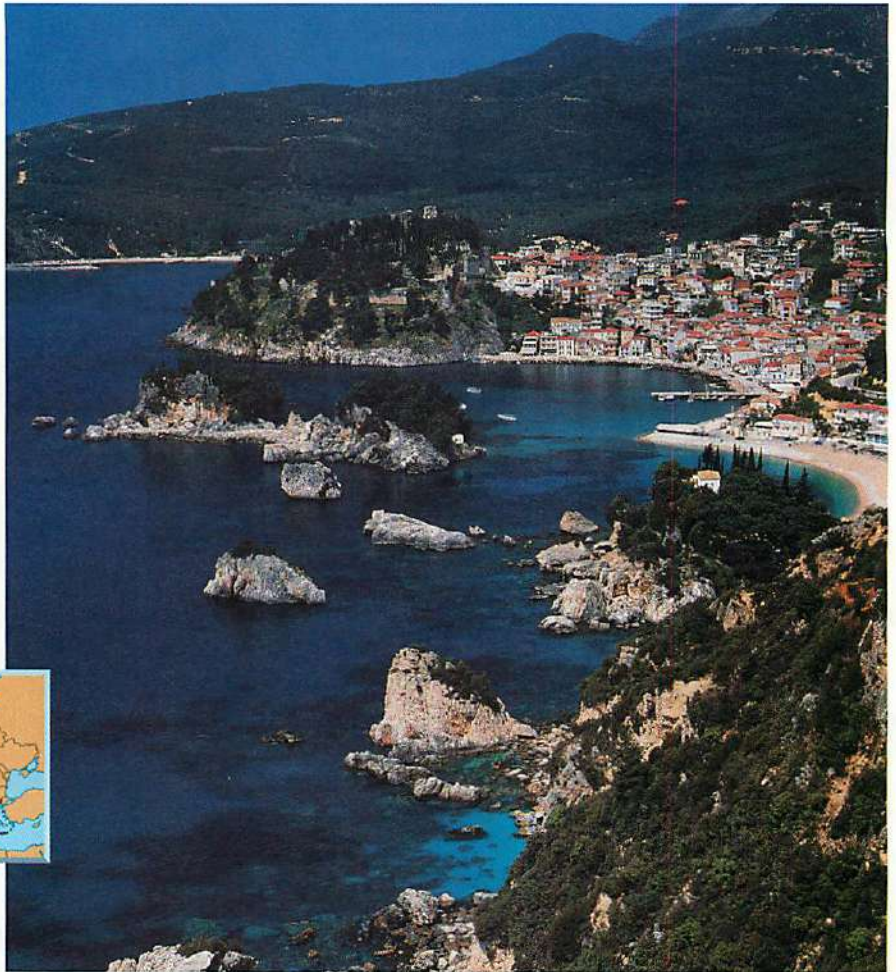
Mountains are the major landform of Greece. Greece's islands are mostly mountain peaks. Mountains wrinkle the mainland, so there are only small patches of farmland. Only about one fifth of Greece is good for growing crops. No wonder the Greeks became traders and sailors. At times, they even left Greece to found colonies far away.

What was life like for people living in Greece 3,000 years ago? In a way, the ancient Greeks were all islanders. Some lived on real islands completely surrounded by water or on small peninsulas. Others lived on

▼ The sea was an important part of life in ancient Greece. It inspired an artist to decorate this clay pot with soldiers riding dolphins.



► Several typical geographic features appear in this picture of the northwestern coast of Greece. These features include a rocky coastline and rugged mountains. **Critical Thinking** How did the geographic features shown affect the way ancient people lived in this area?



Predict What effect do you think the geography of Greece had on the kind of communities that developed?

“land islands.” Mountains cut off these small communities from each other. The geography of Greece made it hard for people from different communities to get together.

For this reason, it is no surprise that ancient Greek communities thought of themselves as separate countries. Each one developed its own customs and beliefs. Each believed its own land, traditions, and way of life were the best. And each was more than ready to go to war to protect itself. In fact, for most of their history, the Greeks were so busy fighting among themselves that it is easy to forget that they shared a common heritage, spoke the same language, and worshipped the same gods.

Greek Beginnings

All Greeks shared a wealth of stories and myths about their origins. The myths explained the creation of the universe and the features of nature. They described the adventures of Greek heroes and gods. Various stories told how cities and traditions came to be.

The most important stories told about the Trojan War, a long struggle between Greece and the city of Troy on the west coast of Asia Minor. All the great heroes from both regions joined in the war.

The Trojan War The story of the Trojan War has everything a story should have—great battles, plots and schemes, loyalty and betrayal. According to the myths, a prince named Paris, from the wealthy city of Troy, was the guest of a Greek chieftain named Menelaus (men uh LAY us). Breaking the law of the gods, Paris kidnapped Menelaus' wife, Helen, and took her to Troy. To get Helen back, the Greek chieftains sent a huge army to attack Troy.

For ten long years, the war dragged on. Many heroes on both sides perished. At last, the Greeks conquered Troy by a trick—the Trojan Horse. The Greeks burned and looted Troy and then returned home.

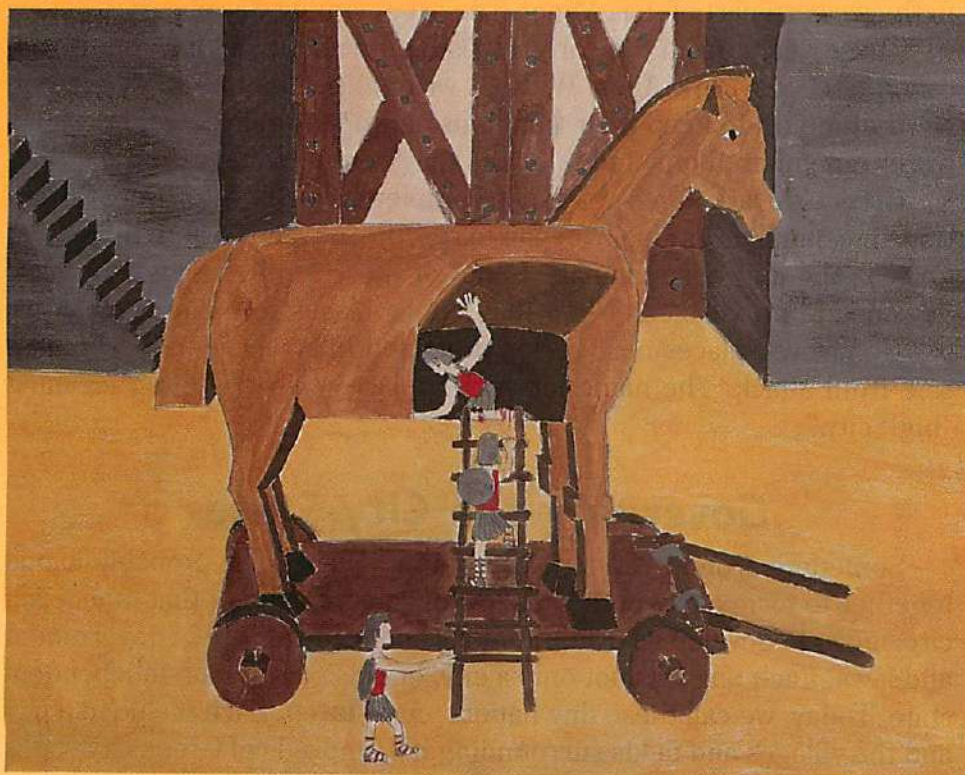
Two **epics**, or long poems, about the Trojan War survive today. They are the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*. The *Iliad* tells about a quarrel between Greek leaders in the last year of the war. The *Odyssey* describes the adventures of the hero Odysseus (oh DIS ee us) as he struggles to return to his homeland from Troy.

These epics may have been composed by many people, but they are credited to a poet called Homer. The poems were important to the Greeks. They taught them what their gods were like and how the noblest of their heroes behaved. Today, people think these poems came from stories memorized by several poets and passed down by word of mouth through many generations. Homer may have been the last and greatest in this line of poets who told about the Trojan War.



Ask Questions What would you like to know about the Trojan War?

Trojan Horse



Sissy Pachiadaki
age 12
Greece

This picture shows how the Trojan Horse helped the Greeks conquer Troy. Greek warriors hid inside a huge wooden horse. The horse was rolled to the city gates. The Trojans thought it was a gift to the gods, so they brought it into their city. During the night, the Greek soldiers climbed out of the horse and let the rest of their army into Troy.



◀ These warriors decorate a vase from the 500s B.C. The background is the natural color of the baked clay. The black figures were painted on.

The Dark Ages of Greece

Not long after the end of Troy, civilization in Greece collapsed. No one knows exactly why. Life went on, but poverty was everywhere. People no longer traded for food and other goods beyond Greece. They had to depend on what they could raise themselves. Some were forced to move to islands and

to the western part of Asia Minor. The art of writing disappeared.

These years, from the early 1100s B.C. to about 750 B.C., have been called Greece's Dark Ages. Without writing, people had to depend on word of mouth to keep their traditions and history alive. Old traditions were remembered only in the myths that were told and retold.

