

An Introduction to Greek Geography, Mythology, & Theater



Name:

Test Date:

Textbook:

Chapter 25- “Geography and Early Settlement of Greece”

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<https://www.timemaps.com/history/europe-200bc/>

Name:

Time Maps

Europe 500 BCE

Hover over "yellow" area in the east and click on the Globe Icon. At the bottom of the page, set the timeline to 500 BCE. Examine map and read paragraph below entitled, "What is happening in Greece and the Balkans in 500 BCE. Based on the reading and the map, answer the following questions:

1. How did city-states develop in this region?
2. What are the advantages of the geographic locations of the Greek city-states (noted with black dots)?
3. What lies directly across the Aegean Sea to the east of mainland Greece?
4. What form of modern government first developed in the city-state of Athens?

At the bottom of the page, set the timeline to 200 BCE.

5. What new power has developed to the west of Greece along the coast of the Mediterranean?
6. What replaced the city-states of Greece?

Indo-European Languages Family Tree

Go to the following website (click the link on your teacher's website, copy/paste the URL from this document, or type the address in your browser's navigator bar):

<http://mentalfloss.com/sites/default/files/196.jpg>

Most of the languages spoken today in Europe, Asia, and the Americas evolved from an ancient language called "Proto-Indo-European" (which nobody speaks and is only somewhat understood today). The relationship between these languages can be seen on the "Family Tree", which has a two-part trunk (Indo-Iranian and European), many large branches and ever more smaller, "sub-branches".

In the image, the size of the black branches represents the number of native speakers of each language family in the year zero, and the size of the blue leaves represents the number of speakers of each language today.

Study the image, and answer the questions below in the space provided.

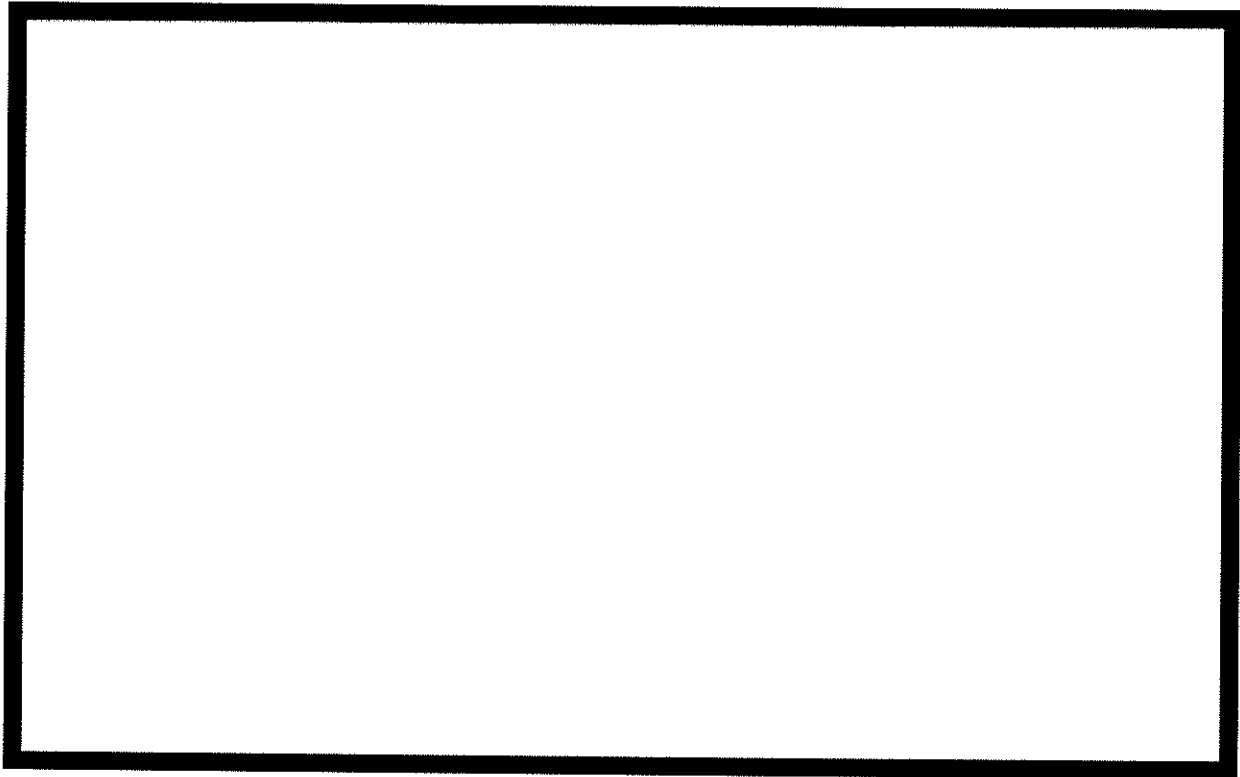
1. What are the eight European branches of the Indo-European Language Family Tree?
2. Which two of these are the largest branches?
3. The Romans spoke Latin, from which all of the Romance languages evolved. What are the four largest Romance languages?
4. Which three European branches led to only one language? Why do you think this might be the case?

