

Document 1:

The Acropolis

The Acropolis is the ancient fortified part of Athens that contains the Parthenon and other notable buildings, mostly dating from the 5th century BC. It is situated on a hill of average height that rises in the basin of Athens. Its overall dimensions are approximately 170 by 350m. The hill is rocky and steep on all sides except for the western side, and has an extensive, nearly flat top. Strong fortification walls have surrounded the summit of the Acropolis for more than 3,300 years.

In the 5th century BC, the Athenians, empowered from their victory over the Persians, carried out an ambitious building program under the leadership of the great statesman Pericles, comprising a large number of monuments including the Parthenon, the Erechtheion, the Propylaea and the temple of Athena Nike.

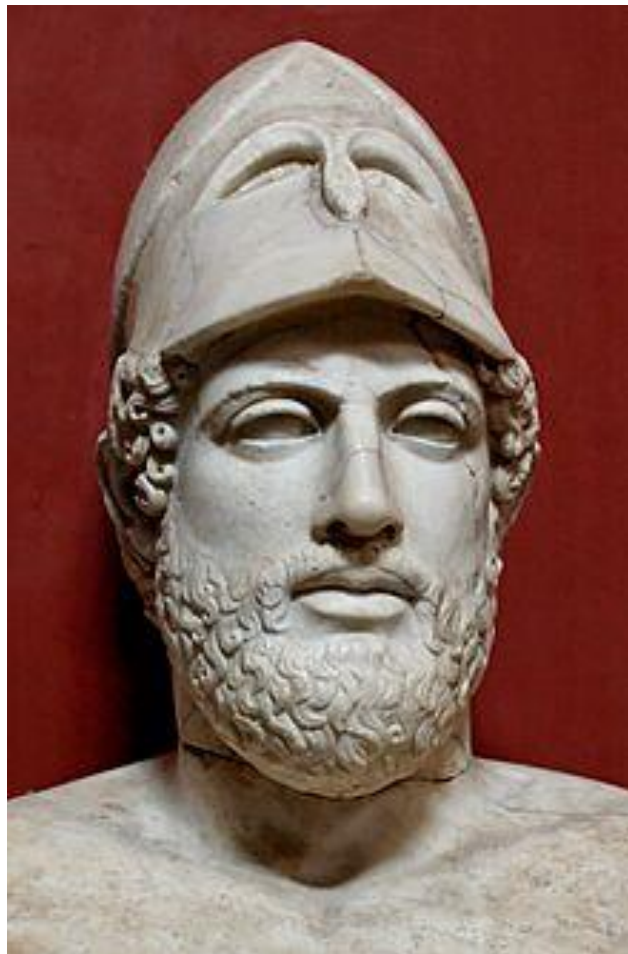
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Document 2:

Pericles

The golden age of Athenian culture flourished (succeeded) under the leadership of Pericles (495-429 B.C.), a brilliant general, orator, patron of the arts and politician—"the first citizen" of democratic Athens, according to the historian Thucydides. Pericles transformed his city's alliances into an empire and graced its Acropolis with the famous Parthenon. His policies and strategies also set the stage for the devastating Peloponnesian War, which would embroil all Greece in the decades following his death.



Document 3:

PERICLES' FUNERAL ORATION

“Let me say that our system of government does not copy the institutions of our neighbors. It is more the case of our being a model to others than of our imitating anyone else. Our constitution is called a democracy because power is in the hands not of a minority but of the whole people. When it is a question of settling private disputes, everyone is equal before the law; when it is a question of putting one person before another in positions of public responsibility, what counts is not membership of a particular class, but the actual ability which the man possesses. No one, so long as he has it in him to be of service to the state, is kept in political obscurity because of poverty. And, just as our political life is free and open, so is our day-to-day life in our relations with each other. We do not get into a state with our next-door neighbor if he enjoys himself in his own way, nor do we give him the kind of black looks which, though they do no real harm, still do hurt people’s feelings. We are free and tolerant in our private lives; but in public affairs we keep to the law. This is because it commands our deep respect.”

