



Ancient Greece  
Ch. 10 & 11

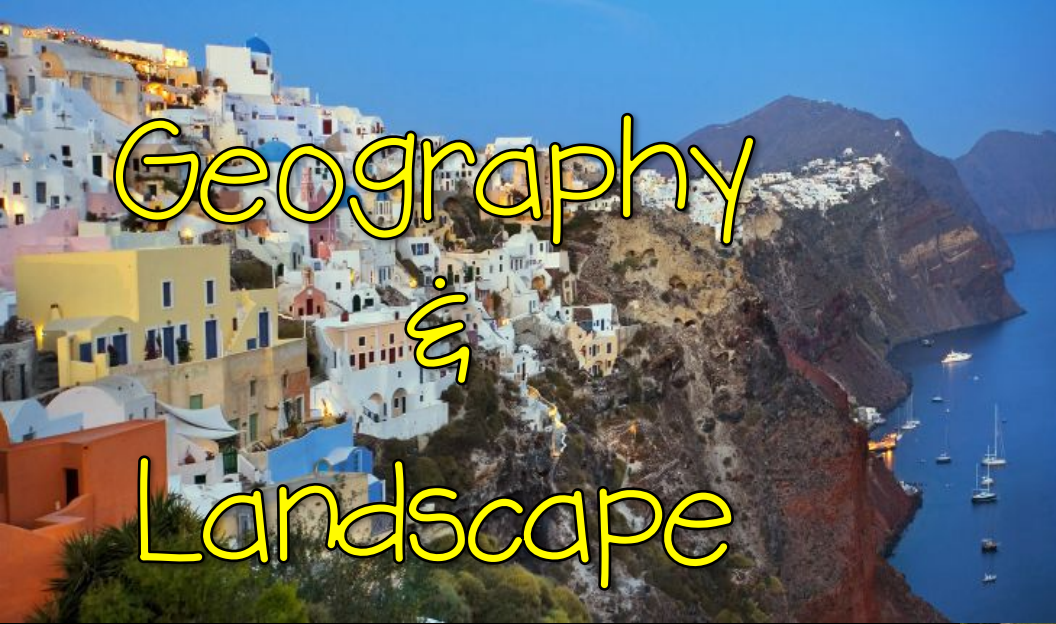
## The Story of the Greeks ...

The Greeks were a seafaring people that left a distinctive mark on the world. It is one of the most influential of all civilizations. The earliest Greek civilizations thrived nearly 4,000 years ago. The Greek Empire was most powerful between 2000 BC and 146 BC

### Why should I care?

The Greeks developed new ideas for government, philosophy, religion, and art that still impact the modern world.

- Legacy of the Greeks—How Ancient Greece influences modern day culture:
  - Trial by Jury
  - Democracy
  - Greek Myths
  - Tragedy and Comedy (invented drama)
  - Theatre
  - The art of warfare
  - The Olympics: first games held in 776 BC in Olympia
  - Marathon: Pheidippides ran from Athens to Sparta to ask for help against the Persians before the Battle of Marathon
  - Greek Architecture
  - Invention of the alphabet: alpha and beta first two Greek letters



# Geography & Landscape

- Southernmost region on the European continent
- Main part of Greece is on a peninsula
- Earthquakes are common
- Series of active volcanoes and mountains--rocky landscape
- surrounded by the sea except the north side
- 6,000 islands (227 inhabited)
- covered by mountains & hills

# Crete

The **Largest** of  
Greece's islands

- According to legend, the mighty god Zeus was born in Crete.
- Most southern island
- Population: 620,000
- Located in the Mediterranean Sea





Crete



# Rhodes



*According to Greek mythology, the island belonged to the sun god Helios. He had fallen in love with Rhodes, and when he shone his light on her, she transformed into the island*

*The name Rhodes means "rose" and the island is known for its floral life.*

- One of the best known islands—popular for tourists
- Served as a rest stop for ships sailing between Greece & Asia
- Surrounded by Aegean Sea & Mediterranean Sea
- Colossus of Rhodes was built here.
  - It was one of the 7 wonders of the ancient world—only known of its existence through ancient literature and coins



