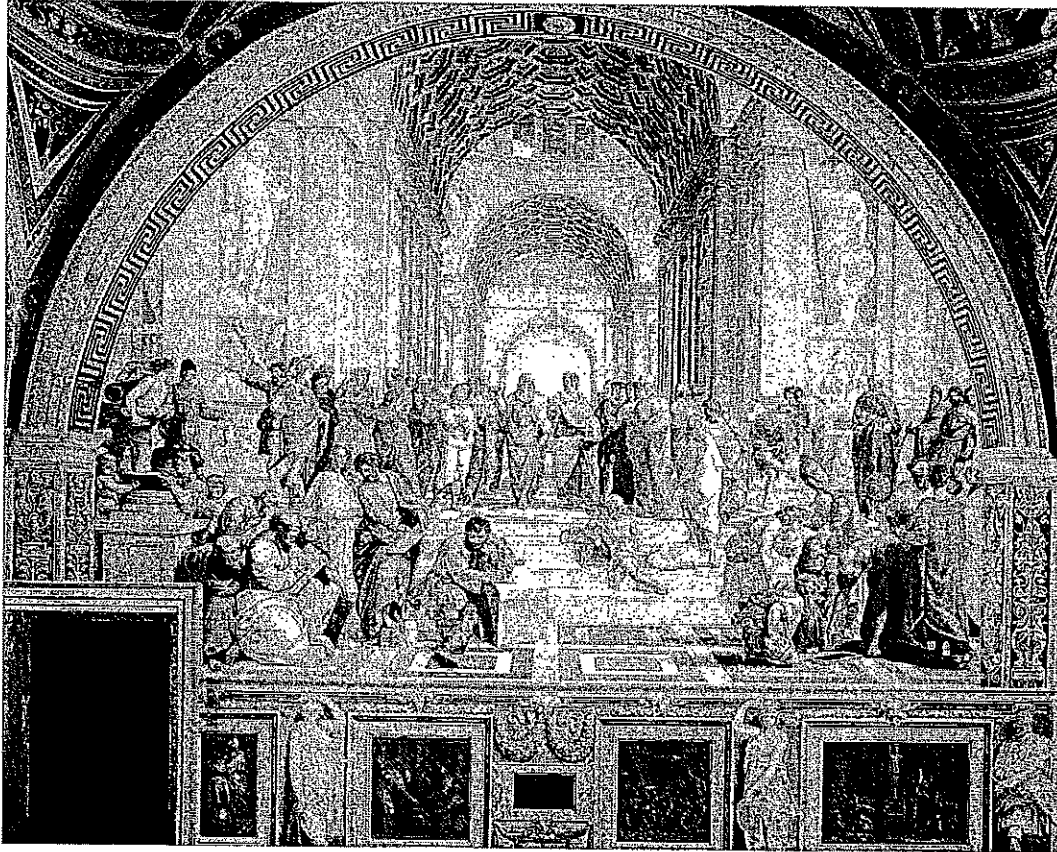


The School of Athens
Raphael, 1509-1511



Athens: Days of Glory and Despair

Name:

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What's Your Philosophy?

After Socrates died many other philosophies evolved that may describe a person's outlook on life. Read the descriptions of the philosophies below. Which one best fits your attitude towards life? Why? Write a paragraph on another sheet of paper explaining your reasoning.

SKEPTIC—You reject the idea that truth can ever be found, so you doubt everything.

CYNIC—You believe that we are powerless to control the world, therefore you reject all civilization and want to return to a state of nature.

STOIC—You believe in complete self-control and accept everything that life brings to you since you believe that you cannot control fate.

HEDONIST—You believe that one should seek pleasure and avoid anything that is unpleasant, no matter what the consequences are.

EPICUREAN—You believe that pleasure is good, but one must balance it with work and learning to lead a successful life.

Socrates' Hot Seat

Socrates was one of Greece's most famous scholars and philosophers. He asked probing questions of his students to try to help them observe, analyze, and think. By doing this he felt the absolute truth could be found. Choose three of the following quotes by well-known philosophers, and explain them in your own words on another sheet of paper. Write a thorough description and be ready to support your reasoning.

