Chapter 5

Ancient Greece
(1750 B.C.–133 B.C.)
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Section 1: Early People of the Aegean

Section 2: The Rise of Greek City-States

Section 3: Victory and Defeat in the Greek World

Section 4: The Glory That was Greece

Section 5: Alexander and the Hellenistic Age
Bell Work

• Recall Greek myths and legends that you have seen in literature and film. Write down the Greek gods and goddesses that you can remember and describe what you know about them.
Early People of the Aegean

• What civilizations influenced the Minoans?

• How did Mycenaean civilization affect the later Greeks?

• What do the epics of Homer reveal about the Greeks?
The Minoans established a brilliant early civilization on the island of Crete.

The Minoans traded with Egypt and Mesopotamia. They acquired ideas and technology that they adapted to their own culture.

The Minoans helped to shape the first Greek civilization.
Bell Work

• What are the major similarities between the Minoans and Mycenaeans?
“Every man make up his mind to fight
And move on his enemy! Strong as I am,
    It’s hard for me to face so many men
And fight with all at once. . . .
    And yet I will!”

Homer, *Iliad*

The *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* reveal many of the values of ancient Greeks. Homer’s heroes display honor, courage, and eloquence.

The epics of Homer have been inspiring writers for almost 3,000 years.
The Mycenaens

The Mycenaens conquered the Greek mainland and Crete.

Mycenaen civilization dominated the Aegean from about 1400 B.C. to 1200 B.C.

They traded with Sicily, Italy, Egypt, and Mesopotamia.

Mycenaens absorbed Egyptian and Mesopotamian influences and passed them on to later Greeks.
Section 1 Assessment

Where did Minoan civilization arise?
   a) the Greek mainland
   b) Crete
   c) Mycenae
   d) Mesopotamia

Which group of people conquered the Minoans?
   a) the Egyptians
   b) the Mesopotamians
   c) the Mycenaeans
   d) the Trojans
The Rise of Greek City-States

- How did geography influence the Greek city-states?
- What kinds of government did the Greek city-states develop?
- How did Athens and Sparta differ?
- What forces unified the Greek city-states?
Ancient Greece

Mycenaean world about 1300 B.C.

Centers of ancient Greek civilization
Greece is part of the Balkan peninsula. Mountains divide the peninsula into isolated valleys. Off the Greek mainland are hundreds of small islands.

The geography of the region prevented the Greeks from creating a large, united empire. Instead, they built many small city-states, cut off from one another by mountains or water.

The seas linked the Greeks to the outside world. The Greeks became skilled sailors, traveling and trading all over the Mediterranean.
Governing the City-States

Between 750 B.C. and 500 B.C., the Greeks evolved different forms of government.

At first, the ruler was a king. A government in which a king or queen exercises central power is called a *monarchy*.

Slowly, power shifted to a class of noble landowners. At first, the nobles defended the king, but in time, they won power for themselves. A government ruled by a landholding elite is called an *aristocracy*.

As trade expanded, a new class of wealthy merchants, farmers, and artisans came to dominate some city-states. A government in which power is in the hands of a small, powerful elite, usually from the business class, is called an *oligarchy*. 
**Athens and Sparta**

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<tr>
<th><strong>ATHENS</strong></th>
<th><strong>SPARTA</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Society grew into a limited <strong>democracy</strong>, or government by the people.</td>
<td>Rulers were two kings and a council of elders.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Male citizens over age 30 were members of the assembly.</td>
<td>Rulers formed a military society.</td>
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<td>Rulers encouraged trade with other city-states.</td>
<td>Conquered people were turned into slaves, called <strong>helots</strong>.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women were considered inferior.</td>
<td>Rulers forbade trade and travel.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boys received education in many areas, not just military training.</td>
<td>Male, native-born Spartans over age 30 were citizens.</td>
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<tr>
<td>All boys received military training.</td>
<td>All boys received military training.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Girls were raised to produce healthy sons for the army.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women had the right to inherit property.</td>
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Local ties, independent spirit, and economic rivalries led to fighting among the Greek city-states. Despite these divisions, the Greeks shared a common culture.

- They honored the same ancient heroes.
- They participated in common festivals.
- They prayed to the same gods.
- They shared the Greek language.
- They felt superior to non-Greeks, whom they called “barbaroi,” people who did not speak Greek.
A government in which power is in the hands of a small, powerful elite is called
a) an aristocracy.
b) a democracy.
c) an oligarchy.
d) a monarchy.

One difference between Athens and Sparta was that
a) Sparta encouraged trade, while Athens prohibited it.
b) Sparta formed a limited democracy, while Athens remained a monarchy.
c) Athens encouraged trade, while Sparta prohibited it.
d) Athenian women were permitted to own property, while Spartan women were not.

Want to connect to the World History link for this section? Click Here.
Victory and Defeat in the Greek World

- What impact did the Persian Wars have on Greece?
- How did Athens enjoy a golden age under Pericles?
- What were the causes and effects of the Peloponnesian War?
Despite their cultural ties, the Greek city-states were often in conflict with one another.

The threat of the powerful Persian empire united the Greek city-states.

United, the city-states defeated the Persians and ended the threat of Persian invasions.
The Impact of the Persian Wars

Victory over the Persians increased the Greeks’ sense of their own uniqueness.
Athens emerged as the most powerful city-state.
Athens organized the Delian League, an alliance with other Greek city-states.
Athens used the Delian League to create an Athenian empire.
After the Persian Wars, Athens enjoyed a golden age under Pericles.

- Periclean Athens was a **direct democracy.** In this form of government, large numbers of citizens take part in the day-to-day affairs of government.