Greece's Dark Ages were not completely bleak, however. During this time, families gradually began to resettle in places where they could grow crops and raise animals. Some of these family farms may have developed into villages. When they chose places to build their farms, people favored places near rocky, protected hills where they would be safe from attack. The name for such a place was **acropolis**, meaning "high city."

Governing the City-States

Sometime around 750 B.C., villages in a small area probably joined together to form a city in the shadow of an acropolis. At that time, each city began to develop its own traditions and its own form of government and laws. Each one was not only a city, but also a separate independent state. Today, we call these tiny nations **city-states**. Each included a city and the villages and fields surrounding it. Hundreds of Greek city-states grew up, each more or less independent.



Troy Discovered Over the years, people came to believe that Troy and the Trojan War were fiction. An amateur archaeologist, Heinrich Schliemann, disagreed. In the late 1800s he used clues in the *Iliad* to pinpoint the location of Troy. When he and later archaeologists dug there, they found nine layers of ruins from ancient cities. One was possibly the Troy of the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*.

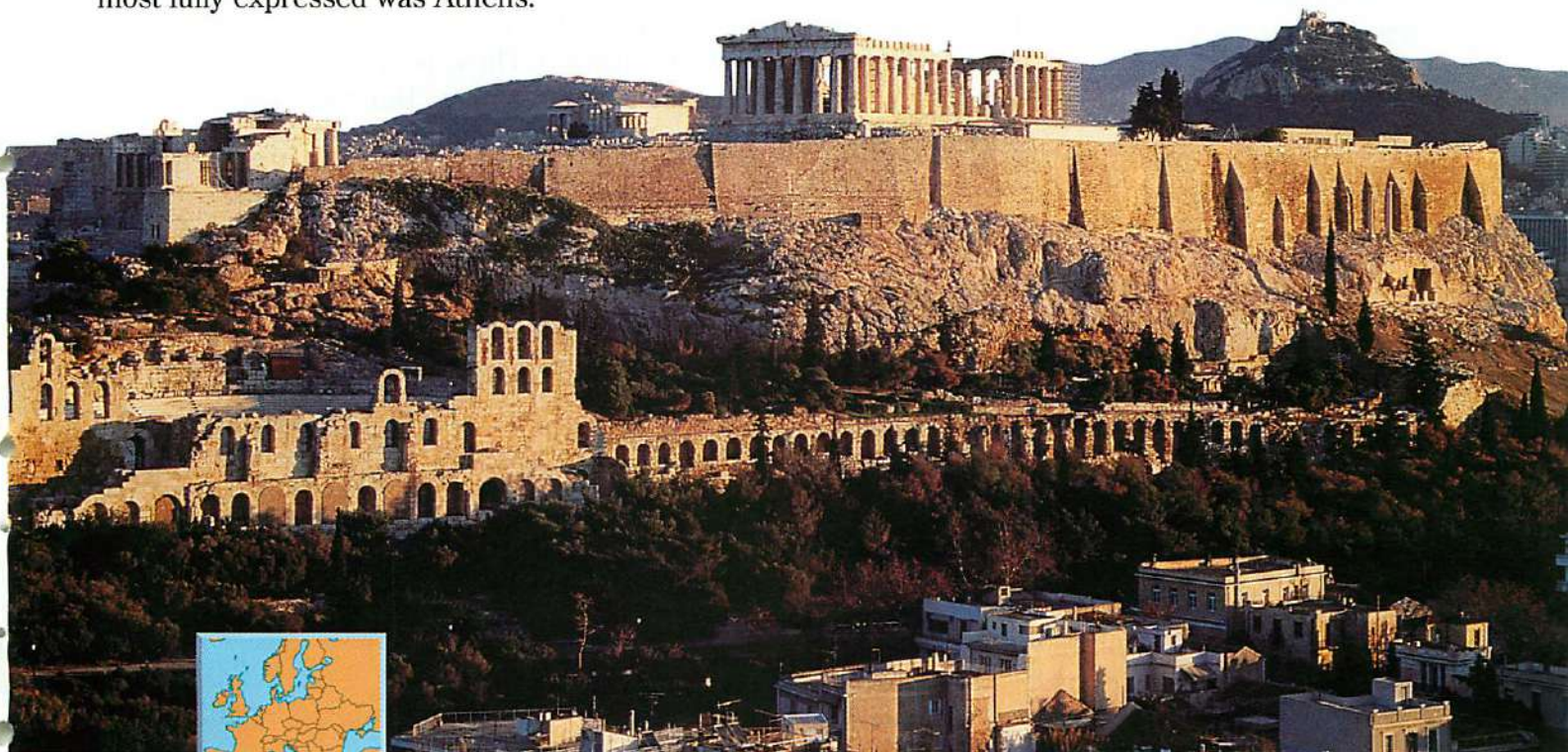
Aristocracy: Nobles Rule The earliest rulers of city-states were probably chieftains or kings who were military leaders. By the end of Greece's Dark Ages, most city-states were ruled by **aristocrats**, members of the rich and powerful families. Aristocrats controlled most of the good land. They could afford horses, chariots, and the best weapons to make themselves stronger than others.

A New Type of Ruler As the Greeks sailed to foreign ports trading olive oil, marble, and other products, the city-states became richer. A middle class of merchants and artisans developed. They wanted some say in the government of their cities. These people could not afford to equip themselves with horses and chariots for war. However, they could afford armor, swords, and spears. With these weapons, large groups of soldiers could fight effectively on foot. Gradually, military strength in the cities shifted from aristocrats to merchants and artisans.

As a result of these changes, aristocratic governments were often overthrown and replaced by rulers called tyrants. A **tyrant** was a ruler who seized power by force. Tyrants were usually supported by the middle and working classes. Today, we think of tyrants as being cruel and violent. That was true of some Greek tyrants, but others ruled wisely and well.

Democracy: Rule by the People Eventually, the people of many city-states overthrew tyrants who were too harsh. A few cities moved to a form of government called **democracy**. In a democracy, citizens govern themselves. The city-state in which democracy was most fully expressed was Athens.

▼ The Acropolis in Athens was known for its beautiful temples. It was also a fortress. During wartime, people moved to the Acropolis where the enemy could not easily reach them.



Symbols of Democracy

In this carving (right), the woman stands for democracy. She is crowning a man seated on a throne. He stands for the Athenian people. The carving reminded the people of Athens of their duty to take part in government. Greek citizens served on juries at trials. Bronze plates like this one (below) were used to identify and choose members of juries.



Connect Would you like to have lived under the democracy in Athens? Why or why not?

About 594 B.C., a wise Athenian leader called Solon won the power to reform the laws. Solon was well known for his fairness. His laws reformed both the economy and the government of Athens. One of his first laws canceled all debts and freed citizens who had been enslaved for having debts. Another law allowed any male citizen of Athens aged 18 or older to have a say in debating important laws. These laws and others allowed Athens to become the leading democracy of the ancient world.

However, not everyone living in ancient Athens benefited from democracy. Only about one in five Athenians was a citizen. Some of the people living in Athens were enslaved. These people did not take part in democracy. Nor did women and foreigners. But the men who were citizens of Athens were free and self-governing.

SECTION 1 REVIEW

1. **Define** (a) peninsula, (b) epic, (c) acropolis, (d) city-state, (e) aristocrat, (f) tyrant, (g) democracy.
2. **Identify** (a) Homer, (b) Solon, (c) Troy.

3. Describe the three kinds of governments that developed in the Greek city-states after the Dark Ages.
4. What group of Athenians benefited most from democracy? Why?

Critical Thinking

5. **Recognizing Cause and Effect** How did the mountains in Greece contribute to the rise of city-states?

Activity

6. Writing to Learn

Describe conditions in Greece during the period between the 1100s B.C. and the 700s B.C. Why are these years referred to as Greece's Dark Ages?

Greek Religion, Philosophy, and Literature

SECTION

2

**BEFORE
YOU
READ**

Reach Into Your Background

Think about the things that make the United States a good place to live. What do you like

about living here? How would you describe life in the United States to someone from another country? What would you say were the most important achievements of the United States?

Questions to Explore

1. What were some accomplishments of the Golden Age?

2. How did Greek philosophers try to understand the world?

Key Terms

tribute	philosopher
immortal	tragedy

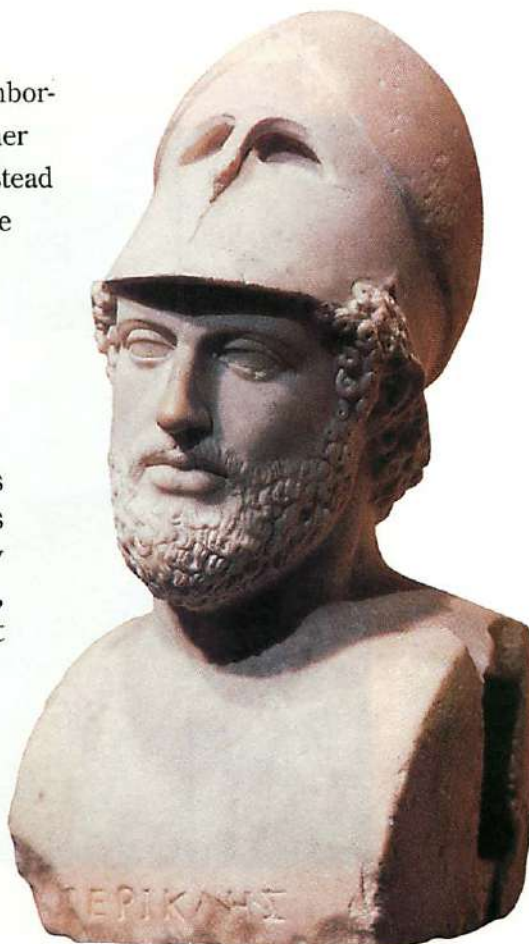
Key People and Places

Pericles
Parthenon
Socrates

“Our constitution does not copy the laws of neighboring states. We are a pattern to other cities rather than imitators. Our constitution favors the many instead of the few. That is why it is called a democracy. If we look at the laws, we see they give equal justice to all . . . Poverty does not bar the way, if a man is able to serve the state. . . In short, I say that as a city we are the school for all Greece.”