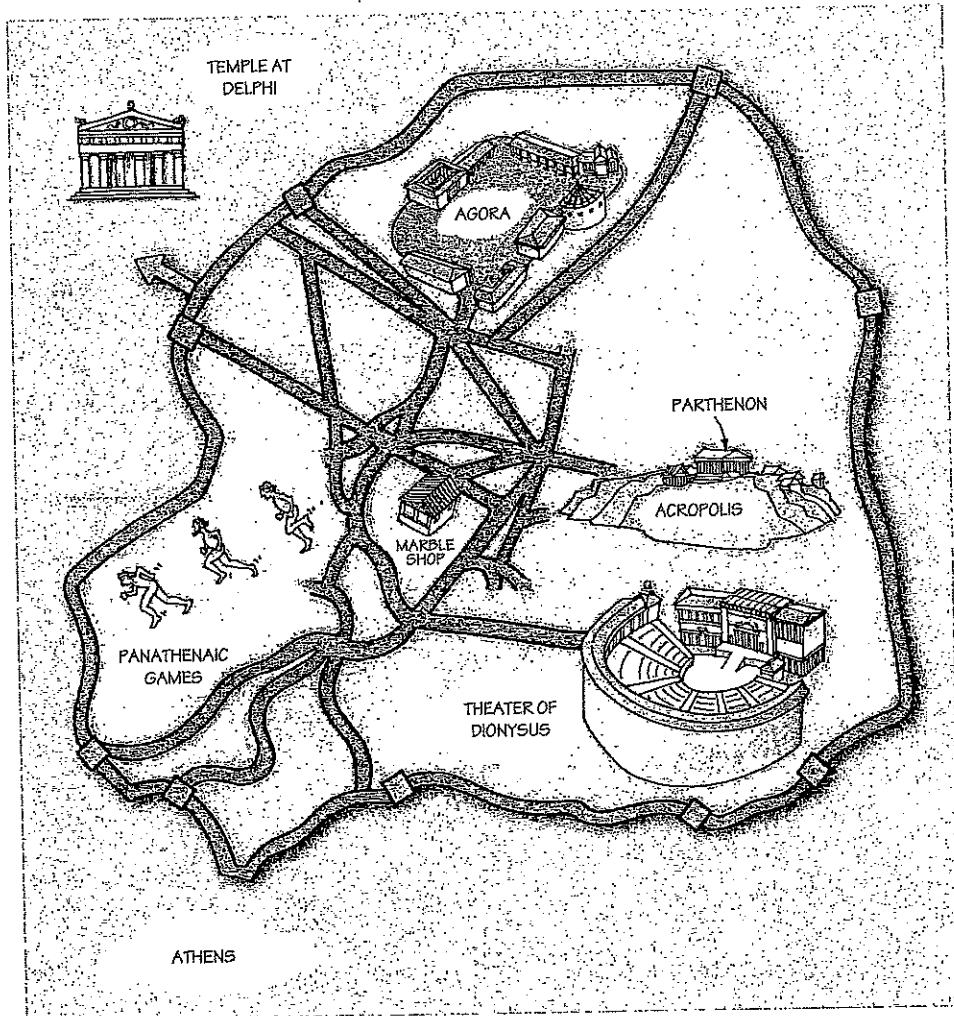
1. *Much learning does not teach understanding.* (Herodotus)
2. *Words have a longer life than deeds.* (Pindar)
3. *Time eases all things.* (Sophocles)
4. *A bad beginning makes a bad ending.* (Euripides)
5. *Know thyself.* (Socrates)
6. *Strive not to become a god; mortal aims befit mortal men.* (Pindar)
7. *The life which is unexamined is not worth living.* (Plato)
8. *Education is the best provision for old age.* (Aristotle)
9. *Nothing in excess.* (Socrates)
10. *All is flux, nothing stays still.* (Herodotus)

Pretend you are at the Agora and that your teacher is Socrates. Take turns taking the "hot seat" in front of the class, just like a pupil of Socrates would be singled out and questioned in front of the gathering. Present one of your quotes and explanations to the group. Then answer the questions posed by "Socrates." "Socrates" will attempt to find contradictions and flaws in your reasoning, so do not get discouraged. Be prepared to defend your position with logical and well-elaborated details that answer "Why?" and "What do you mean?"



READING NOTES 29

For each section of the Reading Notes, use a different color marker to outline the box and show where you are on the map. Then answer the questions in each box.



29.2 A City of Contrasts

Why can Athens be called a city of contrasts?