Name:

Date:

Herodotus' Worldview

In the rectangle below, please sketch the world according to how you visualize it. This is meant to be simply a sketch, and does not require great detail.



Examine Herodotus' map of the world circa 500 BCE. In the chart below, list three places he mapped correctly and 3 inaccuracies.

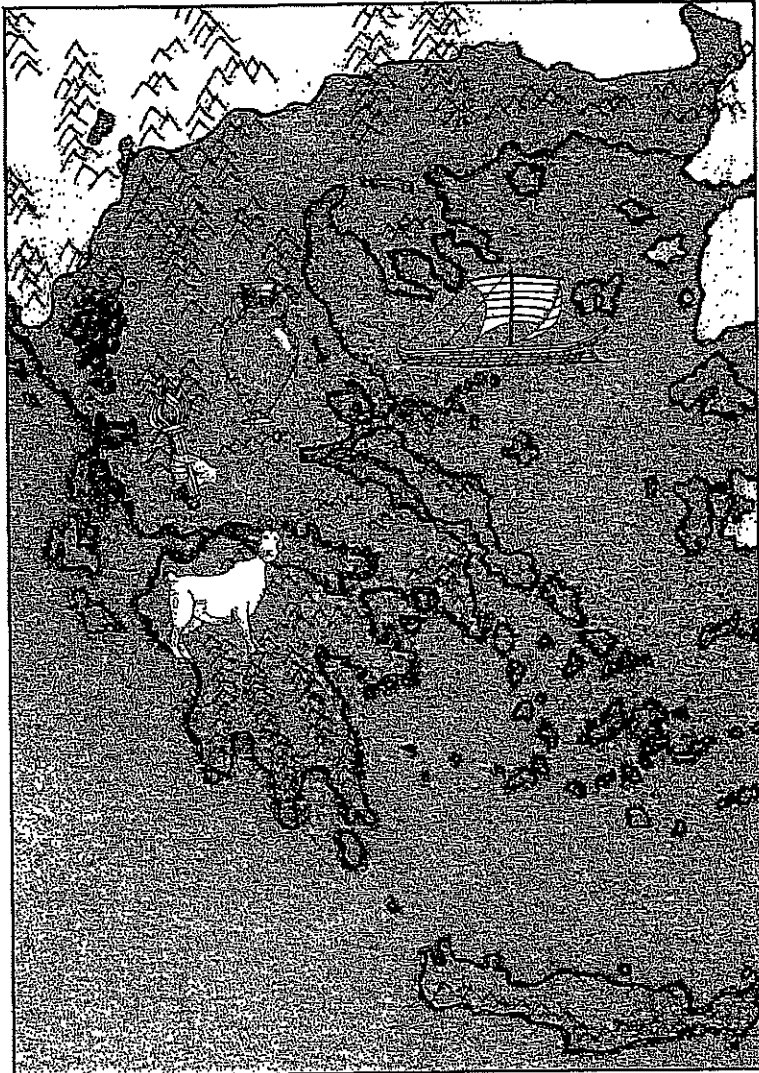
Accurate	Inaccurate



READING NOTES 25

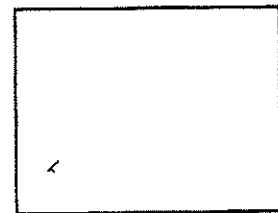
25.1 Introduction

1. What are the mountains in Greece like?
2. Why was the sea important to the ancient Greeks?



25.2 Isolated Communities and the Difficulties of Travel

1. Why were ancient Greek communities isolated from one another?
2. What were some of the dangers of travel?
3. Draw the icon from the map that represents isolation and travel.