These are the words of the Athenian leader Pericles (PEHR ih kleez). He was reminding the citizens that Athens was special. Pericles' words had special meaning: They were spoken during the first year of a war with Sparta, another Greek city-state. Eventually, it was Sparta that ended Athens' Golden Age of accomplishment.

► Pericles led the Athenians in peace and war. The helmet he wears reminds us that he was a skilled general.





Predict Why do you think the years from 479 B.C. to 431 B.C. are called the Golden Age?

The Golden Age of Athens

The years from 479 B.C. to 431 B.C. are called the Golden Age of Athens. During the Golden Age, Athens grew rich from trade and from silver mined by slaves in regions around the city. **Tribute**, or payments made to Athens by its allies, added to its wealth.

Athenians also made amazing achievements in the arts, philosophy, and literature. And democracy reached its high point. For about 30 years during the Golden Age, Pericles was the most powerful man in Athenian politics. This well-educated and intelligent man had the best interests of his city at heart. When he made speeches to the Athenians, he could move and persuade them.

Pericles was a member of an aristocratic family, but he supported democracy. Around 460 B.C., he became leader of a democratic group. He introduced reforms that strengthened democracy. The most important change was to have the city pay a salary to its officials. This meant that poor citizens could afford to hold public office.

The Flourishing Arts

Today, Pericles is probably best known for making Athens a beautiful city. In 480 B.C., during one of the city's many wars, the Acropolis of Athens had been destroyed. Pericles decided to rebuild the Acropolis

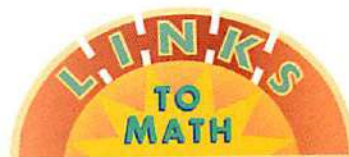
In Honor of Athena



and create new buildings to glorify the city. He hired the Greek world's finest architects and sculptors for the project.

Magnificent Architecture The builders of the new Acropolis brought Greek architecture to its highest point. Their most magnificent work was the Parthenon, a temple to the goddess Athena. The temple was made of fine marble. Rows of columns surrounded it on all four sides. Within the columns was a room that held the statue of Athena, made of wood, ivory, and gold. The statue rose 40 feet (12 m), as high as a four-story building.

Lifelike Sculpture The great statue of Athena disappeared long ago. However, much of the sculpture on the inside and outside of the temple still exists. Many of the scenes that decorate the Parthenon have three important characteristics. First, they are full of action. Second, the artist carefully arranged the figures to show balance and order. Third, the sculptures are lifelike and accurate. However, they are ideal, or perfect, views of humans and animals. These characteristics reflect the goal of Greek art. This goal was to present images of human perfection in a balanced and orderly way. Real people and animals would not look like these sculptures.



The Golden Rectangle

Greek architects based the design of their buildings on a figure called the Golden Rectangle. A Golden Rectangle is one with the long sides about one and two thirds times the length of the short sides. The Greeks thought Golden Rectangles made buildings more pleasing to look at. Modern architects have also used the Golden Rectangle.



It took the Athenians 15 years to build the Parthenon (left), considered the home on Earth of the goddess Athena. Its beauty still crowns the city of Athens. The graceful riders (far left, on facing page) are part of a sculptured procession. They were carved on the inner wall of the Parthenon.





Predict What kind of gods do you think the Greeks worshipped?

The Search for Knowledge

Greeks worshipped a family of gods and goddesses called the Twelve Olympians. Each ruled different areas of human life. The chart on the next page gives you more information about the Olympians.

Greek Religion Wherever the Greeks lived, they built temples to the gods. Since the gods had human forms, they also had many human characteristics. The main difference between gods and humans was that the gods were perfect in form and had awesome power. Also, the gods were **immortal**, which meant they lived forever.

In addition to the 12 great gods led by Zeus, the Greeks worshipped many lesser ones. They also honored mythical heroes like Achilles (uh KIL eez), who had done great deeds during the Trojan War. The story of Achilles is told in the *Iliad*.

Greek Science and Philosophy Most Greeks believed that their gods were the source of all natural events. But a few thinkers disagreed. About 150 years before the Golden Age of Athens, some people thought about ways besides myths to understand the world.

These people came to be called **philosophers**. They believed that people could use the power of mind and reason to understand natural events. One of the first philosophers, Thales (THAY leez), believed that water was the basic material of the world. Everything was made from it. Over the years, other philosophers had other ideas about the universe. They did not do experiments. But they were careful observers and good thinkers. Democritus (dih MAHK ruh tus), who lived in the 400s B.C., thought that everything was made of tiny particles he called atoms. More than 2,000 years later, science showed he was right.

During the Golden Age and later, several important philosophers taught in Athens. One was a man called Socrates (sock ruh teez). People in the marketplace of Athens could not help but notice this sturdy, round-faced man. He was there at all hours of the day, eagerly discussing wisdom and goodness.

Socrates wanted people to consider the true meaning of qualities such as justice and courage. To do this, he asked



► The ancient Greeks worshipped many gods. One of them was Athena, the goddess of wisdom.

A Family of Gods

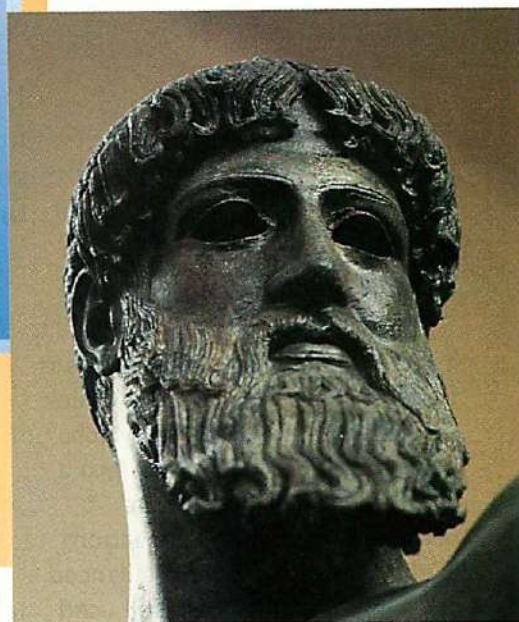
God or Goddess	Description
Zeus (zoos)	King of the gods and goddesses. Ruler of the sky and storms. Lord of the thunderbolt. Protector of the law.
Hera (HIR uh)	Wife and queen to Zeus. Goddess of marriage and women.
Apollo (uh PAHL oh)	Son of Zeus. Handsome young god of poetry, music, and medicine.
Athena (uh THEE nuh)	Zeus' wise daughter. Goddess of crafts. War goddess who defended her cities, including Athens.
Poseidon (poh SY duhn)	Zeus' brother. Ruler of the sea and cause of earthquakes. Lord of horses.

Chart Study The Greeks considered these five gods to be the most powerful of the Twelve Olympians.

Critical Thinking Which of these gods were concerned with the way people lived? Which were related to natural events?



▼ This bronze statue of the god Poseidon was made about 460 B.C.



questions that made others think about their beliefs. Sometimes they became angry, because Socrates often showed them that they didn't know what they were talking about. "Know thyself," was his most important lesson.

Socrates' questions frightened many Athenians. This man challenged all the values of Athens. In 399 B.C., Socrates was brought to trial. The authorities accused him of dishonoring the gods and misleading young people. He was condemned to death. Friends visited Socrates in prison and urged him to flee. He replied that escape would be unacceptable behavior. He calmly drank poison and died.

Greek Drama

What do today's plays, movies, and television shows have in common with Athens? The answer is surprising. The Athenians were the first people to write dramas. Among the city's greatest achievements were the plays written and produced there in the 400s B.C., during the Golden Age. These plays soon became popular all over the Greek world.