29.3 Religion: The Temple at Delphi

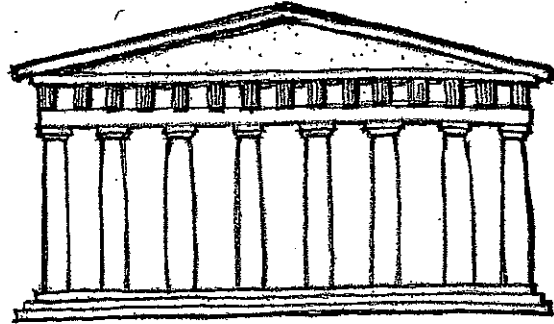
1. In what ways did Greek gods and goddesses play an important part in the lives of the Athenians?
2. What were the Greek gods and goddesses like?
3. Why did the Greeks go to Delphi?



29.4 Architecture: The Acropolis

1. What was the Parthenon?

2. On this sketch of the Parthenon, label these parts: *pediment, frieze, Doric column.*



29.5 Sculpture: A Marble Workshop

1. How did Athenian sculpture change over the years?

2. Who was Phidias? What did he do?

29.6 Drama: The Theater of Dionysus

List three ways Greek drama differed from plays and movies of today.

29.7 Philosophy: The Agora

1. What do philosophers do?

2. How did Socrates try to teach others?

3. What happened to Socrates?

29.8 Sports: The Panathenaic Games

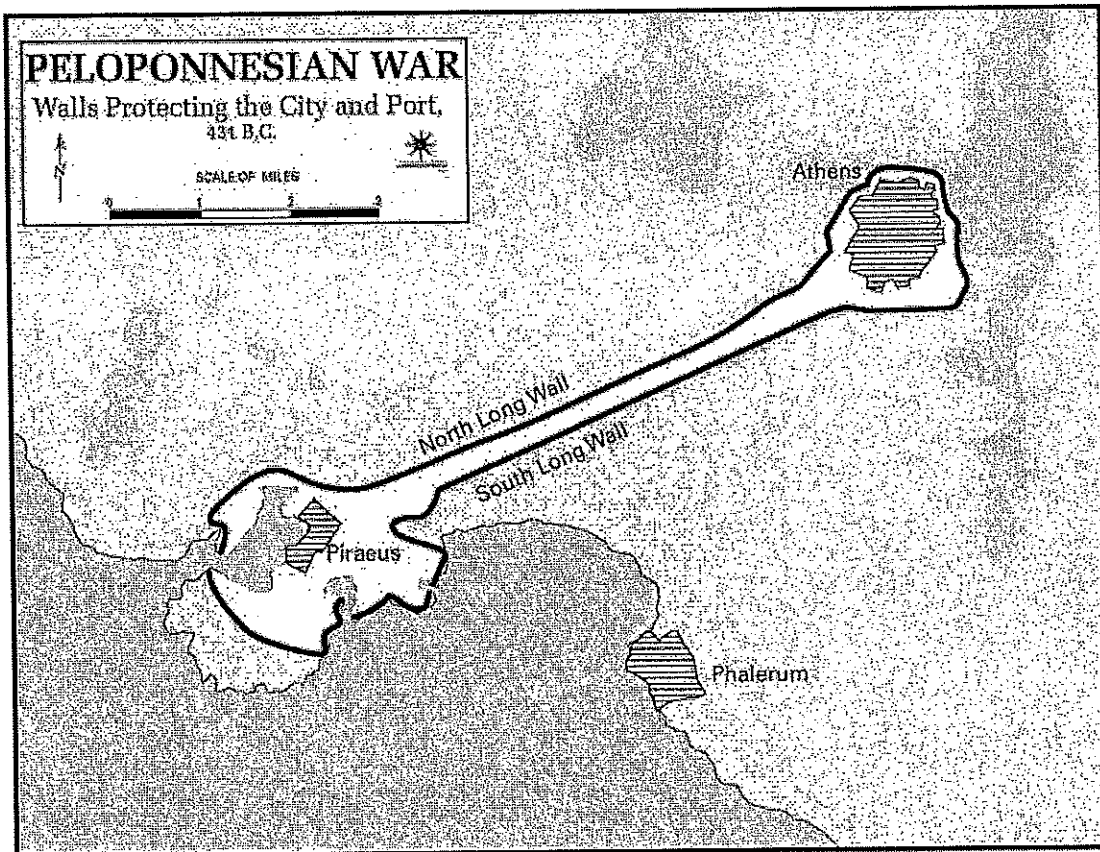
1. What was the purpose of athletic events in Greece?

