WHI.5 Ancient Greece- Part 4

**The Golden Age of Athens**

Following the Persian War, Athens experienced a period of growth and prosperity known as the Golden Age of Athens.

The leader of Athens at this time was a man named Pericles.

Pericles rebuilt the city following its destruction during the Persian War

Rebuilt many of Athens’ most famous buildings, including the Parthenon

Extended democracy so most Athenian males could participate in government

During the Golden Age of Athens the city experienced growth in philosophy, science, medicine, architecture, literature, history, and art.

Because this all happened under Pericles’ leadership, sometimes the time period is called the Golden Age of Pericles.

**The Parthenon**

A temple dedicated to the patron Goddess of Athens, Athena, the Parthenon was destroyed during the invasion of Athens during the Persian War

Following the victory against Persia, Pericles ordered the rebuilding of the Parthenon

**Columns**

Greek architecture is renowned for its use of large, stately columns in construction.

There are three types of columns typically used in Greek architecture, Doric (found at the Parthenon), Ionic, and Corinthian

**Doric** (Draw one to the right)

Doric columns are the most simple, and found on the Parthenon

They are simply squared off at the top.

**Ionic** (Draw one to the right)

Ionic columns are topped with something resembling circular scrolls

**Corinthian** (Draw one to the right)

Corinthian columns are most elaborate types of columns, adorned with leaves and scrolls

**Greek Literature**

One of the greatest writers of ancient history was a Greek poet named Homer

Homer’s two works, which influenced western literature, are The Iliad and The Odyssey

**Homer’s Works**

The Iliad

The story of the Greek war against the Trojans, which included the Trojan Horse

The Odyssey

The hero Odysseus takes 10 years to return home after the Trojan War

**Contributions to Western Civilization from Greek History**

**Drama**

The Greeks built the first theatres in the west

Productions valued pride in the city-state, and paid tribute to the Gods

Colorful costumes, masks, and sets were used to dramatize stories about leadership, justice, and the duties owed to the Gods

Two types of drama: Comedy and Tragedy

**Dramatists**

Aeschylus

-His drama Oresteia showed how the wrath of the gods could bring misfortune to even powerful families.

Sophocles

-His play Antigone showed how moral duty and duty to the gods could conflict with the laws of the state.

-Also wrote Oedipus

**History**

Herodotus

-Father of History

-Wrote about the Persian Wars

-Stressed Research

Thucydides

-Described the Peloponnesian War

-Avoided bias

**Sculpture**

Phidias

Greek sculptor responsible for two major works (both originals lost to history)

-Athena Parthenons (statue of Athena inside the Parthenon)

-Zeus at Olympia

**Science**

Hippocrates

-Father of medicine, set up ethical standards for doctors still followed today, the Hippocratic Oath

Archimedes

-Mathematical Physics, invented pulley, lever, water lifts for irrigation, and pi.

**Mathematics**

Euclid

-Father of Geometry

Pythagoras

-Pythagorean theorem (geometry)- to calculate the relationship between the sides of a triangle

**Philosophy**

**Socrates**

-Sometimes called the Father of Philosophy

-Said, “the unexamined life is not worth living.”

-Encouraged people to question themselves, how they spend their lives, and their moral character- system called the Socratic Method

-Wanted to force people to think of their values and actions

**Plato**

-Student of Socrates

-Wrote a book called, The Republic, about how to create the perfect society and government. It wouldn’t be a democracy, but would be the person with the greatest intellect would rule as a noble philosopher- king

**Aristotle**

-Most famous of Plato’s students

-Wrote books on astronomy, physics, politics, art, biology

-Created Scientific Method, rules for conducting experiments in science

-Created a school in Athens that became model for the modern university

-Tutored Alexander the Great

**School of Athens**

Painting by Italian artist Raphael

Shows all the talent living within Athens at same time

**End of the Good Times**

Throughout the Golden Age of Athens, Athens and Sparta were locked in a cold war, each side not trusting the other and organizing alliances to defend themselves from each other.

Eventually, war broke out between Athens and Sparta, and their associated allies- turning all of Greece into a warzone

**Peloponnesian War**

War for Greek dominance broke out between Sparta, and the Peloponnesian League, and Athens, and Delian League in 431 B.C., during the Golden Age of Pericles

This war is called the Peloponnesian War

During the war, a plague broke out in Athens and killed thousands, including Pericles, which weakened Athens

After years of fighting Athens and its allies surrendered in 404 BC thus ending Athenian dominance of Greece

This resulted in the slowing of cultural advances and the weakening of political power.

**Results of the Peloponnesian War**

Athens remained the cultural center of Greece, but cultural advances slowed

Greece was weakened because of the Peloponnesian Wars.

Macedonia takes advantage of their weakened defenses and conquers Greece.

**Philip II of Macedonia**

To the north of Greece is the mountainous country of Macedonia

The king of Macedonia, Philip II, watched the Greeks engage in a civil war, the Peloponnesian War, which resulted in all of Greece becoming weakened

After the war was over, Philip was easily able to invade Greece and take the territory over, expanding his empire.

Upon his assassination, Philip left his empire to his son, Alexander.

**Alexander the Great**

Alexander, the son of Philip II of Macedonia, was educated in Greece by Aristotle.

When he inherited his father’s empire, Alexander was well positioned to run Greece, as he himself was brought up in the Greek tradition, knowing their language, philosophy, science, and art.

Alexander takes his empire and expands it into one of the greatest of all time, from Greece to Egypt to India

**The Hellenistic Age**

As Alexander was himself educated in Greece, he was well versed in Hellenistic culture.

As Alexander expanded his empire around the world, he ushered in the Hellenistic Age.

Greek culture spread around the world as Alexander conquered, and commerce took place.