Tragedy Some of the most famous Greek plays were tragedies. A **tragedy** is a serious story that usually ends in disaster for the main character. Often, tragedies told of fictional humans who were destroyed when forced to make impossible choices. A Greek tragedy consisted of



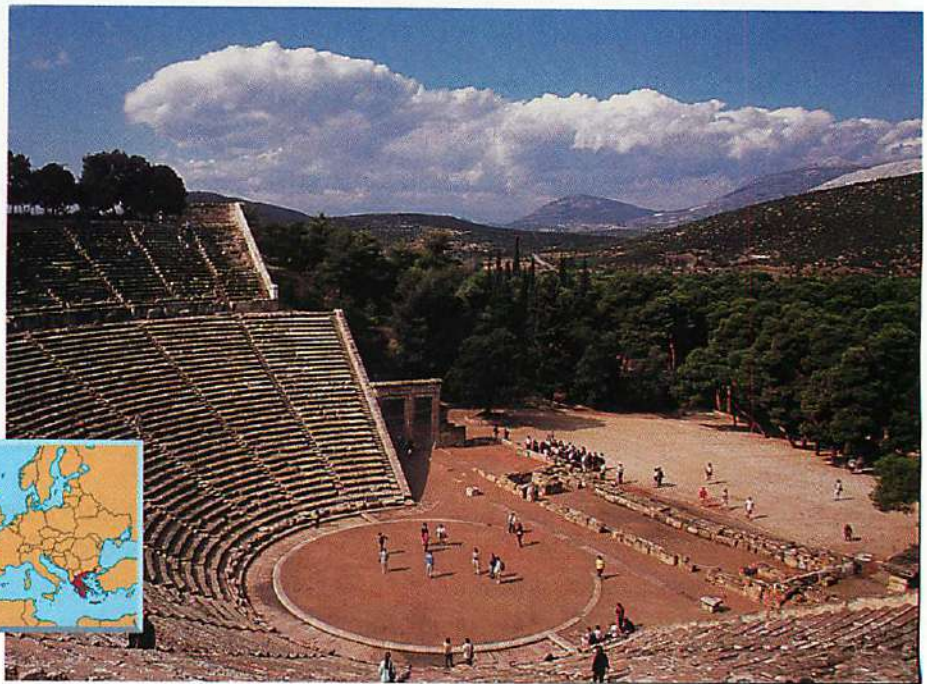
Connect How would you feel toward Socrates if he questioned your values?

several scenes that featured the characters of the story. Between the scenes, a chorus chanted or sang poems. In most plays, the author used the chorus to give background information, comment on the events, or praise the gods.

Performances of tragedies were part of contests held during religious festivals. At the main festival at Athens in the spring, three playwrights entered four plays apiece in the contest. The city chose wealthy citizens to pay the bills for these dramatic contests.

Comedy Comic writers also competed at the dramatic festivals. During the 400s B.C. in Athens, these poets wrote comedies that made fun of well-known citizens and politicians and also made jokes about the customs of the day. Because of the freedom in Athens, people accepted the humor and jokes.

► **Theater at Epidaurus** This is the most famous of ancient Greek theaters. The seating area, which held 14,000 people, is built into a hillside. The round space, or orchestra, was where the action took place and the chorus danced and sang. The theater is still used for plays today. It is so well constructed that everyone can easily hear the words of the play.



SECTION 2 REVIEW

1. Define (a) tribute,
(b) immortal, (c) philosopher,
(d) tragedy.

- 2. Identify** (a) Pericles,
(b) Parthenon, (c) Socrates.
- 3.** What part did religion play in Athenian achievements during the Golden Age?
- 4.** According to Greek philosophers, how could people understand natural events?

Critical Thinking

5. Drawing Conclusions

Why do you think Pericles called Athens "the school of all Greece"?

Activity

6. Writing to Learn Write a brief essay describing the achievements that Athenians made during the Golden Age.

Daily Life of the Ancient Greeks

SECTION

3

**BEFORE
YOU
READ**

Reach Into Your Background

Ask yourself the following questions about your daily life at home and at school. How

does the climate of your region affect your daily life?
Who does the work in your home to keep things running?

Questions to Explore

1. What was life like during the Golden Age of Greece?
2. What was the difference between the daily lives of men, women, and slaves in Athens?

Key Terms

agora

Key Places

Athens

The light from the courtyard was still gray when the young boy awoke. The boy sat up on his hard bed and felt the air on his face. He had to get up for school. The boy swallowed his breakfast, pulled his cloak around him, and left the house. Others inside were just beginning to stir. Soon, the household would be starting the day's weaving and other chores.

On the way to school, the boy met other students. All were carrying wooden tablets covered with wax. They would write their lessons on the tablets. They talked about their lesson, a long passage of history that they had to memorize.

The best part of the day came after school. Then, the boy spent the afternoon at the training ground. All the boys exercised and practiced wrestling and throwing a flat plate called a discus. They might watch older athletes training to compete in the Olympic Games, held in honor of Zeus.

▼ This statue captures a Greek athlete as he throws a discus. This event is still part of the Olympic Games.



In the Marketplace

On their way to school, the boys passed through the Agora (AG uh ruh) of Athens. The Acropolis was the center of Athens' religious life, and the Agora was the center of its public life. It was not far from the Acropolis, which rose in splendor above it. All Greek



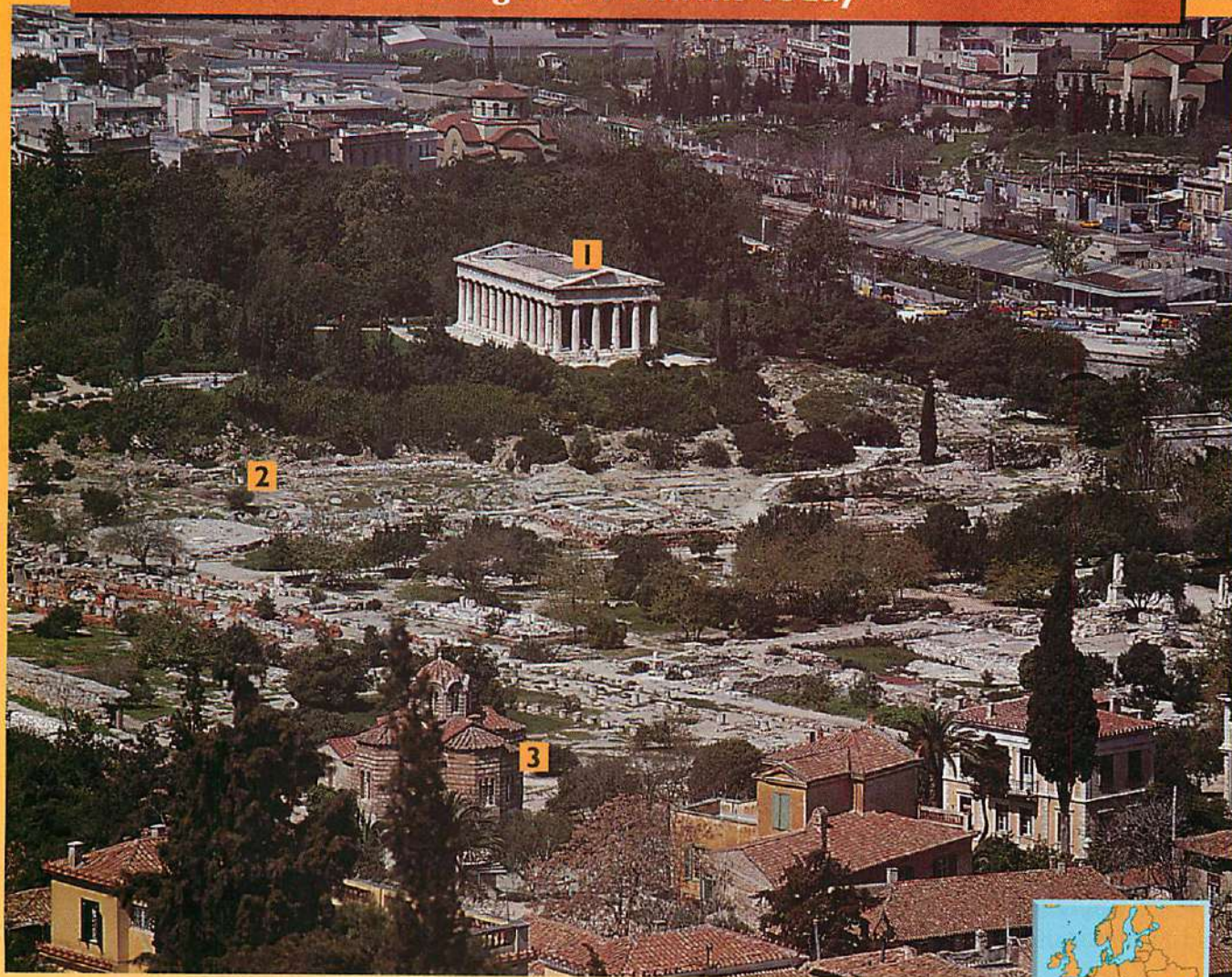
Visualize Try to visualize people talking and carrying on their business in the Athenian Agora.

cities had **agoras**, or public market and meeting places. Athens' Agora was probably the busiest and most interesting of them all.

In the morning, many Athenian men wandered to the Agora. They liked being outdoors. The mild climate of Athens made it possible to carry on business in the open. In the Agora, the men talked of politics and philosophy. Sometimes they just gossiped.

As they talked, they heard the cries of vendors, or sellers of goods, and the haggling over prices. Some people came eager to find bargains. The streets were lined with shops. Farmers and artisans also sold their

The Agora of Athens Today



For archaeologists, the Agora is a rich source of information about ancient Athens.