2. Describe one Panathenaic event that is part of our present Olympics.

3. Describe one Panathenaic event that is not part of our present Olympics.

Protective Walls??

The wall that Pericles built to protect the city and port actually contributed to the downfall of the city and its people. How could a wall intended for protection actually have the opposite effect. Hypothesize how this could have happened. This is an educated guess.



Chapter 29: The Golden Age of Athens

A Model Citizen? The Life of Pericles

At the beginning of Chapter 29, you read about Pericles. He was the Athenian leader who helped to rebuild Athens after the Persian Wars. Under his leadership, Athens entered its Golden Age. It was a peaceful and prosperous time for the city-state.

Pericles was also dedicated to building Athenian democracy. Below is a biography of Pericles. It includes an excerpt from a speech given by Pericles at the funeral of Athenians killed in battle. As you read, think about these questions: What did Pericles believe to be the responsibilities of a citizen in a democracy? How did Pericles model this expectation?

Pericles was born around the year 490 b.c.e. His father was actively involved in Athenian politics and served as a commander during the Persian Wars. His mother was the niece of a well-known Athenian political reformer. Pericles was educated in many subjects, including music, debate, and philosophy. When he entered public life, he quickly rose to leadership because of his knowledge and skill.

Pericles was only a teenager when he had to evacuate Athens during the Persian Wars. After a tragic Greek defeat, the Persians burned Athens to the ground. The Greeks eventually defeated the Persians, but Pericles' home was in ruins. Pericles vowed to rebuild Athens. He pushed for the expansion of the Delian League. The league was organized to prepare for any future Persian threat. He also built up the Athenian military.

Not only did Pericles ensure the security of Athens, he also beautified the city. He promoted the creation of many public and religious buildings. The most famous is the Parthenon, the temple to the goddess Athena. Pericles encouraged the growth of music and drama. One of his closest friends was the playwright Sophocles. Industry and commerce also flourished under Pericles' leadership.

Pericles believed that Athens led all the Greeks in culture. He called Athens the "school of Greece." He also thought that Athens should lead the Greeks in government. He was a strong supporter of democracy and made reforms to encourage its growth. He believed that all citizens (native Athenian men over age 18) had an equal right to participate in government. Under his leadership, Athens paid the salaries of men who held public office. Poor men who could not afford to leave their jobs and farms to serve in public office could now do so.

Pericles believed that it was not just a privilege to serve in government, but also a responsibility. Citizens had certain duties to perform, including voting and holding public office. In a speech honoring Athenians who died in one of the first battles of the Peloponnesian War, Pericles praised Athenian democracy. He also reminded Athens of the responsibilities of its citizens.

[Our government] favours the many instead of the few; this is why it is

called a democracy. If we look to the laws, they afford [give] equal justice to all in their private differences [differences based on social class]. The freedom which we enjoy in our government extends also to our ordinary life.. But all this ease [freedom]. does not make us lawless as citizens.. [We are taught] to obey the magistrates and the laws, particularly. the protection of the injured, whether they are actually on the statute book [written down as law], or belong to that code which, although unwritten, yet cannot be broken without acknowledged disgrace [laws based on morality].

Our public men have, besides politics, their private affairs to attend to, and our ordinary citizens, though occupied with the pursuits of industry, are still fair judges of public matters; for unlike any other nation, [we believe that the man] who takes no part in these duties [of the citizen] not as unambitious but as useless.

Pericles died in 429 b.c.e. of a disease that also killed one quarter of the population of Athens. At the time of his death, Athens faced defeat in the Peloponnesian War at the hands of its rival, Sparta. Though Athenian democracy never quite recovered from the war, Pericles' contributions were long lasting. Even today, his ideas on citizenship influence modern democratic governments around the world.

Pericles & The Peloponnesian War: The Golden Age Ends

Some background on Pericles...