25.3 Farming in Ancient Greece

1. List three crops Greek farmers grew and three animals they raised.

3. Draw the two icons from the map that represent farming.

2. Why did Greek settlements often fight one another?

25.4 Starting Colonies

1. Why did the Greeks start colonies?

3. Draw the icon from the map that represents starting colonies.

2. Describe the steps the Greeks followed when they started a new colony.

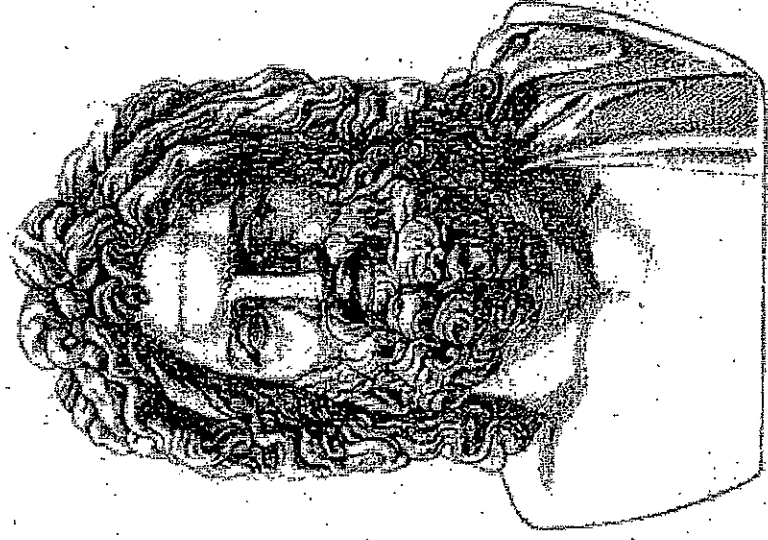
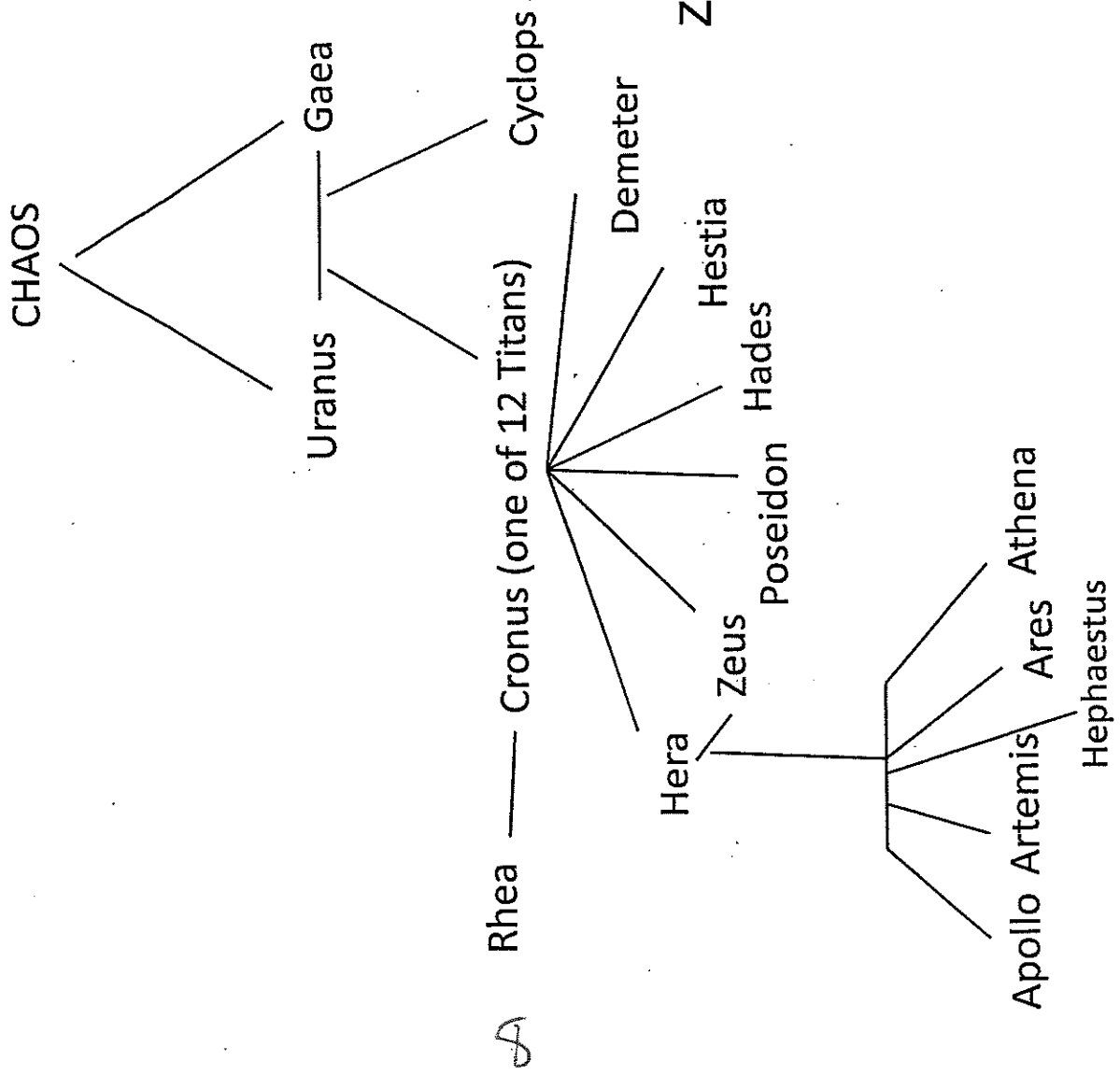
25.5 Trading for Needed Goods