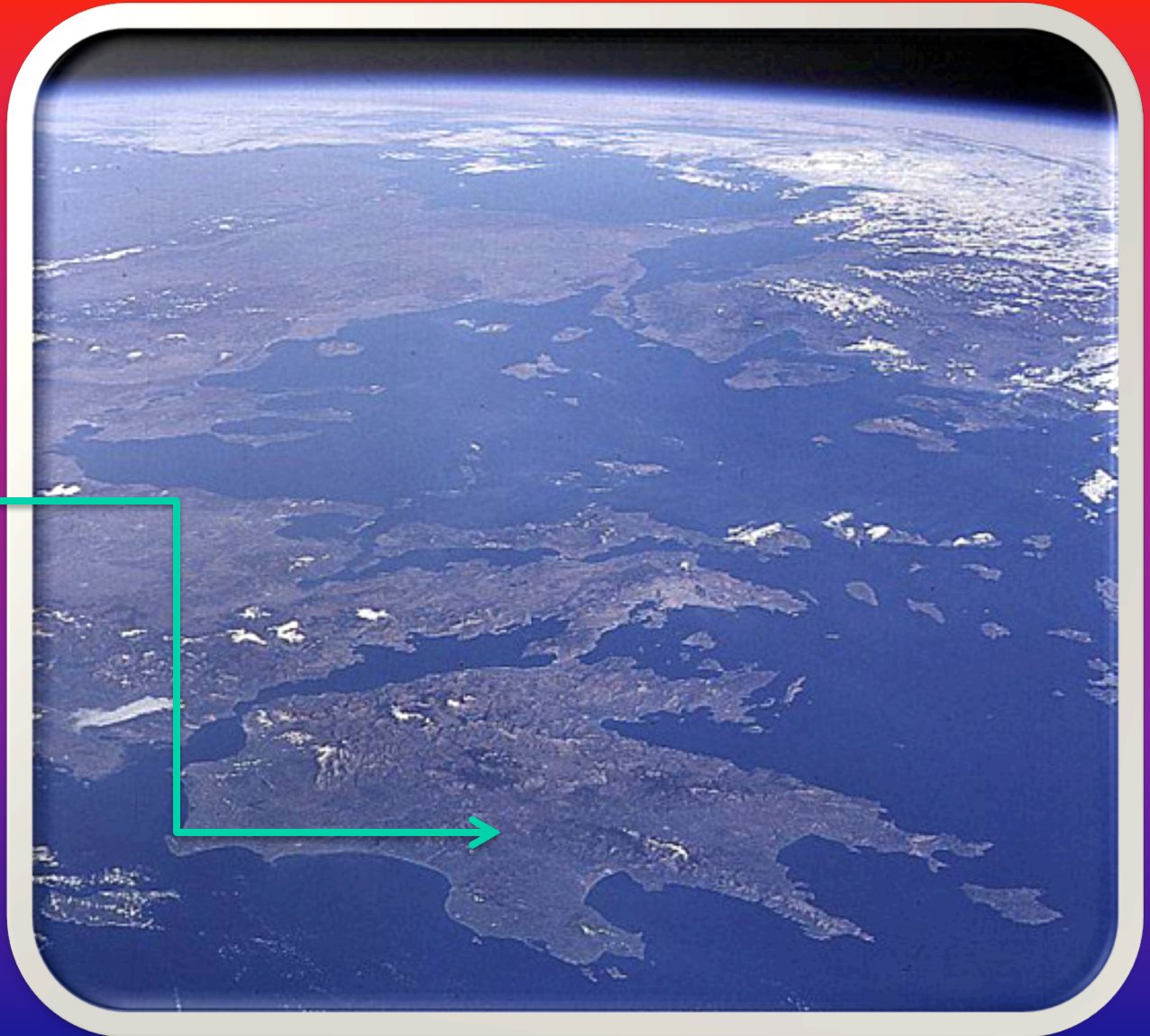


# Rhodes



# Peloponnesus

- Large peninsula in southern Greece.
- Many cities developed here, Sparta being the most important





# The Birth of City-States

- Mountains created a barrier/ boundaries
  - Because of the mountains and many islands, Greeks lived in independent communities/very isolated
- Led to the building of organized city-states rather than one country
  - City State= **POLIS**
  - **City states were cities that acted like countries**
  - **Own government etc.**
- City-States were built around an **ACROPOLIS**
  - Large hill where city residents could seek shelter/safety
  - Acropolis= a “high city”



# Way of Life



- Greece was not an easy place to live
- Farming & sailing important in ancient Greece
  - Has a lot of beaches and islands
- Farming was difficult:
  - Mountains prevented large scale farming– caused them to look to other lands around them
  - Summers (hot & dry)
  - Winters (wet & windy)

# Greek Farmers



- Raised crops & animals that would work best in their environment
  - Grew wheat & barley to make bread
  - Olives & grapes (major crops)





Olive Trees



Grapes



# Olive Oil

- Homer nicknamed it “liquid gold”
- One of Greece’s most prized exports:
  - Gave food flavor
  - Used as fuel for lamp
  - Body lotion
  - Treated skin conditions, wounds and burns, and ear infections
  - Used in religious ceremonies
- Olive tree is the symbol of wisdom and peace
- Winners of the ancient Olympic games were presented a olive wreath



# Sailing

- Sailing important because travel difficult on hilly areas
  - Land difficult to farm so sailors traveled to far lands to trade
  - Traveled as far as Egypt
  - Engaged in piracy
- Greeks hired themselves out as soldiers to fight for other people around the Mediterranean (Western Asia and Egypt)