- Born in _____ BCE in the midst of the Persian Wars
- His father, Xanthippus, was a politician and a commander during the Persian Wars
- His mother, Agariste, was the niece of Cleisthenes, a political reformer
- Educated in many subjects, including _____, _____, &

- When he was a teenager, he had to evacuate Athens because of the Persian Wars

Pericles' Rise to Power

- Because he was a persuasive speaker, Pericles was able to convince the citizens of Athens that his ideas were important
- Elected one of _____ generals of Athens in _____ BCE
- Continuously elected to one year terms

Pericles set 3 Major Goals for Athens

- Wanted to prevent another burning of the city
- Extended wall around Athens to the sea
- Built up a powerful navy

-Pericles' goal was to make Athens the most beautiful city in the world

-Built new temples & public buildings

*Most famous temple was the _____

•built from marble

•46 columns

•40 foot tall gold & ivory statue of Athena inside

-Wanted to make democracy stronger by spreading power more evenly between rich & poor

-Paid the salaries of all men who held public office

-This meant that poor men who before could not leave their jobs to participate in democracy could now afford to do so

Build-up to the Peloponnesian Wars

-After the Persian Wars ended (479 BCE), Athens became more and more powerful

- _____ - alliance formed by Athens with other city-states

*During the Golden Age, Athens takes over the league

*Athens collected money from other city-states in the League and used it to rebuild Athens

*Athens began to attack other city-states for food because their population had grown

War Begins (_____ BCE)

-Sparta and its allies felt threatened by Athens's rise in power → gave Athens an ultimatum: free all of the cities or face war

-Athens refused and war began

-Wall protected the city of Athens so Spartans invaded the countryside around the city

*Burned _____, cut down grain

*Pericles ordered all residents in areas outside the city walls to come in

Plague in Athens

-Plague, a highly contagious, widespread disease that is often fatal, spread through Athens

in _____ BCE

-Most victims died within a week, but suffered terrible pain before dying

-Plague was so devastating because so many people were in the city because Pericles had ordered them in for their protection from the Spartans

- _____ of Athenian population died, including Pericles (429 BCE)

Athens during the Wars

-Many deaths from plague

-Lack of _____

-Labor force weakened because many _____ escaped when Spartans invaded land around Athens

Wars were a Deadlock for Many Years

-Sparta had a more powerful _____

-Athens had a more powerful _____

-Turning Point in 413 BCE when Athens suffered a serious defeat in Sicily

*Smaller city-states that had been ruled by Athens joined forces with Sparta instead

Persia helps Sparta

-Persian Empire gives Sparta money to build a stronger, larger fleet

-Persia and Sparta were still technically enemies then, but the Persians hoped that the Spartans and Athenians would destroy each other

End of the Wars

-405 BCE- Aegospotami- port along the _____

-Athenians sailed their fleet here and waited 5 days

-Spartans did not begin battle

-Athenians went ashore because they needed _____

-While the Athenians were ashore, the Spartans destroyed their fleet

- Athenians barricaded themselves inside their city for several months, eventually surrendering in 404 BCE, after their food supply had been cut off by land and by sea fleet

End of the Golden Age

-Decline of Democracy

-Tyrants ruled right after war, but then democracy resumes

The Golden Age Ends— The Peloponnesian Wars

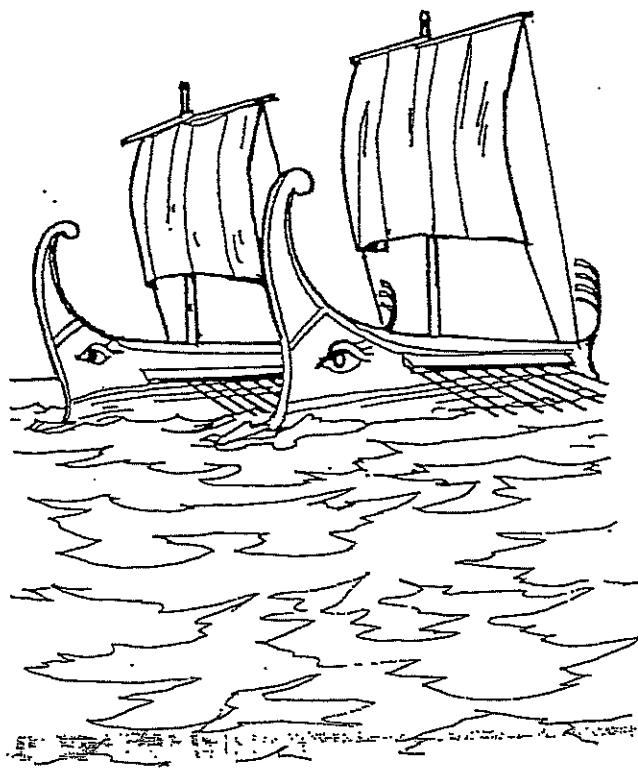
For many years Sparta feared Athens and its growing power. After the Persian Wars, an alliance of city-states was formed by Athens to help protect Greece from further attacks by Persia. This alliance, called the Delian League, was taken over by Athens during its Golden Age in order to build an empire. City-states outside of Athens were forced to remain in the Delian League and money was collected to help rebuild Athens after the wars. So, as Athens expanded further, Sparta became more and more suspicious and created allies of its own.