1. The temple of Hephaistos, god of metalworking
2. Buildings important to Athenian democracy. They include the Bouleterion, where laws were written, and the round Tholos, the workplace for citizens who ran the government.
3. The Middle Stoa. Stoa (STOH eye) were long buildings lined with columned walkways. Behind the columns were shops and offices.



wares from stands set up under shady trees. Just about any food an Athenian would want could be found in the Agora. Everyday goods were also for sale—sheep's wool, pottery, hardware, cloth, and books.

Temples and government buildings lined the Agora. One building was headquarters for Athens' army. Another was a prison. A board displayed public notices such as new laws and upcoming court cases.

Life at Home

The splendor of public buildings in Athens contrasted with the simplicity of people's houses, even in the Golden Age. Throughout Greece, private homes were plain. Made of mud bricks, they consisted of rooms set around an open courtyard hidden from the street. The courtyard was the center of the household. Other rooms might include a kitchen, storerooms, a dining room, and bedrooms. Some homes even had bathrooms. But water had to be carried from a public fountain.

Like homes, Greek food was simple. Breakfast might be just bread. For midday meals, the Athenian might add cheese or olives to the bread. Dinner would be a hot meal that was more filling. It might consist of fish and vegetables followed by cheese, fruit, and even cakes sweetened with honey. Most Athenians ate little meat. Even wealthy families only ate meat during religious festivals.

Slavery in Ancient Greece

It was the job of Greek women to spin thread and weave it into cloth. If these women were wealthy, they owned slaves to help them. Slaves did a great deal of work throughout the city-states of Greece. No one knows for sure, but historians



Greek Vase Painting The Athenians were known for their beautiful pottery. They decorated vases, jars, and cups with black or reddish-tan figures. Many scenes were mythological, but others showed Athenian daily life.

► In this school scene, a teacher holds a scroll showing the first words of the *Odyssey*. The boy may be reciting them from memory.





Connect If you were a ruler, how would you change Greek society so everyone had equal rights?

estimate that as many as 100,000 slaves may have lived in Athens. That is almost one third of the population. Today, we consider slavery a crime. But almost no one questioned it in ancient times, even in democratic Athens.

Many free people became enslaved when they were captured by armies during war or by pirates while traveling on ships. Some slaves were the children of slaves. A large number in Greece were foreigners, because some Greeks were uncomfortable owning other Greeks. Enslaved people did many kinds of work. Some provided labor on farms. Others dug silver and other metals in the mines. Still others assisted artisans by making pottery, constructing buildings, or forging weapons and armor. Most Greek households could not run without slaves. They cooked and served food, tended children, and wove cloth.

It is hard to make general statements about how enslaved people were treated. Household slaves may have had the easiest life. Often they

► This carved grave marker, or stele, shows Hegeso, an Athenian woman, choosing a jewel from a box held by an enslaved girl.



were treated like members of the family. The slaves who worked in the mines suffered the most. The work was not only physically tiring, but also extremely dangerous. Slaves in the mines did not live long.

Women in Athens

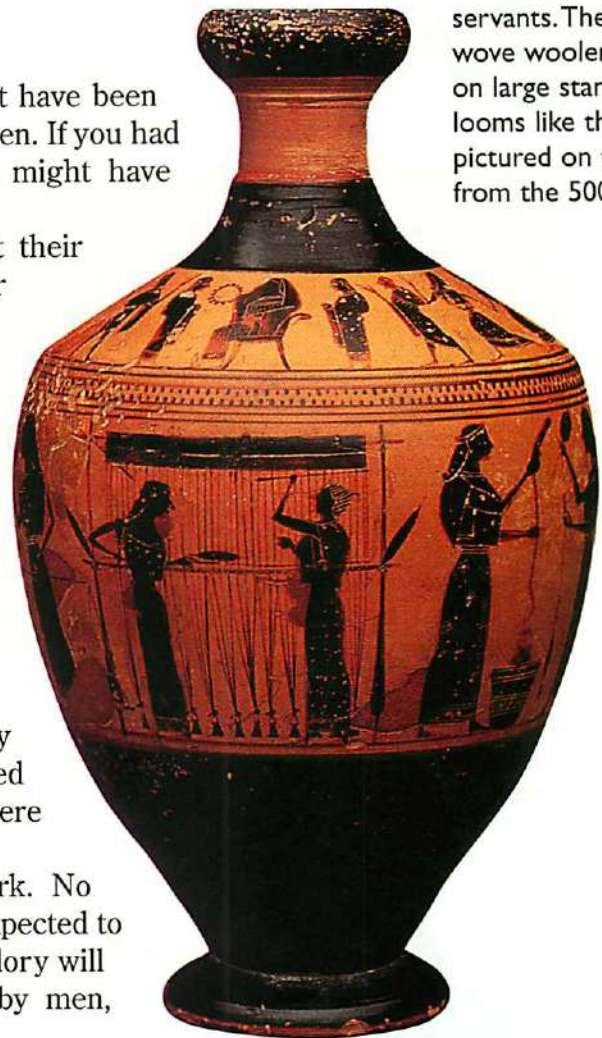
If you had walked through the Agora, you might have been surprised to see that most of the people there were men. If you had asked where the women were, an Athenian man might have replied, "At home."

Home was where most Athenian women spent their days. They had almost none of the freedom their husbands, sons, and fathers took for granted. They could not take any part in politics. Nor could they vote. They could not own property. About the only official activity allowed them was to be priestesses in religious groups.

Running the home and family was the job of women. In some wealthy families, men and women had completely separate quarters. Women organized the spinning and weaving, looked after supplies of food and wine, and cared for young children. They also kept track of the family finances. If a family was wealthy enough to have slaves, they were the woman's responsibility as well. She directed them, trained them, and cared for them when they were sick.

Women throughout Greece did important work. No Greek man would have denied it. Yet women were expected to be almost invisible. As Pericles said: "The greatest glory will belong to the woman who is least talked about by men, whether they praise her or find fault with her."

▼ Making clothing for the family was the job of the Greek wife and her enslaved servants. The women wove woolen cloth on large standing looms like the one pictured on this vase from the 500s B.C.



SECTION 3 REVIEW

1. **Define** agora.
2. **Identify** Athens.
3. What place was the center of activity for men during the Golden Age?
4. How did the lives of men, women, and slaves in Athens differ?

Critical Thinking

5. Identify Central Issues

What do you think was the most important aspect of life in Athens? Why?

Activity

6. **Writing to Learn** Write a journal entry about your day at school that covers the same events as those discussed in this section. Discuss who wakes you up, what you eat for breakfast,

and what you do after school. How does your day compare with that of the Greek boy you read about at the beginning of this section?

Athens and Sparta

TWO CITIES IN CONFLICT

BEFORE YOU READ

Reach Into Your Background

All people are different. Because of their backgrounds, people place different values

on different things. How are some of your values different from those of some of your friends?

Questions to Explore

1. How did Athens differ from Sparta?
2. What was the result of the war between Athens and Sparta?

Key Terms

plague
blockade

Key Places

Sparta
Persia
Marathon

► This mysterious bronze warrior from Sparta is wrapped in a cloak and wears a helmet that hides his face.



The boy stood still and straight beside his companions as their trainer approached. “You,” the trainer barked. “Are you sick? Don’t think you’ll get out of sword practice—and why are you holding your belly? Hiding something?”

The trainer gave the boy’s cloak a sharp tug. It fell to the ground, freeing a fox that streaked off into the underbrush. The boy sank down to the ground, shaking. His cloak was a crimson red. His side was shredded with deep cuts and bites. The boy had stolen the fox and hidden it beneath his cloak.

Later, the boy died from his wounds. The people of his city, Sparta, celebrated his life. He had endured terrible pain without giving any sign of his distress. To the Spartans, this was the sign of true character.

A Spartan Life

This Spartan story of the boy and the fox may be true or not. Yet it tells us much about the people of Sparta, a city-state in southern Greece.

If the life of the citizens of Athens was free and open, the life of the citizens of Sparta was the opposite. Life in Sparta was harsh and even cruel. The Spartans themselves were tough, silent, and grim. Sparta’s army easily equaled Athens’ in the 400s B.C. However, Sparta never came close to equaling Athens’ other achievements.

Sparta in the Mist

Like the warrior on the previous page, Sparta's sheer mountains sometimes wear a cloak of mystery. The city lies in a fertile valley with mountains on three sides. Sparta spent its money and energy on its army instead of fine buildings. Today, few ruins remain to tell us about this important city-state.



A Different Kind of City In its early days, Sparta seemed to be developing as the other Greek cities were. Then, in the 600s B.C., wars inside and outside the city led to changes in government and the way people lived. The changes turned Sparta into an awesome war machine. The city-state made one basic rule: Always put the city's needs above your own.

Early in its history, the Spartans conquered the land around their city. They turned the conquered people into helots, or slaves. Helots (HEL uts) did all the farm work on the land owned by Spartan citizens. This left the Spartans free to wage war. However, the helots far outnumbered the Spartans. Living in fear of a helot revolt, the Spartans turned their city into an armed camp. They treated the helots very harshly.

Growing Up in Sparta The life of every Spartan was in the hands of the government from the first moment of life. Only the healthiest children were raised. This was because the Spartans wanted only the healthiest males as its soldiers. Training began early. At seven, a Spartan boy left his mother to live in barracks with other boys. His training continued for the next 13 years.