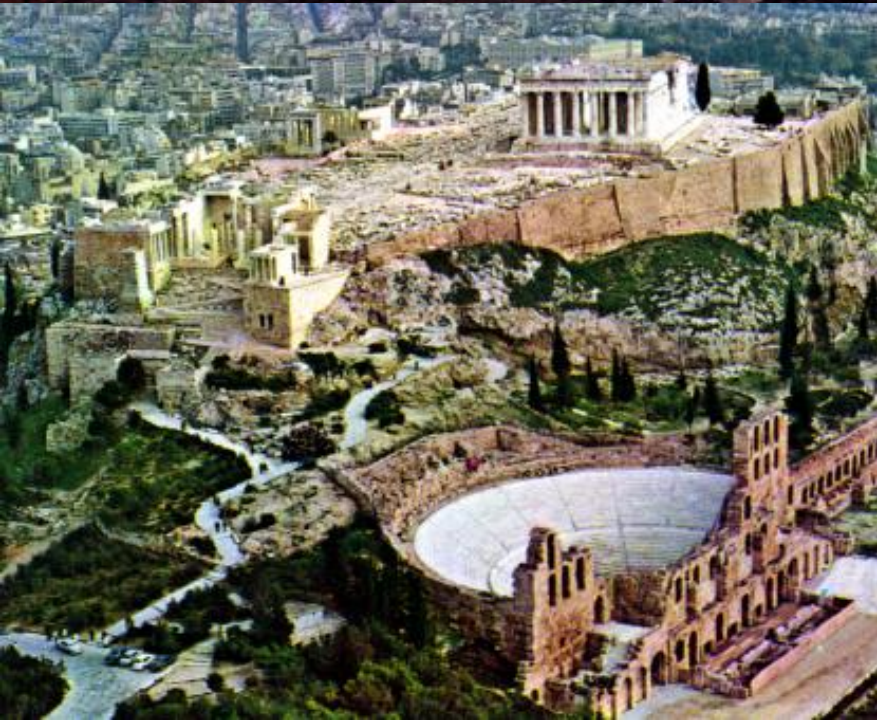


# Acropolis

Many acropoleis throughout Greece

- Served as a citadel/ fortress when under attack
- Most famous is the one in Athens
- Built on a hill and surrounded by stone walls
- At the center of the Acropolis in Athens is the Parthenon
- On the slope of the Acropolis were theatres where plays and festivals were held







# Parthenon

- Neolithic remains found on the slopes of the Acropolis—settlement from at least 2800 BC
- At the center of the Acropolis; other temples and builds surrounded it
- Parthenon was attacked by the Persians in 480 BC
  - Buildings, monuments, sacred statues destroyed
  - Leader Pericles ordered the construction of permanently standing building
- Built to honor the goddess Athena, for whom Athens is named for
  - Also used to store gold
  - 40 foot gold statue of Athena was once inside—removed in 296 BC to pay for an army
- 101 feet wide by 228 feet long
  - 46 columns



## WHAT WAS THE PURPOSE?

Long before the construction of the Parthenon the site had been a sacred place of other cultures. It was built to replace the temples of earlier cultures. It was also built to praise the goddess Athena. The activities at the temple were meant to help people develop spiritually and intellectually—just like the goddess herself.