In addition to this abuse of power, Athens began attacking cities outside of Greece in order to gain more trade routes. Athens grew in population during the Golden Age and Pericles wanted to ensure food for everyone. Therefore, he conquered land all around the shores of the Aegean Sea, hoping to provide more access to grain and supplies. Finally, in 431 B.C., Sparta had had enough. Backed by its many allies, Sparta threatened to declare war unless Athens agreed to free all of the cities under its control. Athens refused, and so began the bloody Peloponnesian Wars, which lasted more than 20 years.

Athens sent its great army to blockade Spartan towns along the peninsula. In return, the fearless Spartan army marched against Athens, burning and looting its villages. Crops were destroyed and slaves escaped. Pericles attempted to save his people by calling all citizens living outside the city walls to come inside for protection. But the mighty walls of Athens could not save it from disease from within. A terrible plague killed a quarter of the population. Weakened by hunger and so crowded together the disease was able to spread rapidly. Then Pericles died, which left Athens without a leader—helpless and hopeless.

Still, the Athenians continued to fight. In 413 B.C. they attacked Sparta's allies on the island of Sicily. Most of the Athenian army was captured, and the once-powerful navy was destroyed. But even this did not stop the brave Athenians. Remarkably, the war still lasted over nine more years even though Athens never fully recovered from this loss. Athenians melted down gold and silver from their temples to help pay for a new fleet of warships.

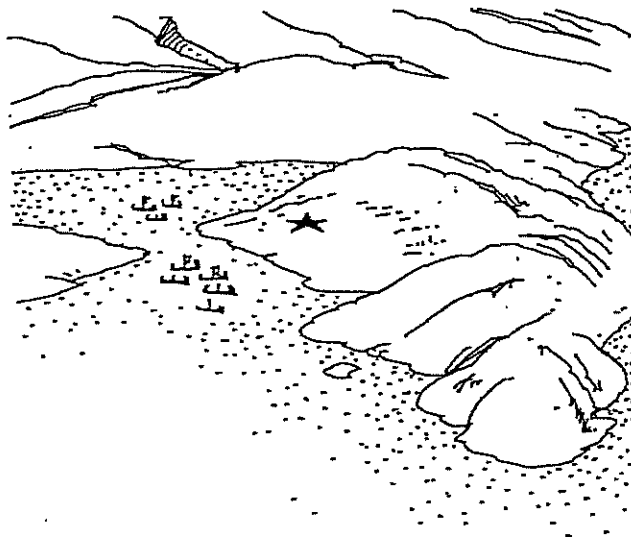
Persia had heard of the rivalry and hoped that the two powerful city-states would destroy each other. They gave money to Sparta to build a stronger and faster fleet able to overtake Athens. With this help and poor decision making on the part of Athenian leaders, Sparta finally ended the war in victory.



The Peloponnesian Wars (cont.)

What happened? Athenian leaders moved their fleet to a harbor in Hellespont, located on the northeastern corner of the Aegean Sea. The Spartans waited for several days before attacking, to fool the Athenian leaders into believing the harbor was safe. They let smaller ships go to shore for supplies. When they were gone, the Spartans boarded and captured the rest of the fleet. Now the Spartans backed by the powerful Persian Empire blockaded the city of Athens, cutting off its food supply by land and sea. The Athenians eventually surrendered in 404 B.C.

Although Sparta's allies demanded that Athens be destroyed and its people made slaves, Sparta decided to leave the city intact. But the end of the rivalry did not bring peace or unity back to Greece. The Spartan kings threw out Athenian democracy and set up a system of tyrants. These tyrants were disliked and eventually overthrown by the Athenians, who attempted to re-create a democracy. This time the democracy did not unite the people. Many young citizens refused to take part in public affairs. Others became highly suspicious of anyone displaying antidemocratic attitudes. It was during this time that the great philosopher Socrates was condemned and put to death for his teachings.



For many years smaller wars between various city-states continued. It finally took a force 50 years later and outside of Greece to bring harmony back to the country. To the north of Greece lay Macedonia, whose kings were slowly invading and conquering the surrounding lands. Under the leadership of King Philip II, Greece was united with Macedonia by 337 B.C. When Philip died, his son Alexander took over and made the Greek Empire the greatest the world had ever known.