- THUCYDIDES (c. 470–c. 400 BC)



Document 4:

The Parthenon

The magnificent temple on the Acropolis of Athens, known as the Parthenon, was built between 447 and 432 BCE in the Age of Pericles, and it was dedicated to the city's patron deity Athena. The temple was constructed to house the new cult statue of the goddess by Pheidias and to proclaim to the world the success of Athens as leader of the coalition of Greek forces which had defeated the invading Persian armies of Darius and Xerxes.

The project to build a new temple to replace the damaged buildings of the acropolis following the Persian attack on the city in 480 BCE was started by Pericles and funded by surplus from the war treasury of the Delian League, a political alliance of Greek city-states that had formed together to repel the threat of Persian invasion.

Pentelic marble from the nearby Mt. Pentelicus was used for the building, and never before had so much marble (22,000 tons) been used in a Greek temple. Pentelic marble was known for its pure white appearance and fine grain.

- <http://www.ancient.eu/parthenon/>



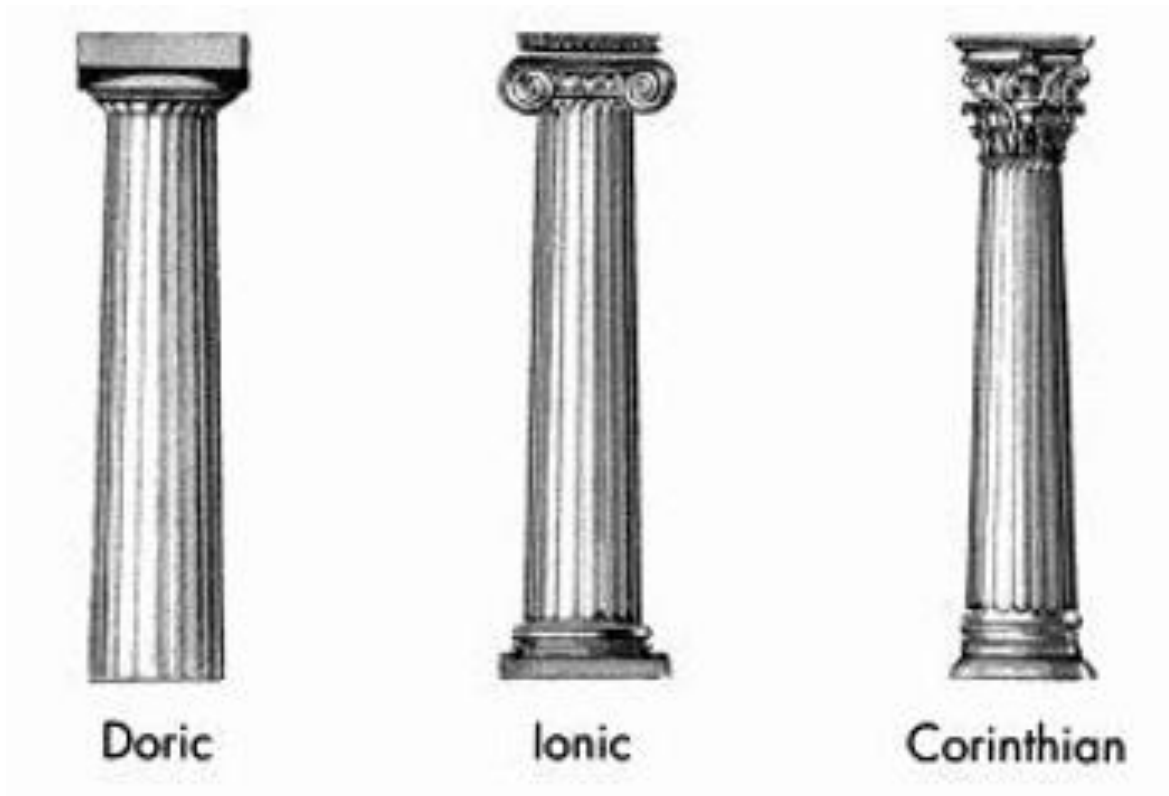
Document 5:

Types of Greek Columns

Doric Columns - One of the three main styles of Greek architecture. The Doric column is heavy and fluted; its capital is plain.

