

Year 6 General Studies

Ancient Greece

The Parthenon

A resplendent marble temple built between 447 and 432 B.C. during the height of the ancient Greek Empire. Dedicated to the Greek goddess Athena, the Parthenon sits high atop a compound of temples known as the Acropolis of Athens. Throughout the centuries, the Parthenon withstood earthquakes, fire, wars, explosions and looting yet remains, although battered, a powerful symbol of Ancient Greece and Athenian culture.

A shrine within the Parthenon housed an extraordinary statue of Athena, known as Athena Parthenos, which was sculpted by Phidias. It depicted a fully-armed woman wearing a goatskin shield known as an aegis. She held a six-foot tall statue of the Greek goddess Nike in her right hand and a shield in her left hand that illustrated various battle scenes.

Olympic Games

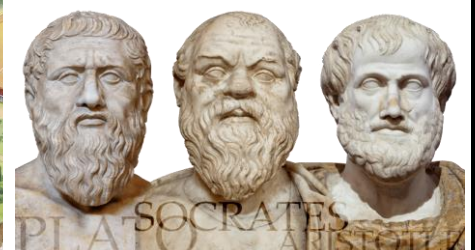
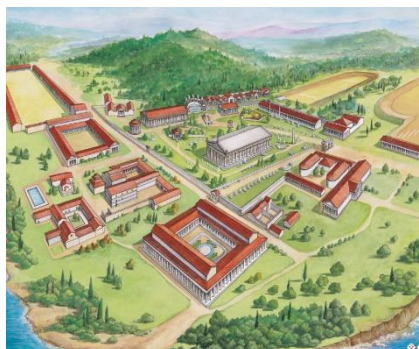
The ancient Olympic Games were a sporting event held every four years at the sacred site of Olympia, in the western Peloponnese, in honour of Zeus, the supreme god of Greek religion. Involving participants and spectators from all over Greece and even beyond, the Games were the most important cultural event in ancient Greece and were held from 776 BCE to 393 CE, a run of 293 consecutive Olympiads.

The Games were initially a one-day event until 684 BC, when they were extended to three days. In the 5th century B.C., they were extended again to cover five days. The ancient Games included running, long jump, shot put, javelin, boxing, pankration and equestrian events.

Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle

The Big Three in Greek Philosophy. Much of Western philosophy finds its basis in the thoughts and teachings of Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle. You can't begin a study of world philosophy without talking about them. One of the most unique and wonderful of Greek inventions was philosophy. Philosophy was the special way Greeks attempted to make sense out of the world, in a non-religious way. This means that rather than using myths and stories to understand the world, they would use their intelligence and reasoning skills.

“Philo-” means love, and “-sophia” means wisdom, so the word “philosophy” really means “the love of wisdom.” Basically, philosophy is thinking about the world and making sense out of it.



Ancient Greece

Questions

1. Who was the Parthenon dedicated to?

2. The ancient Olympic Games were initially a one-day event.

True / False

3. List three of the original Olympic sports.

4. Approximately how old is the Parthenon?

5. Much of Western philosophy finds its basis in the thoughts and teachings of Socrates, Plato, and Anthony.

True / False

6. What does the word philosophy in Greek translate to?