What Do You Know?

1. Why did Athens form the Delian League? How did the league change? How did this contribute to the Peloponnesian Wars?
2. What were some factors that weakened Athens? Do you think Pericles made a wise decision to call the people inside the city walls? Why or why not?
3. What factors outside Athens helped Sparta to win the war? Why did Persia help if they were an enemy of Greece?
4. What happened to Greece after the Peloponnesian Wars?
5. How do you think the wars could have been avoided?

The Peloponnesian Wars

The Plague at Athens

by Thucydides

Soon after the Spartans invaded the area around Athens, the plague first appeared among the Athenians. No one could remember an epidemic of such magnitude and seriousness, and the doctors themselves were not, at first, of any use. They didn't know how to treat it, and as they spent the most time with the ill, the doctors were the first to die. And no other human art did any better. Prayers in the temples, sacrifices, and divinations were equally useless, and were finally given up when the disaster reached overwhelming proportions.

People said that it first began in Ethiopia and passed into Egypt and Libya. In Athens, it first attacked the port of Piraeus and then moved into the city itself. However, I leave all theories about its origin and its cause, if causes can be found to account for such vast disturbances, to other writers. For myself, I will describe its nature and the symptoms by which one can recognize it, if it ever breaks out again. This I can do, since I had the disease myself and watched its course in Athens.

In general, there seemed no particular cause for coming down with the plague. Even people in good health were suddenly seized by violent fevers. The eyes became inflamed and reddened, the throat and tongue became bloody. Sneezing and hoarseness soon followed, and the disease passed to the chest producing a hard cough. Then it settled in the stomach, producing great pain and spasms. The skin was not very hot to the touch, though reddish in appearance and breaking out into sores. But internally, the patients burned and couldn't stand to have any clothing at all touch them. They wanted to throw themselves into cold water and had an unquenchable thirst. In addition, the miserable

feeling of never being able to rest or sleep tormented them. Strangely enough, while patients were sickest, their bodies didn't waste away. It was extraordinary how the body could hold out against the attack of the disease. But on the seventh or eighth day, they died from internal inflammation even though there was still strength left in them.

The disease defeats all efforts at description, and its attacks were too grievous for people to endure. But the following circumstance reveals how different it was from all other forms of sickness. The birds and animals which prey on human bodies either refused even to touch them or else died after tasting them. In proof of this, it was noticed that birds of this kind actually disappeared.

During the plague, Athens was not much troubled by ordinary diseases, but when someone became ill from some other cause, he eventually contracted the plague. Some died from neglect, others died in spite of intense care. No remedy or drug was ever found. What helped in one case, did harm in others.

The worst feature was the dejection which occurred when anyone realized he was becoming ill. This despair immediately took away all power of resistance. Another horrible aspect was the sight of men dying like sheep, having caught the disease nursing one another. This was particularly the case with those who had any claim to goodness. Their own honor made them nurse their friends from whom they then caught the disease and died. The sick and the dying received the most help and compassion from those few who had recovered from the plague. These knew how painful the sickness was, and they had no fear themselves, since the same person was never attacked twice. However, such people, in their excitement and elation, half-believed that they were now safe from every form of illness and misfortune.

The sacred places and temples, where many of the sick went, became full of corpses, and these remained there just as they were. As the disaster went beyond all bounds, men no longer had any idea what was to become of them. Therefore, they became completely careless about everything, whether sacred or merely human. All the burial ceremonies were abandoned, and people buried friends and relatives as best they could. And this wasn't the only form of lawless action which owed its origin to the plague. Men now did calmly and in public what previously they would only do in secret. Great changes were also brought about by constantly seeing wealthy people dying suddenly, and the poor becoming rich. All resolved to spend quickly and enjoy themselves, since they began to look at their lives and their wealth as things which wouldn't last. Honor no longer existed, and planning for the future vanished, since it was so uncertain that anyone would survive to reach a goal. Instead, immediate pleasure and everything assisting it came to be considered both honorable and useful.

The fear of the gods or of the laws of men could no longer restrain anyone. As for the gods, all Athenians judged that it was the same whether they worshipped them or not, since they saw that religious and pious people died as frequently as those who were irreligious and impious. And as for the laws of men, no one took those seriously, since no one expected to live long enough to be brought to trial for his crimes. Instead, all Athenians felt that a far heavier sentence had already been passed on them, and hung over their heads. And they all believed that before this sentence fell, it was only reasonable to enjoy life a little.