By the age of 12, a boy had spent long hours practicing with swords and spears. He had only one cloak and a thin mat to sleep on. He could hardly live on the food he was given, so he was urged to steal. This was to help him learn how to live off the land during a war. However, if the boy was caught, he was severely punished. After all, if a soldier was caught stealing, he would probably be killed. Boys were expected to bear pain, hardship, and punishment in silence.

CITIZEN HEROES

Working Together In one of the wars against the Persians, some 6,000 Greeks had to defend a mountain pass leading into southern Greece. They faced almost 200,000 Persians. Most of the Greeks retreated, but 300 Spartan soldiers stood their ground. All died in the battle. They didn't hold back the Persians. But they earned undying praise for their brave sacrifice.

Like their brothers, girls also trained and competed in wrestling and spear throwing. No one expected the girls to become soldiers. But Spartans did believe that girls who grew up strong and healthy would have strong, healthy children. Spartan women had a somewhat better life than women in other Greek city-states. They were allowed to own land and even take some part in business.

Spartan life lacked the beauty and pleasures found in Athens and some other Greek cities. But Spartan warriors were known for their skill and bravery. The Spartan fighting force played a key role in the Greek wars against the Persians, a people who lived across the Aegean Sea, east of Greece.

The Persians Invade

Much of the history of the Greeks tells of wars they fought among themselves. But near the beginning of the 400s B.C., a new threat loomed. This was the growing might of Persia. By 520 B.C., the Persians had already gained control of the Greek colonies on the west coast of Asia Minor.

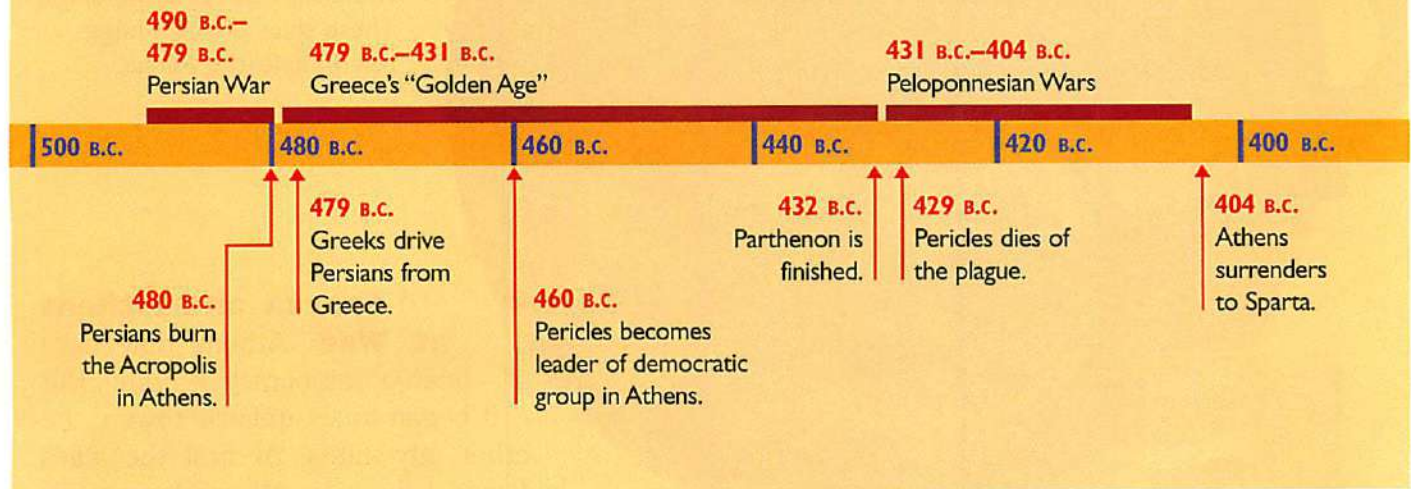
In the fall of 490 B.C., a huge force of thousands of Persians landed in Greece itself. They gathered at Marathon, about 25 miles (40 km) north of Athens. The Athenians hastily put together a small army. The Persians outnumbered them by at least two to one. For several days the armies stared tensely at each other across the plain of Marathon.

Then, without warning the Athenians rushed the Persians, who were overwhelmed by the furious attack. By the time the battle was over, the Athenians had killed 6,400 Persians and lost only 192 soldiers themselves. In a few hours, this tiny state had defeated the giant that had come to destroy it.



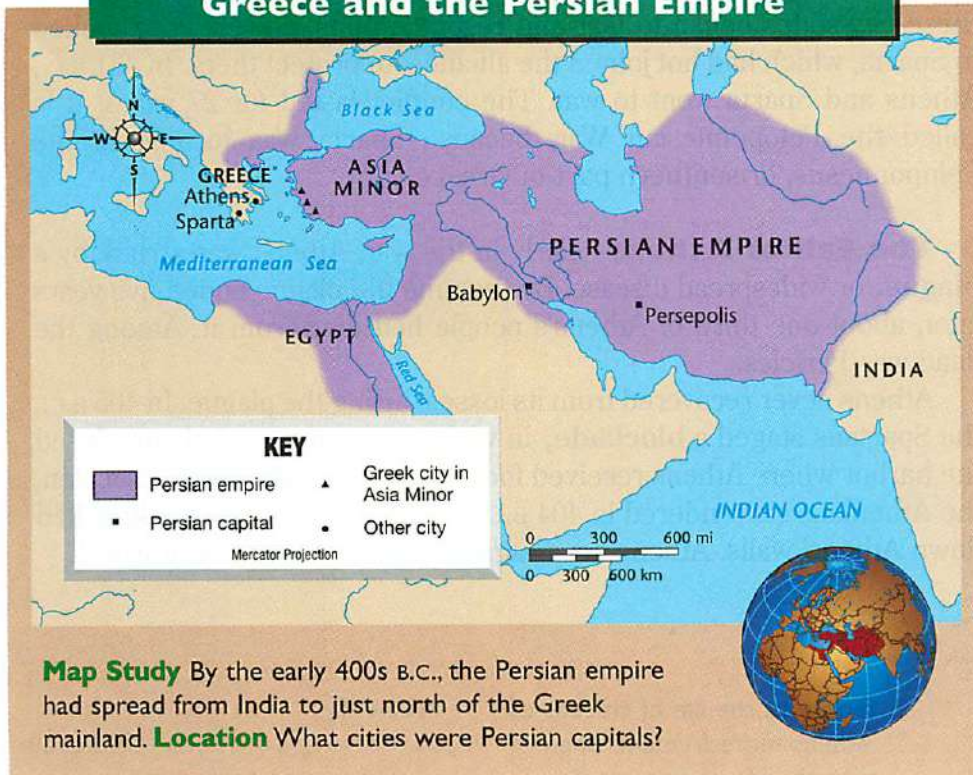
◀ A Persian duels with a Greek warrior (left) on this vase from the 500s B.C. To the left is the hand of another Persian raising a bow.

Classical Greece, 500 B.C. to 400 B.C.



▲ The time line shows important events in the 400s B.C., the high point in ancient Greece's history.

Greece and the Persian Empire



A Run from Marathon

After Marathon, the Athenians sent their fastest runner to tell the people of Athens of the victory. His chest heaving, the runner covered the distance to the city and shouted to the people "Rejoice! We have won." Then he dropped dead. This valiant run is still honored today every time anyone runs the 26.2 miles of a marathon race.

After Persia: Athenian Empire

After several more battles, the Persians were finally defeated. The influence of Athens spread over much of eastern Greece. Athens joined itself with other city-states and supported democratic groups within them. In time, these cities became more like subjects than allies.



◀ The Athenians put great faith in their fleet of warships. These ships played a huge role in defeating Persia.

Sparta and Athens at War

Athens may have been a democracy at home. But it began to act unfairly toward the other city-states. At first the allies had paid tribute to Athens for protection in case the Persians caused more trouble. But later Athens used this money for the Parthenon and other projects. In response, the people of these city-states began to fear and resent Athens' power. They looked to Sparta, which had not joined the alliance, to protect them. In 431 B.C., Athens and Sparta went to war. The conflict lasted for 27 years. It is called the Peloponnesian War, because Sparta was located in the Peloponnesus, or southern part of Greece.



Connect If you lived in another city-state, how would you feel about the power of Athens? Why?

The Fall of Athens Early in the war, Athens was struck by a **plague**, or widespread disease. By the time the plague ended five years later, about one third of Athens's people had died from it. Among the dead was Pericles.

Athens never recovered from its losses during the plague. In 405 B.C., the Spartans staged a **blockade**, in which they surrounded and closed the harbor where Athens received food shipments. Starving and beaten, the Athenians surrendered in 404 B.C. The victorious Spartans knocked down Athens' walls. Athens never again dominated the Greek world.

SECTION 4 REVIEW

1. **Define** (a) plague, (b) blockade.
2. **Identify** (a) Sparta, (b) Persia, (c) Marathon.

3. How was the life of citizens of Athens more free and open than the life of citizens of Sparta?
4. What events led to the war between Athens and Sparta?

Critical Thinking

5. **Recognizing Cause and Effect** How did the attitude of the people of Athens lead to their own downfall?

Activity

6. **Writing to Learn** Pretend you are the trainer in the story that begins this section. Write a report explaining the event to other Spartan officers. Be sure to write the story from the Spartan point of view.