# Parthenon

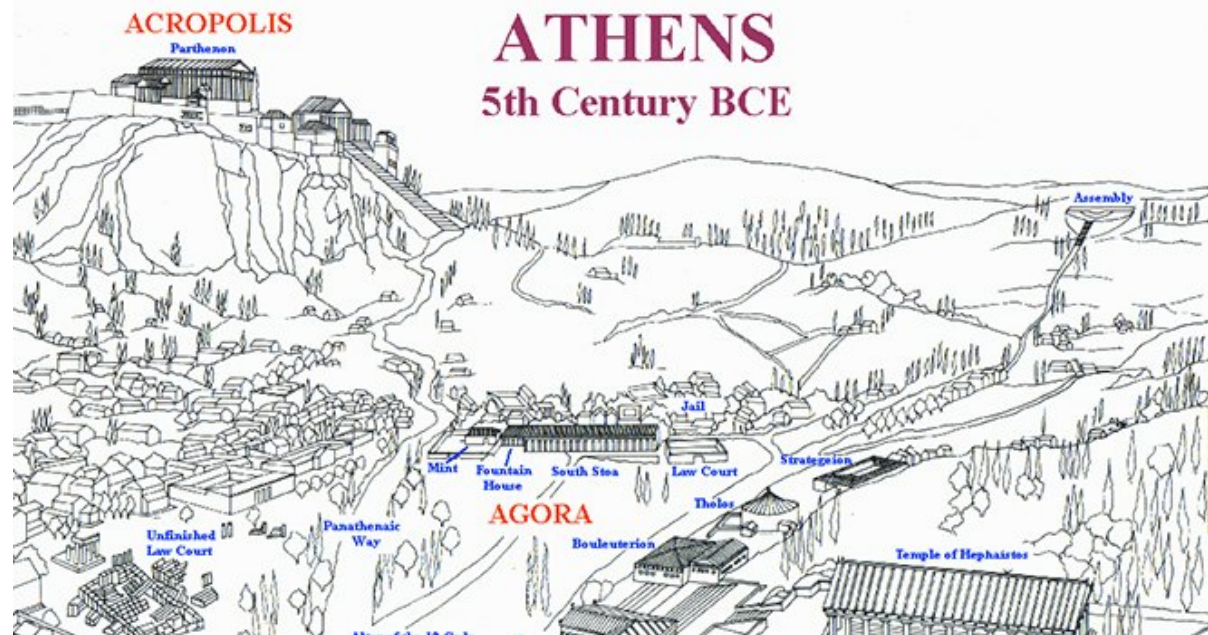
## Interesting Facts



- In the 5<sup>th</sup> century (AD); converted into a Christian Church
- In 1460; converted into a mosque
  - In 1687 gunpowder was stored inside it by the Turks which exploded—destroyed much of the Parthenon
- In 1801-1803 parts of the temple's remaining sculptures were sold by the Turks (who controlled Greece at the time)
  - Greece has asked the British museum to return the sculptures but the museum refused

# Agora

- The word Agora is Greek for “open place of assembly”
  - Early on citizens would gather here to hear civic news or to discuss politics
  - Later it was filled with tents and served as a marketplace
  - Merchants had shops and craftsmen made goods
  - Slave traders
  - Located below the acropolis
  - Markets are still held in many agoras throughout Greece today
- The Agora in Athens is where Socrates questioned market shoppers on their understanding of the meaning of life
- Also used as a cemetery
  - Excavated tombs and 80 graves from 1600-1100 BC
- The Romans had an agora too but called it The Forum (means—the place outdoors)



# Greek Society & Economy



- City-states Differences:

- Governments,
- Economies (money)
- Customs and traditions

- City-states Similarities:

- Slavery
- Same language
- Same gods
- Class system
- Women's rights

# The City-States



# Background

- The Greeks experimented with different types of governments because there were so many city-states.
- Greece began by having monarchies, oligarchies, tyrannies, and democracies. City-states didn't necessarily have the same types of governments at the same time as another city-state.



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# Oligarchy Government

- Government Leaders had to be citizens of their POLIS:
  - Citizens were ONLY free men
  - Women & slaves– had few rights and not citizens
- Leaders: *Controlled Decision Making*
  - Small group of men; rich/most powerful (aristocrats)
  - Government called → **Oligarchy** = “few that rule”

# Athens Government

- Originally had an Oligarchy → Poor people demanded more say in the government
  - rich guys forced to share the power
- Large meetings
  - all could be heard → *democracy*
  - *Democracy* = “rule by the people”
  - *Citizens vote to make govt. decisions*





# Women of Ancient Greece

- Poor women:
  - worked outdoors on farms
  - Sold goods in markets
- In most Greek homes:
  - Supervised the household
  - Raised the kids
  - Kept track of the money
  - Managed the slaves
  - Made most of the clothing
  - Supervised meals



# What Greek Men Said About Women...



- "Man is by nature superior to the female and so the man should rule and the woman should be ruled."

—Aristotle

- "A man who teaches a woman to write should know that he is providing poison to an asp."
- "A woman is a thing which the world hates."

# Athens & Sparta



## Sparta

- Covered much of Southern Peloponnesus
- Greece's largest city-state



# Spartan Military



- Leaders wanted to make Sparta strongest military power in Greece; fearful of slave rebellion—devoted all energy to military
- Infants were left to die if they look sickly or wimpy

# Childhood



- Age 7 kids began training:
  - Boys lived at home with mother until they joined a junior branch of the army
  - Boys were then brought up by a group rather than their family
  - Boys were married in their mid-20's but only visited wives occasionally
  - When they turned 30 they could sleep at home
  - Girls practiced running, throwing spears, playing ball games
  - Primary role was to eventually bear children and raise them in the strong Spartan ways
  - Boys and girls trained and competed against each other– running, wrestling, chariot races, and javelin.



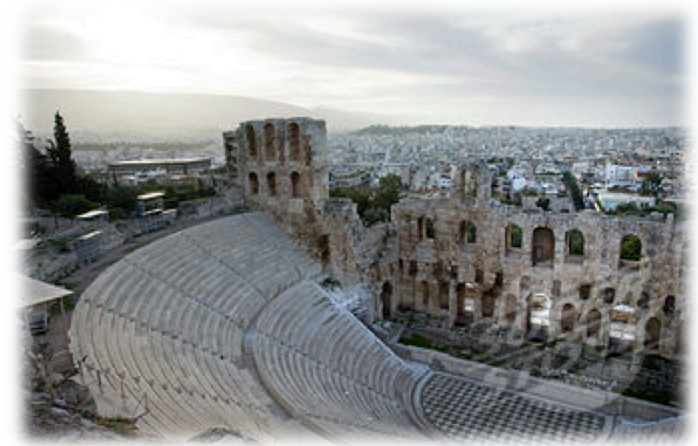
# Spartan Women

- Married at age 18
- Daughters inherited half of what their brother would
- Had more rights and freedoms
- Ran houses because husband was primarily gone
- Spartan women had a reputation for being bossy and outspoken
- Could sell property—women owned 40% of the land in Sparta
- Educated and trained in sports
- Strong mothers =strong babies