Thucydides' *The Peloponnesian Wars: The Plague at Athens* Questions

Directions: Please answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. This is considered a primary source. Why?
2. How does it benefit us as historians to read such a detailed description of the plague by Thucydides?
3. What happened to birds that preyed on human bodies during the plague?
4. Thucydides wrote that, "As the disaster went beyond all bounds, men no longer had any idea what was to become of them. Therefore, they became completely careless about everything..." What did Thucydides mean when he wrote these words?
5. Why was there a decline in the belief of Greek gods and goddesses at this time?

Melian Dialogue activity

As you watch the re-enactment of *The Melian Dialogue* in class, list 2 arguments (reasons) that the Athenians give for why they believe the Melians should submit (surrender) to them, and 3 arguments (reasons) that the Melians give for why Athens should let them maintain their independence.

Athenian arguments:

Melian arguments:

History Alive! The Ancient World

Investigating Biographies

Unit 5: Ancient Greece
Chapter 29: The Golden Age of Athens

In Search of a Perfect World: The Life of Plato

Philosophy was one part of Greek culture you visited in Chapter 29. You learned how Athenians liked to discuss the world around them. One of the greatest philosophers was an Athenian named Socrates. You read how he taught others and how he was executed. We are able to learn a lot about Socrates through his student, Plato.

Plato made many of his own contributions to philosophy. Below is a biography of Plato. In it, you will read about his life experiences as well as his major contributions to philosophy and science. As you read, think about how his life experiences influenced his beliefs.

Plato was born to a family of aristocrats around 427 b.c.e. His father was supposedly descended from the early kings of Athens. Plato took an interest in politics as a young man. As he learned more about Athenian democracy, Plato was increasingly disappointed in this type of government. He became a student of Socrates so he could learn to think more critically about his world.

Plato witnessed the death of his teacher Socrates. Plato kept his mentor's teaching alive by recording his conversations with Athenians from memory. At the age of 40, Plato became a teacher himself by opening a school. Plato's school, the Academy, taught many subjects. Students learned about astronomy, biology, mathematics, political theory, and philosophy. Plato hoped to train young Athenians to be competent statesmen. The Academy's most famous student was Aristotle, who became another great philosopher. Plato's school remained open long past his death, until 529 c.e.

Plato wrote many works about his beliefs. One of the most well known is *The Republic*. It is one of the earliest and most influential books on political theory. In it, Plato presented a plan for the ideal society and government. Plato disliked Athenian democracy. It was the leaders of the Athenian democracy that had sentenced his teacher to die for seeking truth and wisdom. Plato preferred Sparta's model of government. In Sparta, the needs of the state (country) were put above the individual. Serving the government was more important than achieving personal goals. Plato believed that too much personal freedom led to disorder and chaos. Athens was a primary example of this disorder.

Plato wanted only the most intelligent and best-educated citizens to participate in government. He divided people into three classes: workers to produce life's necessities, soldiers to defend the people, and specially trained leaders to govern the state (country). The specially trained leaders would be an elite class that included both men and women. The wisest of all would be a philosopher-king with

ultimate authority. The philosopher-king would be well educated to make decisions for the good of all the people. Plato tried to create a philosopher-king as a real life experiment. In 361 b.c.e, he tutored the new ruler of Syracuse, Dionysius the Younger. Plato's experiment did not work. His student never became the philosopher-king that Plato envisioned.

Plato made contributions beyond political philosophy. He wrote about mathematics, science, and art. It was Plato who believed that astronomy should be viewed as a science. He thought that observing the sky should be more than just stargazing. Instead, astronomers should try to apply mathematical theories in order to understand the universe. Plato said that the planets do not randomly wander through the sky, but move in a circular pattern. This type of thinking used geometry. Plato's beliefs paved the way for other astronomers to make significant discoveries about the workings of the universe.

Plato's beliefs continue to influence even modern thinkers. Many students of politics and government still read his book, *The Republic*. Plato died in 347 b.c.e. at the age of 80.

History Alive! The Ancient World, Investigating Biographies



Plato liked the idea of a philosopher-king. Based on this idea and on those described in Plato's biography, do you think that people would really be better off under philosopher-kings? Why or why not?