- This meant that Athenian men participated in the assembly and served on **juries.**

- Pericles hired architects and sculptors to rebuild the Acropolis, which the Persians had destroyed.

- Pericles turned Athens into the cultural center of Greece. He did this with the help of an educated, foreign-born woman named Aspasia.
Pericles gave a speech at the funeral of Athenians slain in battle. This speech is considered one of the earliest and greatest expressions of democratic ideals.

“Our constitution is called a democracy because power is in the hands not of a minority but of the whole people.”

“We alone regard a man who takes no interest in public affairs, not as a harmless but as a useless character.”
The Peloponnesian War

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<tr>
<th>CAUSES</th>
<th>EFFECTS</th>
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<td>Many Greeks outside of Athens resented Athenian domination.</td>
<td>Athenian domination of the Greek world ended.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sparta formed the Peloponnesian League to rival the Delian League.</td>
<td>Athens recovered economically and remained the cultural center of Greece.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sparta encouraged oligarchy, while Athens supported democracy.</td>
<td>Democratic government suffered.</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Corruption and selfish interests replaced older ideals such as service to the city-state.</td>
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</table>
One result of the Persian Wars was that
a) Athens organized the Peloponnesian League.
b) Sparta organized the Peloponnesian League.
c) Athens organized the Delian League.
d) Sparta emerged as the most powerful city-state.

Which form of government existed in Athens under Pericles?
a) direct democracy 
b) oligarchy 
c) aristocracy 
d) monarchy

Want to connect to the World History link for this section? Click Here.
The Glory That Was Greece

- What political and ethical ideas did Greek philosophers develop?

- What were the goals of Greek architects and artists?

- What themes did Greek writers and historians explore?
Some Greek thinkers used observation and reason to find causes for what happened. The Greeks called these thinkers philosophers, meaning “lovers of wisdom.”

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<th>SOCRATES</th>
<th>PLATO</th>
<th>ARISTOTLE</th>
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| Developed Socratic method, whereby a series of questions are posed in order to challenge implications of answers | Emphasized importance of reason  
Believed the ideal state should regulate every aspect of citizens’ lives to provide for their best interest | Favored rule by single strong and virtuous leader  
Taught that good conduct meant pursuing moderation |
Greek Architects and Artists

The work of Greek artists and architects reflected a concern with balance, order, and beauty.

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<tr>
<th>ARCHITECTURE</th>
<th>ART</th>
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<tr>
<td>Architects tried to convey a sense of perfect balance to reflect the harmony of the universe.</td>
<td>Early sculptors imitated rigid Egyptian poses.</td>
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<td>Example: The Parthenon</td>
<td>Later sculptors emphasized natural poses that were lifelike but also idealistic.</td>
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<td>Paintings offer views of Greek life.</td>
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Greek dramas were often based on popular myths and legends. Through these stories, playwrights discussed moral and social issues and the relationship between people and the gods.

Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides wrote tragedies, plays that told stories of human suffering that usually ended in disaster.

Aristophanes wrote comedies, humorous plays that mocked people or customs.
The Greeks applied reason, observation, and logic to the study of history.

Herodotus is called the “Father of History.”

Herodotus stressed the importance of research, while Thucydides showed the need to avoid bias.

Herodotus and Thucydides set standards for future historians.
Who believed that the ideal state should regulate the lives of the people?
   a) Socrates
   b) Plato
   c) Aristotle
   d) Herodotus

Which form of literature told stories of human suffering that ended in disaster?
   a) comedy
   b) tragedy
   c) history
   d) epic

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Alexander and the Hellenistic Age

- How did Alexander the Great build a huge empire?
- What were the results of Alexander’s conquests?
- How did individuals contribute to Hellenistic civilization?
Philip of Macedonia conquered Greece. He was assassinated before he could fulfill his dream of conquering the Persian empire.

Philip’s son, Alexander, succeeded him to the throne.

Alexander won his first victory against the Persians at the Granicus River. He then conquered Asia Minor, Palestine, Egypt, and Babylon.

Alexander crossed the Hindu Kush into northern India. There his troops faced soldiers mounted on war elephants. They were forced to retreat.

While planning his next battle campaign, Alexander died of a sudden fever. Three generals divided up the empire.
The Empire of Alexander the Great
The Legacy of Alexander

Although Alexander’s empire did not last, he had unleashed changes that would ripple across the Mediterranean world and the Middle East for centuries.

- Alexander’s most lasting achievement was the spread of Greek culture.
- Across the empire, local people assimilated, or absorbed, Greek ideas. In turn, Greek settlers adopted local customs.
- Gradually, a blending of eastern and western cultures occurred.
- Alexander had encouraged this blending by marrying a Persian woman and adopting Persian customs.
Great Minds of the Hellenistic Period

Zeno founded Stoicism, which urged people to accept calmly whatever life brought.

Pythagoras derived a formula to calculate the relationship between the sides of a triangle.

Euclid wrote *The Elements*, a textbook that became the basis for modern geometry.

Aristarchus theorized about a heliocentric, or sun-centered, solar system.

Eratosthenes showed that the Earth was round and accurately calculated its circumference.

Archimedes used principles of physics to make practical inventions, such as the lever and the pulley.

Hippocrates studied illnesses and cures and set ethical standards for medical care.
Alexander encouraged assimilation by
   a) forbidding his soldiers to adopt Persian customs.
   b) wearing only Greek clothing.
   c) marrying a Persian woman.
   d) outlawing the Persian language.

Who developed the idea that the sun was at the center of the universe?
   a) Archimedes
   b) Aristarchus
   c) Pythagorus
   d) Hippocrates

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