# Life in Athens

- Kids
  - Girls did not practice sports
  - Girls stayed at home to help mothers: weaving cloth; helped in fields
  - Boys worked with fathers in fields, making pottery, or stone working shops



# Women in Athens

- Women had to have a guardian (usually father then husband)
  - Controlled her money and property that she might inherit
  - Guardian could also do as he wished with her belongings/property without her permission
  - Responsible for her safety, food, clothing, and shelter
- If wealthy, women could have their own personal slave
- Some historians believe wealthy Greek houses were divided into 2 parts (one for the husband and one for the wife)





# Religion

- Deeply religious
- Believed gods/goddesses ruled the world:
- Most powerful lived on Mount Olympus



# Greek Religion & Mythology



In the Greek world, religion was personal and present in all areas of life. Rituals took place and animal sacrifices were common. Myths were developed to explain the origins of people. Temples were also dedicated to the gods and goddesses. Thus, in Greek life the gods existed, they could influence human life, and they responded to acts of worship.

The Greek religion was polytheistic. Each god represented certain characteristics or elements that occurred in human life. Most important gods were the Olympian gods led by Zeus. Also included in this group: Athena, Apollo, Poseidon, Hermes, Hera, Aphrodite, Demeter, Ares, Artemis, Hades, Hephaistos, and Dionysos.

- Greek gods and goddesses appeared in human form:
  - Superhuman strength
  - Ageless beauty
  - Both good and bad characteristics
  - Each god had a distinct personality
  - Gods and goddesses married and had children—not examples of faithful marriages
  - Believed they could interact with gods/goddesses
- Many stories were passed down orally and then eventually written down

# Religion



- Gods became patrons of cities
  - Called upon for help
  - Believed gods dwelled in the temples and in a statue
  - Ceremonies were carried out by priests (men or women)
  - Held many festivals: singing, dancing, plays, processions, etc.
  - Animal sacrifices: pigs, sheep, goats, or cows—main way to worship and get that god to help you

# Afterlife

- Believed all souls went to an afterlife
  - an underworld (underground and ruled by Hades)
  - There was a part for heroes, another for the average human, and an area for the wicked
  - Souls were judged to decide which part of the afterlife they would go to





# Oracles

The story goes...

- Apollo decided he needed a wise woman (oracle) to speak for him
- Oracle=a person who could predict and interpret the future
- Used magic to establish his oracle at a temple in Delphi—many oracles but Apollo's was the most famous
- Apollo's oracle had to tell people the truth
  - She could not answer yes or no



For example, legend says...  
Once upon a time, a great king traveled to Delphi to ask the oracle, "Who will win the battle tomorrow?"  
The oracle smiled at him, and answered, "A great king." The king was very happy to hear this. He left many gifts for the oracle, and went quickly away, quite pleased that he had come. What he had overlooked is that more than one king would lead his men to battle. An oracle's smile meant nothing.

# Greek Religion Today

The background image shows the interior of a Greek Orthodox church. The ceiling is a dome covered in intricate frescoes of various saints and religious scenes. A large, ornate chandelier hangs from the center of the dome. The walls are also decorated with frescoes and icons. The floor is made of wood, and a red carpet runs down the center aisle. The overall atmosphere is one of historical and religious significance.

- 98% are Christian Orthodox (formed in 1054 AD when Christianity was divided because of a power struggle between the Pope and Patriarch of Constantinople—also disputed over key parts of the faith. This division= The Great Schism
  - Greece and Russia are the only countries to have such a large Orthodox population
  - The Orthodox Church is the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest branch of Christianity, after Roman Catholics and Protestants.
- The rest of the population is Muslim, Catholic, and Jewish.

Homer...