Ionic Columns - The next order to be developed by the Greeks was the Ionic. It is called Ionic because it developed in the Ionian islands in the 6th century B.C. The Ionic was used for smaller buildings and interiors. It's easy to recognize because of the two scrolls, called volutes, on its capital.

Corinthian Columns - It is named after the city of Corinth, where sculptor Callimachus supposedly invented it by at the end of the 5th century B.C. after he spotted a goblet surrounded by leaves. The Corinthian is similar to the Ionic order in its base, column, and entablature, but its capital is far more ornate, carved with two tiers of curly acanthus leaves.



Document 6:

Greek Sculpture

Greek temples were decorated with sculpted carvings, and a statues of the deity stood inside the building. One famous sculptor was Pheidias, who made the statue of Athena entirely out of gold and ivory. Nothing of this statue remains, but descriptions exist in literature and from Roman copies. Most temple statues, however, were made of marble or bronze. Female and male statues of gods, heroes and Olympic victors also decorated many of the houses and public buildings or lined the streets. The statues were life-sized figures sculpted either from marble or cast in bronze. Detail was stressed and natural movement and appearance were emphasized. Sculptors began to make statues more true to life, and with more feeling in their faces and their movements. Instead of all being standing straight up and looking sacred and peaceful, now statues began to do things: drive a chariot, carry something, throw a spear, or ride a horse. They have emotional expressions.

Greek and Roman Civilizations



Document 7:

Greek Theater

Drama, an important contribution to western civilization, was invented by the Greeks. In a public performance, only three actors played the various characters in a play. Masks were used to distinguish one character from another. Essential to all the plays was the chorus. The chorus was a group of performers who danced and sang at intervals throughout the play.

Tragedies

Greek tragedy was a popular and influential form of drama performed in theatres across ancient Greece from the late 6th century BCE. In tragedies, the subject matter dealt mostly with mythological stories, although some plays were based on historical events. The themes of the stories consisted of disasters, bloody revenge or the suffering of the human conscience.

Comedies

Ancient Greek comedy was a popular and influential form of theatre performed across ancient Greece from the 6th century BCE. The comedies dealt with the ridiculing (making fun) of political or social issues at hand.



Amphitheater

The building in which the plays were held was the theater. The Greek theater was a semi-circular structure, usually built on the slope of a hill.



Document 8:

The Olympics

In 776 B.C.E, about three thousand years ago, the first Olympic Games took place. Originally, the games were part of a religious festival to honor Zeus. He was the god of the sky and the leader of the Greek gods who lived on Mount Olympus, the highest mountain in Greece.

At the beginning, the games were just short foot races designed to keep Greek men fit for the intensity of war. The path for the foot races was about 700 feet long and straight. It was also wide enough for twenty men to run side by side. Only men who spoke Greek were allowed to take part in the races.

Men ran the races without any clothes on. Gradually, other events were added but there were no team sports like in the modern Olympics. Also, there were no medals like the gold, silver, and bronze medals we have today. There was only one winner and he was given a wreath of olive leaves as a prize.

The games were held once every four years in August. Over time other events were added. Horse races, chariot races, boxing, and wrestling were all popular events in addition to the foot races. There was also a special event that consisted of five different sports activities: wrestling, running, the long jump, disc throwing, and spear throwing.

At the height of the games over 20,000-40,000 people attended. The Olympics were so important to Greek culture that the city-states stopped all their battles and observed a special truce for a full month before the games started. During this time, men could train for the events and participants could travel to the games without fear.