1. Why did some Greek settlements trade?

3. Draw the icon from the map that represents trading.

2. What products from the Greek mainland were traded? What products did the Greeks get in exchange?

"Family Tree"



Zeus

Drama Festival to Honor Dionysus

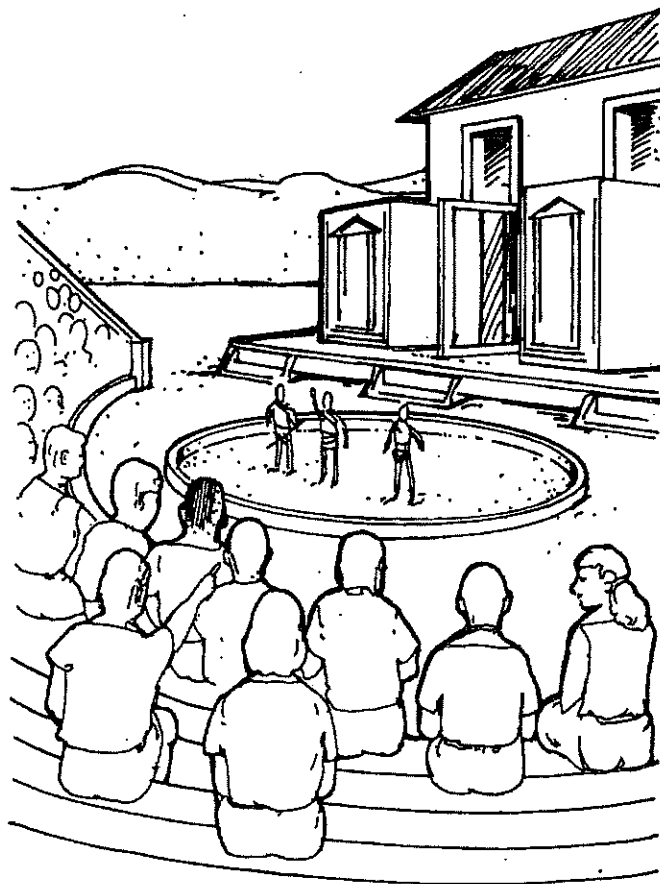
One of the greatest contributions of the Ancient Greeks to Western culture was their invention of drama and the theater. The word “drama” means “to act or do.” Like most Greek rituals these dramas were part of religious festivals. By the 6th century B.C. the worship of one deity in particular, Dionysus, the God of Wine and Fertility, became the prominent focus of these drama festivals. Athenians were expected to thank Dionysus for his gifts with celebrations that included dancing, wild music, and speaking.