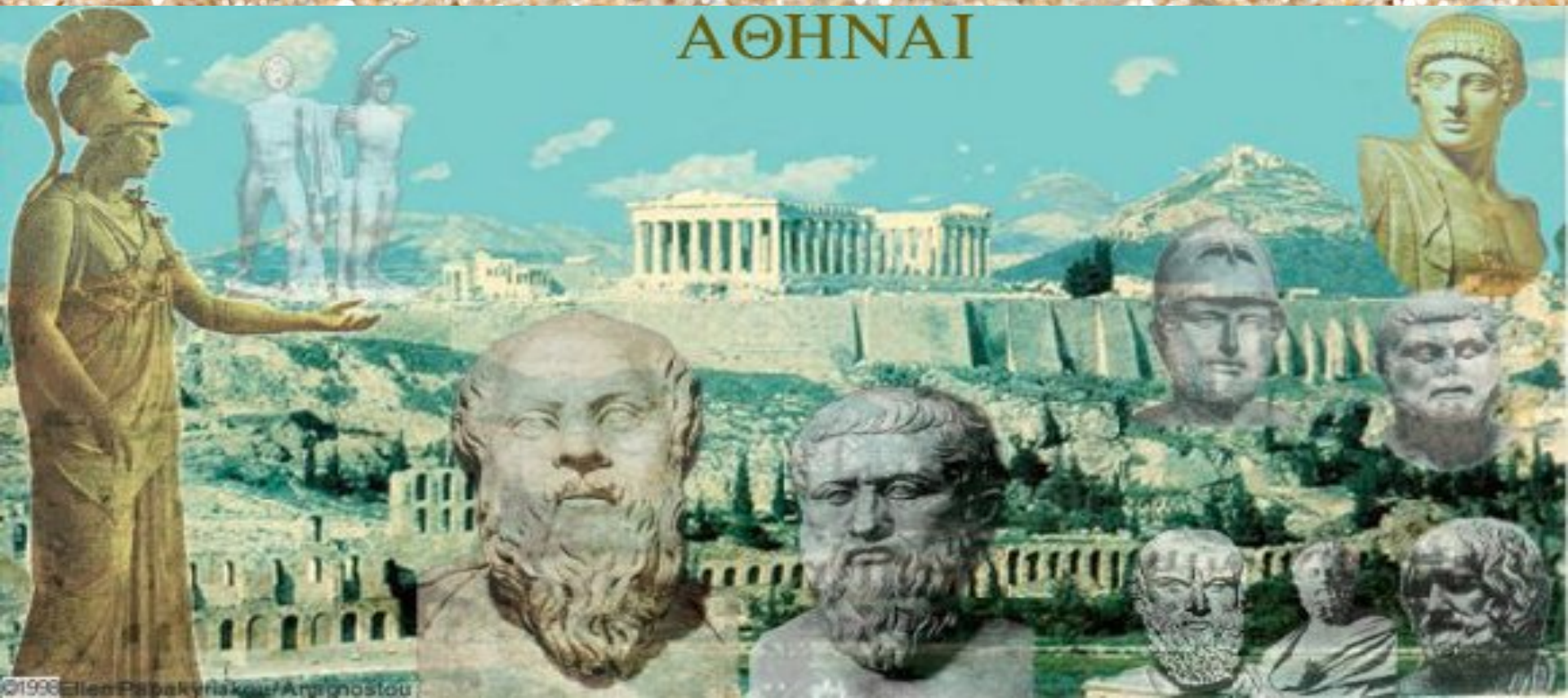
# NOT Homer Simpson...