Document 9:

SOCRATES, PLATO, AND ARISTOTLE: THE BIG THREE IN GREEK PHILOSOPHY

Socrates:

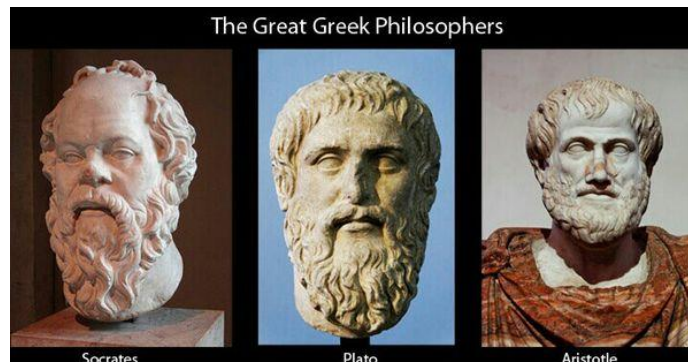
Socrates didn't write books; he just liked to ask probing and sometimes humiliating questions, which gave rise to the famous Socratic Method of Teaching. Accused and convicted of corrupting the youth, his only real crime was embarrassing and irritating a number of important people. His punishment was death.

Plato:

Plato became an enthusiastic and talented student of Socrates and wrote famous dialogues featuring his teacher verbally grappling with opponents. Plato believed in the pre-existence and immortality of the soul, holding that life is nothing more than the imprisonment of the soul in a body. In addition to the physical world, there is a heavenly realm of greater reality consisting in Forms, Ideals, or Ideas (such as Equality, Justice, Humanity, and so on). The Academy was a school of philosophy established by Plato in ancient Athens, named after a legendary Greek hero, Hecademus. The Academy continued in operation for several hundred years.

Aristotle:

Aristotle was Plato's best student. He went on to become the very well-paid tutor of Alexander the Great — probably the highest paid philosopher in history. Aristotle started his own philosophical school when he was 50 years old. A key theme in Aristotle's thought is that happiness is the goal of life. The founder of logical theory, Aristotle believed that the greatest human endeavor is the use of reason in theoretical activity. One of his best known ideas was his conception of "The Golden Mean" — "avoid extremes," the counsel of moderation in all things.



Athens vs. Sparta

	<u>Athens</u>	<u>Sparta</u>
Government	Democracy – power of the many	Oligarchy – power of the few
Military	Strongest Navy	Strongest Army
Education	Boys could focus on arts, politics and sciences and pursue own interests	Boys starting at age 7 - military training, strength and obedience
Women	Dependent on men and families. Did chores. Seen not heard.	More freedom. Could own property.
Economy	Sea Traders – wealthy off of contacts with outside world	Agricultural – farmers. Had to import all metals.
Peloponnesian War 431-404BC	Lost Conflict – Pericles died. Athens destroyed.	Won conflict



Name: _____

Date: _____

The Age of Pericles

The Golden Age of Athens

Directions: Use the documents spread around the room in order to answer the questions with your partner.

- 1) 1 What is the Acropolis?

- 2) 1 Why did the Athenians Begin building new temples on the acropolis in the 5th century?

- 3) 2 Who was Pericles?

- 4) 2 What was one way that Pericles helped Athens? What was one way that his policies hurt Athens?

- 5) 3 According to Pericles, what type of government did Athens have? Who held power?

- 6) 3 What are three other positive features of democracy according to Pericles?

- 7) 4 Who was Athens's patron deity and why was the Parthenon constructed?

- 8) 4 How did Pericles pay for the Parthenon and what was the building made out of?

- 9) 4 How many columns does the Parthenon have on its side? How many columns in front?

- 10) 5 What is the difference between Ionic and Corinthian columns?

11) 5 based on the descriptions and images in documents 4 and 5, what type of columns did the Parthenon have? Why did you reach this conclusion?

12) 6 Where are two places that Greeks would put statues?

13) 6 What are 3 features of Greek sculpture?

14) 7 What are the differences in subject matter between Greek tragedies and Greek comedies?

15) 7 What was the Chorus and what is an amphitheater?

16) 8 Name two ways that the Olympics changed over time.

17) 8 How did city-states help support the Olympics?

18) 9 What was the Socratic Method? What was Socrates accused of and what was the sentence?

19) 9 What did Plato write? What was the Academy?

20) 9 What are two teachings of Aristotle? Who was his most famous student?

21) 10 What do you think are the three biggest differences between Athens and Sparta? Why?

22) 10 What was the outcome of the Peloponnesian War?

23) **ON YOUR OWN**: Why can we call the *Age of Pericles* the *Golden Age of Athens*?