For years Greek drama did not fit our modern image of theater. In 534 B.C., Thespis, a native of Attica, changed the drama’s structure. He added an actor who spoke, in addition to the chorus historically used in plays. “Actor” means “to lead” in Greek. Now there was dialogue on stage, and this opened up possibilities for further changes over the centuries. Modern-day actors call themselves “thespians” after this famous Greek playwright.

By the time of Pericles and the Golden Age of Athens, Greek drama had become the most popular form of entertainment. Ancient Greece produced some of the greatest playwrights in Western civilization. Their masterpieces of tragedy and comedy still touch us today as they did when they were first performed. What Athenians watched and heard in their open-air theaters was more than just entertainment. The plays were usually a lesson in public education and dealt with issues important to Greek people—power, justice, morality, war, and peace, and man’s relationship with the gods, family, and the city-state.

Sisyphus and Marsyas two Greek children looked forward to the spring and the Festival to Dionysus, when Athens would become more crowded than ever as visitors came from far and near. The Agora teemed with interesting people from all over the Greek world recounting tales of faraway places and people. The guest rooms of their farmhouse were filled with relatives and guests who had journeyed long just to attend the festival. The highlight of the week would be the drama competition in which plays would continue for four days. Playwrights presented their best works for the judging. Families took a holiday from work and school to enjoy the theater fest.

Each day of the festival the family arose early to prepare for the day-long theater event. Marsyas and her mother baked fresh loaves of bread and packed large containers of food for the day. Sisyphus and his father filled jugs with wine and water to quench their thirst as they sat long hours in the open and sunshine. They also made sure they had plenty of cushions for the family to sit upon, since the wooden seats of the theater were quite hard.



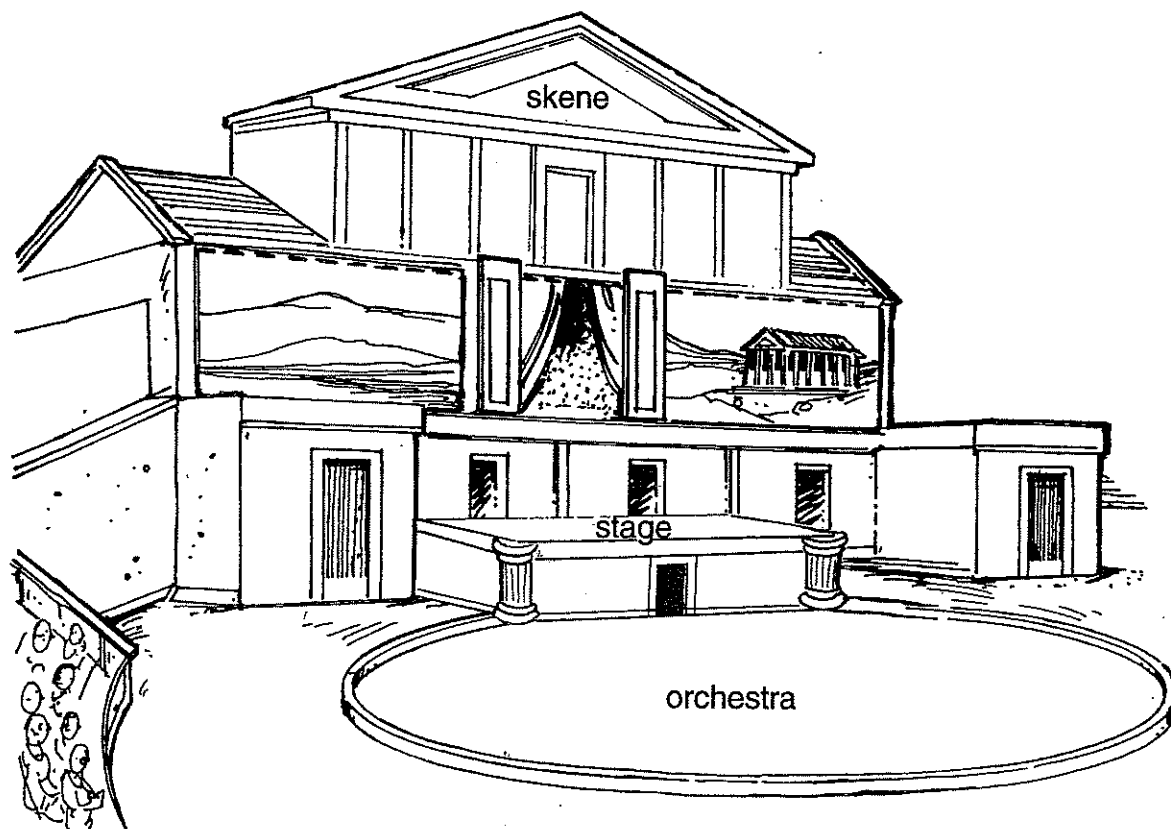
Drama Festival to Honor Dionysus (cont.)