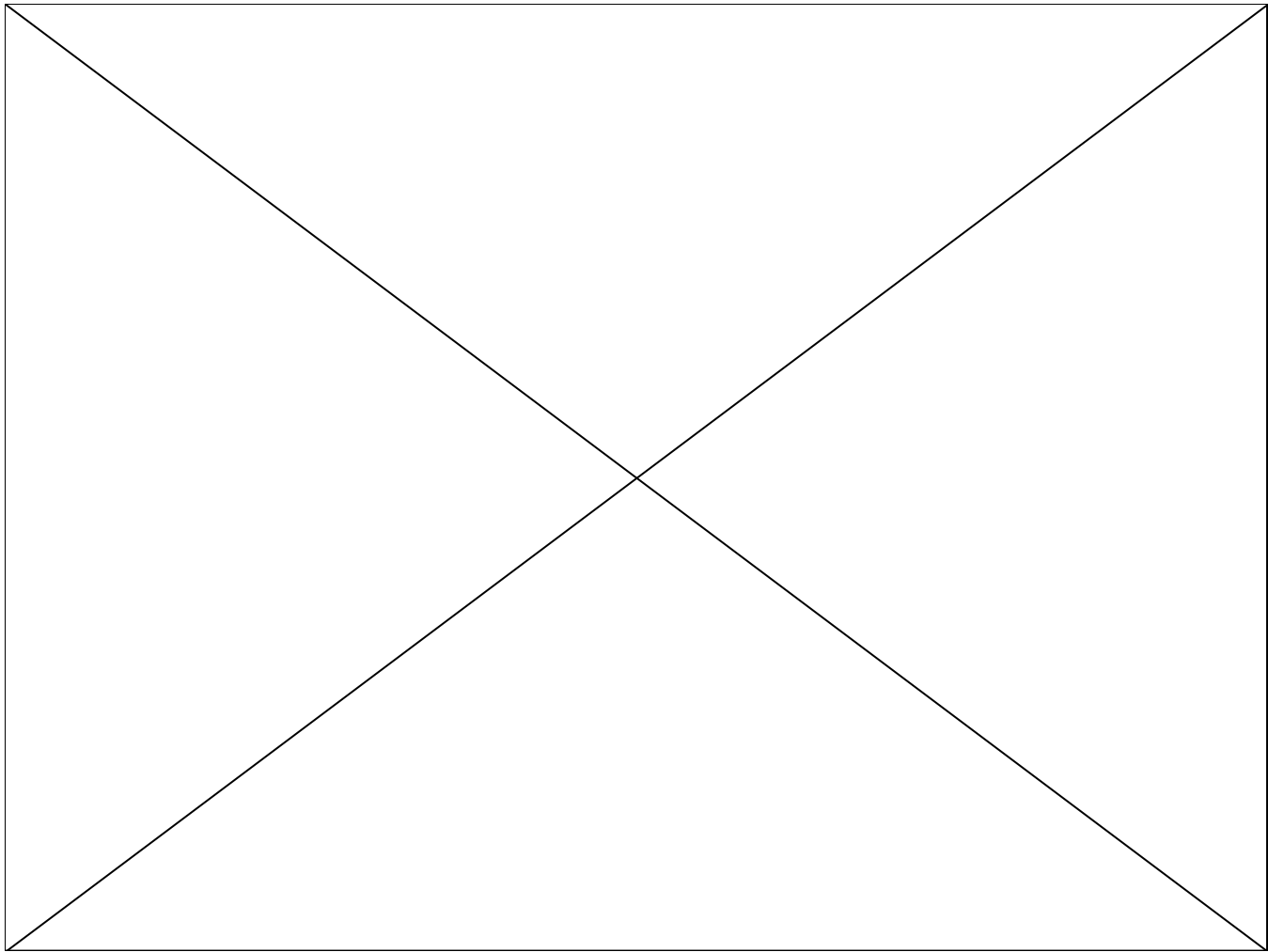
## Homer the Poet

- Popular Poet
- Stories/Poems described Greece's past:
  - Iliad and the Odyssey: stories of war & adventure
  - Includes precise geography
  - Prince from Troy kidnapped Helen Greek Queen
  - Theory that there were actually multiple authors
- Lived sometime between 800-700 B.C.
  - Some believe he was blind
- Homer's epics played very much the same role as the Bible plays for people
  - People memorized his writings in school



# The Golden Age of Athens





# Pericles

- Athenian Leader ushered in a time called the Golden Age
  - Architecture, arts, and education flourished
  - Teachings of Socrates
- Grew up in a wealthy family
  - Loved to learn
  - Grew up during the Persian wars
  - Supported the arts
  - allowed poor citizens to take part in govt.
  - **Came up with ideas of democracy and juries:**
  - **Great building projects (Parthenon)**



# Socrates



- Famous Teacher & Philosopher
- **Philosophy:** search for wisdom/the right way to live
- Questioned Athenian Values



*“False words are not only evil in themselves, but they infect the soul with evil.”*

# DEATH OF SOCRATES





- Socrates Student
  - As a child he heard Socrates preaching in the agora
- Wrote down many of Socrates teachings
- famous philosopher

*“Wise men speak because they have something to say; Fools because they have to say something.”*

*“Courage is knowing what not to fear.”*

*“Ignorance, the root and the stem of every evil.”*

# War in Ancient Greece

- War was common between the city-states
    - Fought many minor battles
    - Fought 3 major wars in the 400s BC
    - United as a country twice to defeat the Persians empire
- \*\*As a class, read The Persian Wars pg. 328