The Spread of Greek Culture

SECTION

5

**BEFORE
YOU
READ**

Reach Into Your Background

Who are your heroes? Are there people living today or in the past whom you admire? Why are they your heroes?

What can you do to become more like them?

Questions to Explore

1. What role did the conquests of Alexander the Great play in spreading Greek culture?
2. What advances in science did the Greeks make after Alexander's death?

Key Terms

barbarian
assassinate
Hellenistic

Key People and Places

King Philip
Macedonia
Alexander the Great
Alexandria
Euclid
Archimedes

King Philip of Macedonia (mas uh DOH nee uh) had not wasted the money he spent on Greek tutors for his son. Young Alexander was a fine student—and an eager one. The boy wanted to learn as much as he could, especially about the ideas and deeds of the Greeks.

The kingdom of Macedonia lay just north of Greece. Alexander thought of himself as Greek and spoke the Greek language. But people who lived to the south in such cities as Athens and Sparta did not really accept the Macedonians as Greeks. They thought the Macedonians were **barbarians**, or wild, uncivilized people.

Alexander's tutor was the Greek philosopher Aristotle (AIR uh staht ul). Aristotle taught the boy Greek literature, philosophy, and science. Aristotle also passed on his strong feelings that the Greeks were far better than other people and, **therefore**, deserved to rule.

Alexander loved his tutor, but his role model was Achilles, the warrior hero of the *Iliad*. One day, Alexander vowed, he would visit the site of Troy and lay a wreath on the tomb of his hero.



◀ This carving of King Philip of Macedonia (left), illustrates his strength and energy. The silver coin (below) is stamped with a portrait of his son, Alexander.



Alexander Builds an Empire

Before King Philip seized power in 359 B.C., Macedonia was poor and divided. Philip united Macedonia and built an army even stronger than Sparta's. With such an army and with his talent for waging war, Philip captured one Greek city-state after another. By 338 B.C., Philip controlled all of Greece. No one had ever done this.



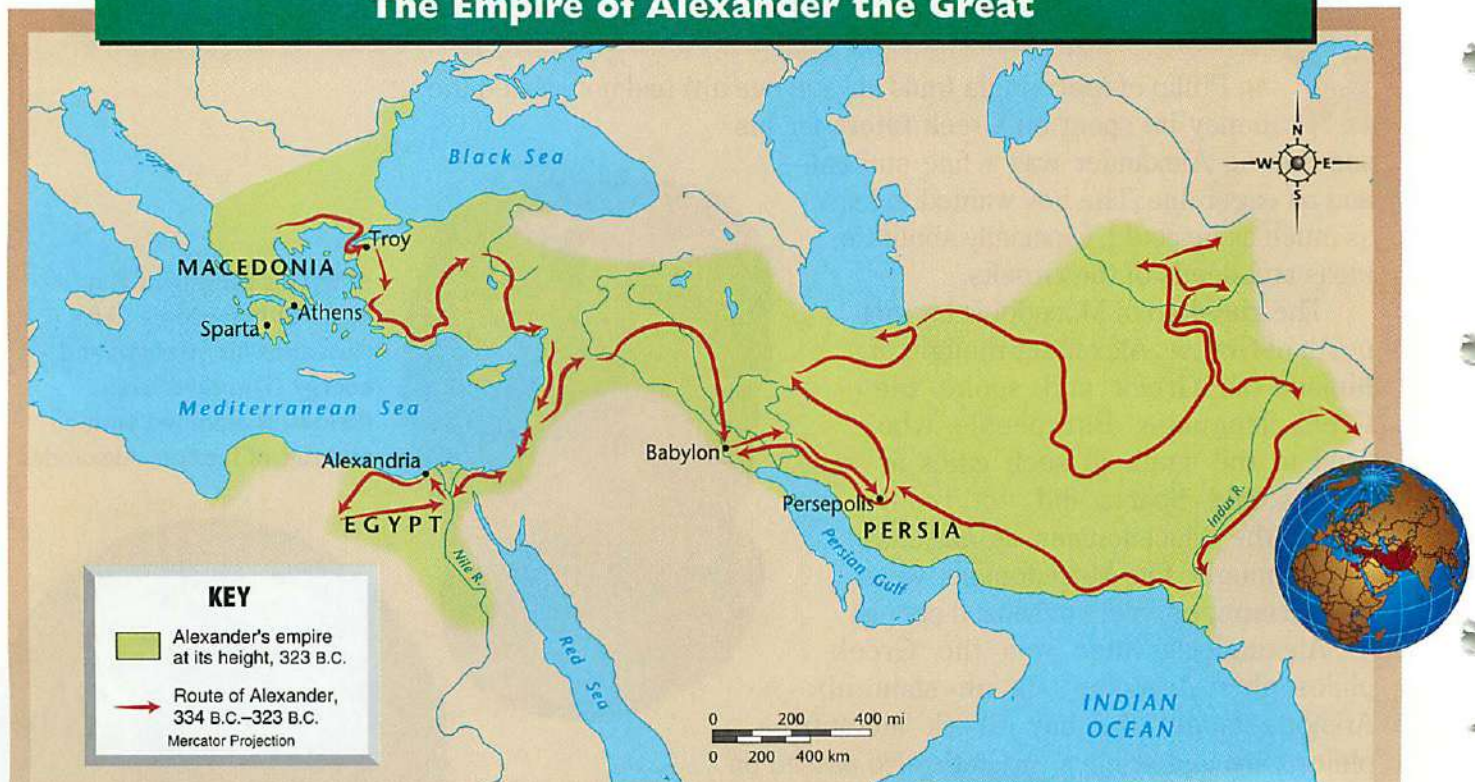
Ask Questions Think of some things you would like to know about Alexander the Great and his deeds.

Alexander Comes to the Throne Philip then planned to attack Persia. But in 336 B.C., before he could carry out his plan, he was **assassinated**, or murdered, by a rival. At just 20 years old, Alexander became king. This was his chance to be as great as his hero Achilles.

Alexander the Great One of Alexander's first actions was to invade the Persian Empire. Within 11 years, he had conquered Persia, Egypt, and lands extending beyond the Indus River in the east. He earned the right to be called "Alexander the Great."

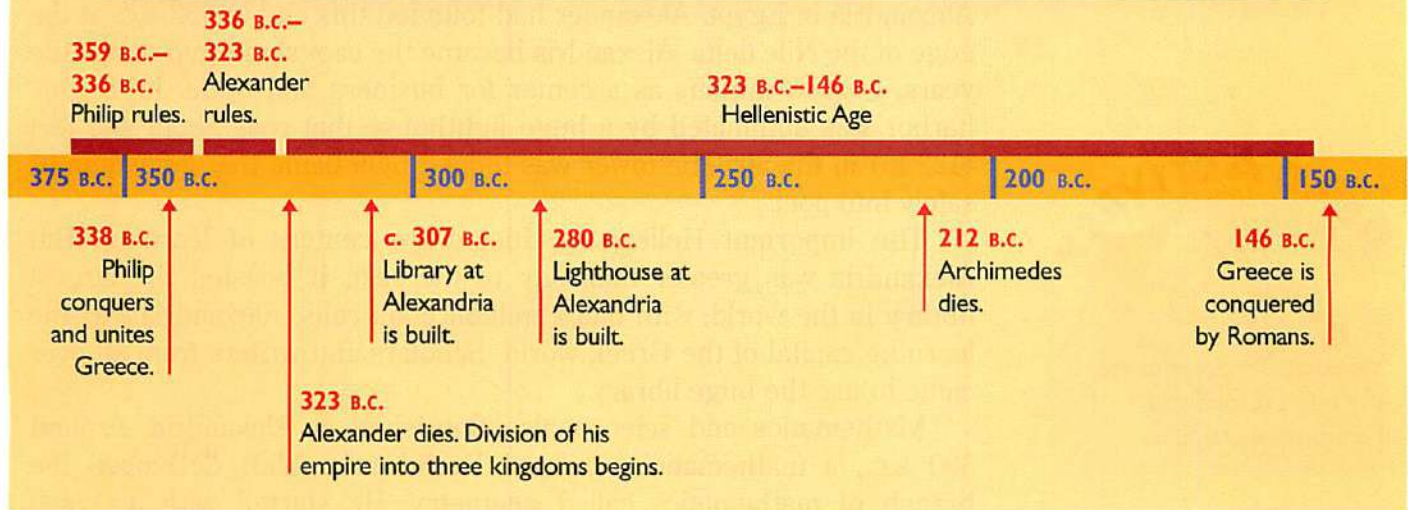
Alexander's energy and military genius helped him succeed. He drove himself and his army hard, advancing across vast lands at lightning speed. His soldiers grumbled, but they obeyed him. Wherever

The Empire of Alexander the Great



Map Study By 323 B.C., Alexander not only controlled the territory once ruled by the Persians, but also Greece. **Movement** About how far did Alexander travel when he traveled back to Babylon from the Indus River?

Ancient Greece, 375 B.C. to 146 B.C.



▲ The Hellenistic Age began with the death of Alexander. How long did it last?

Alexander went, he established cities. Many of them he named after himself. Even today, there are numerous cities named Alexandria or Alexandropolis throughout western Asia. Alexander never stayed very long in his cities. He quickly pushed on. He never lost a battle.

At last, not far beyond the Indus River, his weary troops refused to go another step east. Alexander was angry, but he turned back. Alexander got as far as Babylon, where he came down with a fever. In 323 B.C., only 13 years after he came to the throne, Alexander died. Like the legendary warrior Achilles, he had died young. But he had gone far beyond the deeds of his hero. He had conquered practically all of the known world.

Greek Culture Spreads

Alexander's death spelled death for his empire. Within 50 years, the empire had broken into three main kingdoms. Each one was ruled by a family descended from one of his commanders. Although the empire broke apart, Greek culture remained alive and well in these new kingdoms.

The Hellenistic Kingdoms When Alexander took control of lands, he tried not to destroy the cultures of the defeated people. Instead, he hoped that in his new cities the local cultures would mix with Greek culture. Unfortunately, this did not happen in the three **Hellenistic** kingdoms, as they came to be called. Hellenistic comes from the word *Hellas*—the name Greeks gave their land.

The cities of the Hellenistic world were modeled after Greek cities. Greek kings ruled, and Greeks held the most important jobs. There were Greek temples and agoras. Citizens gathered at large theaters for performances of old Greek tragedies. The Greek language was spoken in the cities, though people in the countryside spoke local languages.



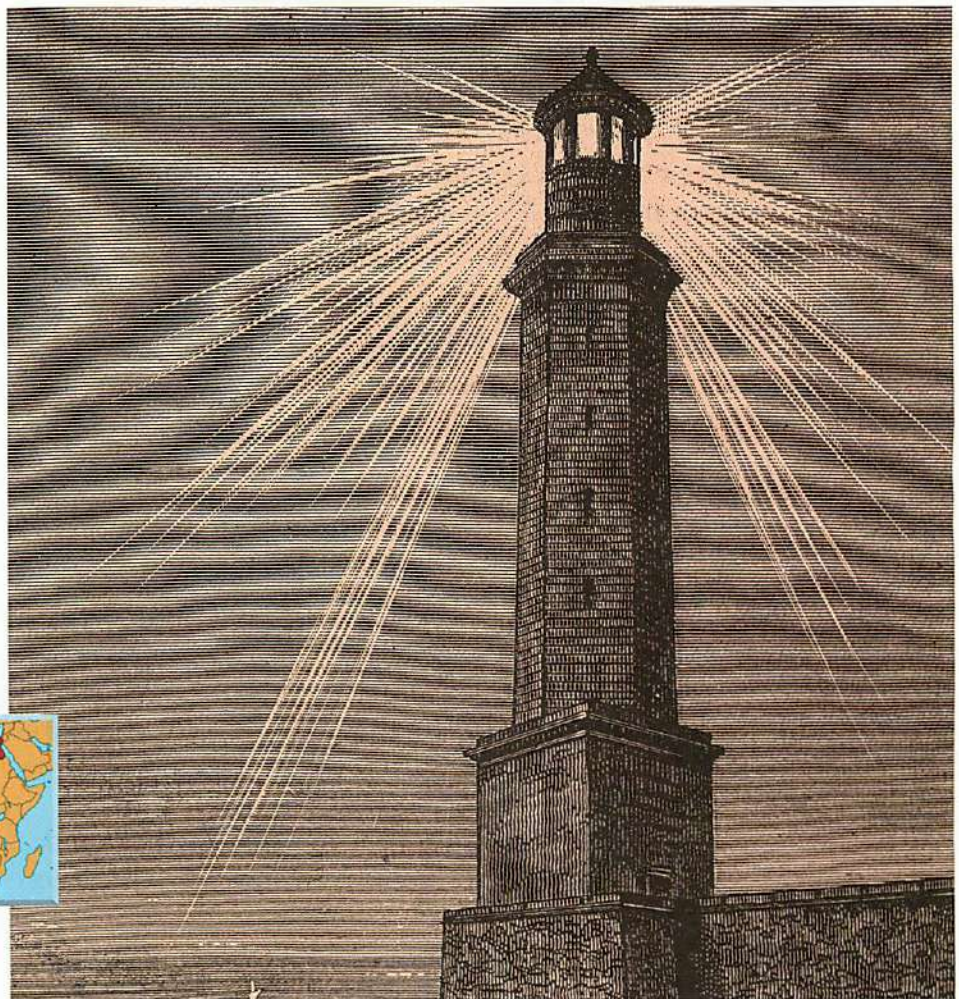
Visualize Try to visualize the huge, scroll-filled library at Alexandria.

Hellenism in Egypt The greatest of all Hellenistic cities was Alexandria in Egypt. Alexander had founded this city in 332 B.C. at the edge of the Nile delta. Alexandria became the capital of Egypt. Over the years, it grew famous as a center for business and trade. Its double harbor was dominated by a huge lighthouse that rose about 400 feet (122 m) in the air. The tower was topped by a flame that guided ships safely into port.

The important Hellenistic cities were centers of learning. But Alexandria was greater than any of the rest. It boasted the largest library in the world, with half a million book rolls. Alexandria was the learning capital of the Greek world. Scholars and writers from all over came to use the huge library.

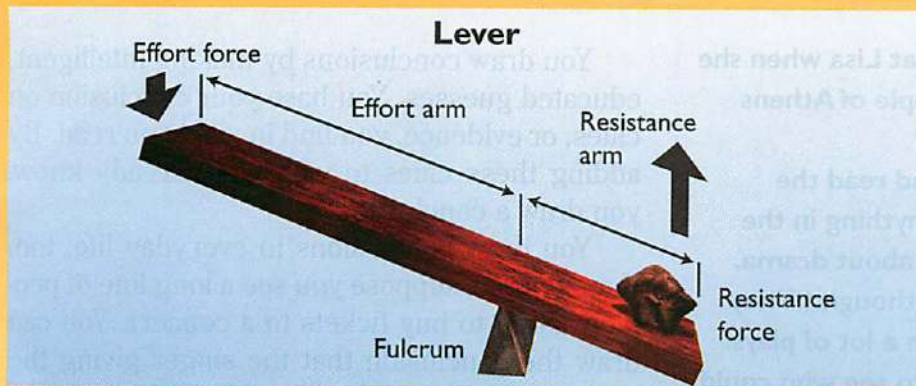
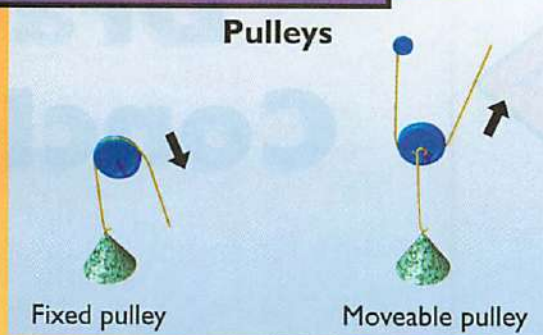
Mathematics and science also flourished at Alexandria. Around 300 B.C., a mathematician named Euclid (yoo klee-d) developed the branch of mathematics called geometry. He started with accepted mathematical laws. Then, he wrote carefully thought out, step-by-step proofs of mathematical principles. The proofs helped explain the qualities of such figures as squares, cubes, angles, triangles, and cones. Mathematicians today still use Euclid's system.

► The great lighthouse at Alexandria, called the Pharos, was considered one of the Seven Wonders of the World.



Levers and Pulleys

Ancient people had used levers and pulleys for centuries. A Greek scientist named Archimedes discovered new ways to use them. He invented the compound pulley, a combination of the fixed pulley and the moveable pulley shown here.



LINKS TO SCIENCE

The Earth and the Sun

One scientist of the 200s B.C. rejected the idea that the Earth was the center of the universe. Aristarchus of Samos believed that the sun is at the center and that the Earth revolves around it. His idea did not catch on. Astronomers continued to base their work on an Earth-centered universe until the A.D. 1500s.

Have you ever heard that people of Christopher Columbus' time believed the Earth was flat? This is not accurate. In Hellenistic times, many scientists knew the Earth was round. A scientist named Eratosthenes (ehr uh TAHHS thuh neez) even calculated the distance around the Earth. His answer, 24,662 miles (39,679 km), was very close.

Probably the greatest scientist of the times was Archimedes (ar kuh MEE deez). Archimedes discovered that people can use pulleys and levers to lift very heavy objects. One story says that he hoisted up a loaded ship with these devices. Once he boasted: "Give me a lever long enough and a place to stand on, and I will move the Earth."

SECTION 5 REVIEW

1. **Define** (a) barbarian, (b) assassinate, (c) Hellenistic.
2. **Identify** (a) King Philip, (b) Macedonia, (c) Alexander the Great, (d) Alexandria, (e) Euclid, (f) Archimedes.

3. What features of Greek culture could be seen in the Hellenistic kingdoms?
4. Describe the contributions of Euclid, Eratosthenes, and Archimedes.

Critical Thinking

5. **Identifying Central Issues** Why do you think Alexander the Great named so many cities after himself?

Activity

6. **Writing to Learn** Think of someone you consider a hero or a role model. Write a description of that person. Is he or she more like King Philip and Alexander or like Aristotle and Archimedes? Explain your answer.