The family left the farm for the city before daybreak. When they arrived it was already crowded. They made their way to the Acropolis, where the theater was. The children were excited and looked forward to seeing friends and other relatives there. A block of seats was reserved for each family tribe, so they knew where to go once they entered the great open-air theater. Sisyphus and his family bought tickets that gave them access to the better seats. Athenians too poor to afford tickets were allowed in free. No one was denied access to the theater.

The noise outside the theater was deafening. As friends and family members greeted each other and children ran around excitedly, actors and playwrights tried to convince them to vote for their play. Marsyas always became quite breathless when she entered the theater, and she held tightly to her mother's hand. Rows and rows of wooden seats rose high on both sides of the entrance, creating a tunnel effect.

What a sight they beheld as the audience took their seats and fell silent for the opening procession. Priests entered the theater, carrying a statue of Dionysus. They crossed the floor of the theater. This was the orchestra, or dancing ground. This is where the chorus performed. They walked to an altar in the center of the orchestra. Sacrifices were offered, then the altar was moved up to the stage. Now the plays could begin! A flute player led the chorus of 15 men wearing brightly colored costumes into the orchestra. Throughout the play the chorus chanted, danced, clowned, and interacted with the actors as they told the story. The chorus acted much like modern narrators today. The actors came out onto the stage from a *skene*, a small wooden building that looked like a temple or palace. Most of the action of the drama would take place at the front of the stage.

Many of the great Greek plays are still being performed in theaters like this.