# Peloponnesian War

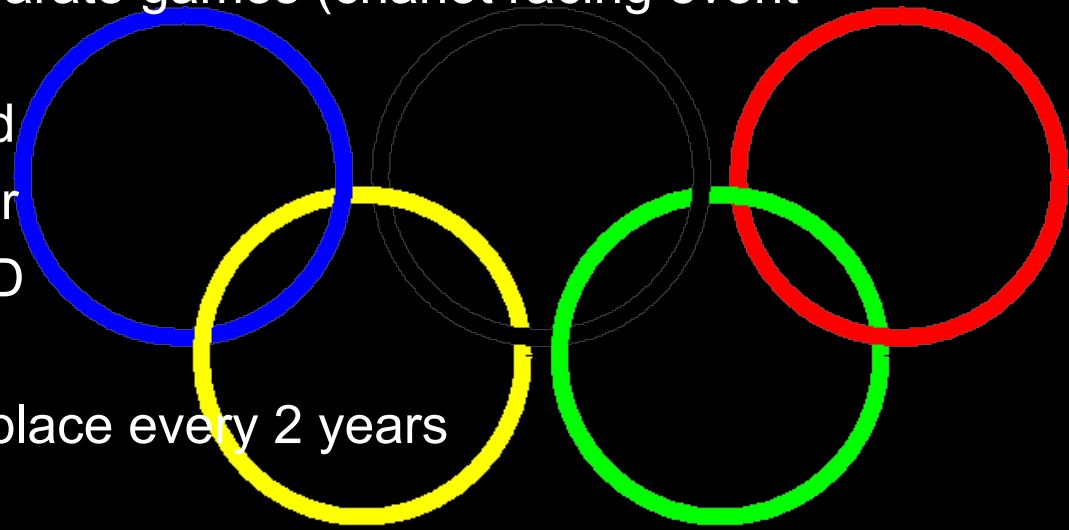


- Athens had a Thirty Year Peace agreement— due to past experience with Persian War
  - During this time Athens grew powerful
  - Other city-states became jealous and fearful of Athens power
  - Formed Peloponnesian league; led by Sparta
  - Lasted 27 years (431 BC-404 BC)
- Athens surrendered in the end and Sparta became leading city-state (polis)
  - Spartan army too powerful
  - A plague hit Athens



# Olympics Olympics

- First Olympic Games: 3,000 years ago in ancient Greece.
  - Participants were city-states
  - Only one event in first games (200 meter sprint)—eventually boxing, running, long jump, javelin, and wrestling
- Usually a war was occurring during the games, the Greeks had a month truce so people could travel to the games safely
  - Main stadium held about 45,000 people
- Women had their own separate games (chariot racing event only)
- Originally competed naked
- Olive wreath for the winner
- Games died out by 400 AD
  - Revived in 1896
- Today the Olympics take place every 2 years



## "The Great"

Alexander III of Macedon (356–323 B.C.) was the greatest military genius of the ancient world. The warrior-king conquered territories stretching from Greece to Egypt and through present-day Turkey, Iran and Pakistan.

Alexander spent his 13-year reign working to unite East and West through military force and cultural exchange. Alexander's reputation grew so quickly that by the time of his death at age 32 he was viewed as having godlike qualities.

It isn't always possible to separate fact and fiction from the stories told about Alexander over the centuries, but here are eight great nuggets from Alexander's life...



1. He was taught by Aristotle— one of history's greatest philosophers
2. He never lost a battle—first victory at 18 yrs. Old
3. He named more than 70 cities after himself and one after his horse
4. Fell in love with his future wife, Roxanne, at first sight.
5. He smelled great and had wonderful breath
6. Openly referred to himself as the son of Zeus.
7. His death remains a mystery— some believed his wine was poisoned. Others believe it was malaria, lung infection, liver failure, or typhoid fever.
8. His body was preserved in honey for a year

## Did You Know?

Julius Caesar, Mark Antony and Augustus all made pilgrimages to Alexander the Great's tomb in Alexandria. In 30 BC Octavian viewed Alexander's nearly 300 year old mummy.

The tomb was eventually destroyed and its location forgotten.

# Effects of Peloponnesian Wars



- Greek city-states grew weak
  - Macedonia (Land in the north of the Greek peninsula) took advantage of this
  - began to conquer most of Greece



*Alexander*



- Alexander
- 20 years old
- from Macedonia
- great fighter
- Well educated (taught by Aristotle)
- Father was murdered by his own body guard when Alexander was only 20
- Defeated Persia

# Alexandria

- Great city he founded in Egypt—planned by Alexander
- one of most important cities in Greek Empire
  - Grew to be the largest in the world at the time
  - Second largest city in Egypt today
- modeled after a Greek Polis
  - agora, theater, temples, stadium, gymnasium, harbors
  - temples built to Greek and Egyptian gods
  - Attracted scholars, scientists, philosophers, mathematicians, artists
  - democracy/ court system
  - craft workers made Greek pottery
- Egyptians admired him
  - Considered him a demi-god

Most famous for being the site of the great lighthouse—one of the 7 Ancient Wonders of the World



*If you had sailed to Alexandria, Egypt, in ancient times, you might have arrived by night. Your ship would have been guided into harbor by a great lighthouse, one of the wonders of the ancient world. From the ship's deck, you would have gazed on a coastline of white marble palaces and temples glowing in the moonlight. As you stepped ashore, you might also have glimpsed the roofline of another wonder of the city—the Great Library, the largest of its time.*

Imagine...





# Legacy of Learning

- Museum: where scholars studied the world
- Used Greek alphabet
- Brilliant Mathematicians
  - Geometry, arithmetic, mathematics --have Greek origins





# The Great Library at Alexandria

- Attracted scholars from many places
- Library built to protect the knowledge and progress made in the fields of history, science, math, medicine, and philosophy
- Chinese thinkers were the world's first philosophers
  - Greeks pursued their same goals— searching for wisdom
  - Philosophy= Greek word “love of wisdom”
  - Questions they might ask: What is the nature of the universe? What is the purpose of life?
- 700,000 scrolls filled the shelves
- Destroyed—burned
  - Many scrolls lost
  - Unknown who was responsible for its destruction and when it occurred
  - One of the possible suspects: The Romans (Julius Cesar)