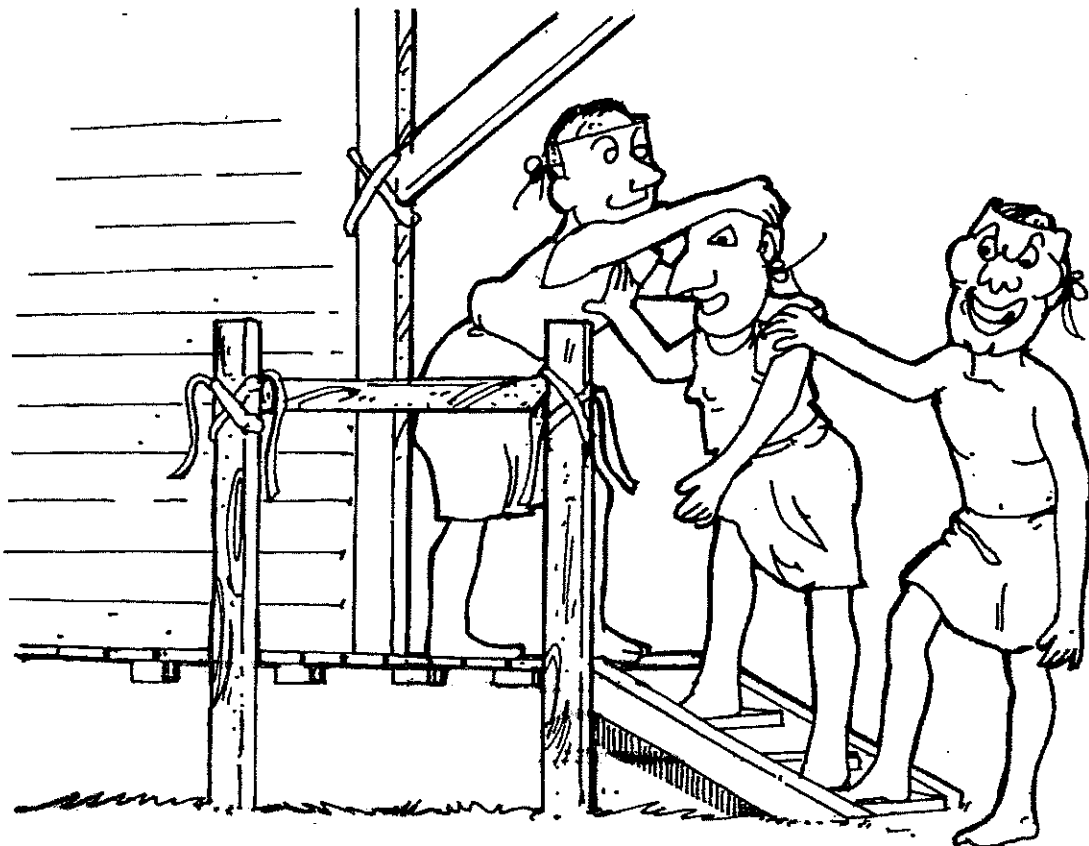


Drama Festival to Honor Dionysus *(cont.)*

Soon the chorus introduced the first play. Sisyphus knew the story well—most plays were about well-known heroes, legends, and myths. What he really looked forward to was how each playwright interpreted the story, how the actors performed their roles, and the special effects used to enhance the production. Sisyphus and Marsyas were wide-eyed as a crane carrying the main actor in a golden chariot made it appear he was were flying through the sky to land on the stage.

In all Greek plays, a handful of male actors played all the roles. Since there was little time to change costumes, actors only changed large masks that showed their emotions, such as fear, hate, love, laughter, and compassion. The actors also wore thick-soled shoes, wigs, and extra padding to alter their shapes and sizes. After the first play was over the audience enjoyed refreshments and waited for the next performance. Children grew sleepy in the heat and often dozed off during the grown-up and more serious sections of the drama. However, everyone tried to be awake for the final performance, a comedy. At the end of this busy day filled with laughter and merriment, families made their way home and travelers went to their lodgings to rest up for the next day of dramas.

The drama competitions usually presented three comedies and three tragedies. Prizes were awarded to the writers of the best tragedy and best comedy. The winning playwrights were crowned with wreaths of olive branches. Going to the theater back then was much like going to the opera or a musical today, with singing and dancing by the chorus in between scenes, but the atmosphere was very different. As with the Olympic Games, this competition was a festive and rowdy event. The audience was almost as interesting to watch as the play itself. They would hiss, groan, shout, and clap to show how they felt about what was happening. Some kicked the benches and seats to show displeasure. In return sometimes actors would throw nuts into the crowd as a bribe for their silence.



"Drama Festival to Honor Dionysus" Questions

1. Why are modern day actors sometimes known as "thespians"?
2. What were some of the issues that ancient Greek plays would deal with?
3. How was it true that Greek drama festivals were open to all social classes?
4. What would happen before the plays began?
5. How would actors convey their emotions?
6. What were the two main types of plays performed at drama festivals?
What do you think the difference was?

Greek Mythology Play Performance Rubric

Group members:

	1	2	3	4
Dramatic Voice & Projection				
Mask Design				
Group Cooperation				

Total score: /12

Teacher comments: