

Chapter Summary

Greek Civilization

Lesson 1 *Greek Culture*

- The Greeks all believed in the same gods, goddesses, and myths. The 12 most important gods lived on Mount Olympus. Zeus was the chief god, and each Greek city-state had a god or goddess as its protector.
- To find out the future, Greeks visited sacred shrines where a priest or priestess, called an oracle, offered prophecies.
- The poet Homer composed epics, which are poems about brave heroes.
- Aesop's fables feature animals as the main characters and teach a lesson.
- The first dramas were written in the fifth century B.C. by Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides, and Aristophanes.
- Works of Greek art and architecture expressed ideals of moderation, balance, and harmony. This is known as classical style.

Lesson 2 *The Greek Mind*

- In ancient Greece, philosophers developed a new body of knowledge called philosophy. The Sophists rejected the idea of absolute right or wrong.
- Socrates developed a way of teaching through asking questions, referred to as the Socratic method, and encouraged students to think for themselves. He was accused of corrupting the youth by encouraging them to rebel. He was sentenced to death and died by drinking poison.
- Plato, Socrates' most famous student, distrusted democracy and believed in rule by philosopher kings. He started a school called the Academy.
- Aristotle followed in Plato's footsteps and wrote more than 200 works on science, biology, astronomy, government, and politics. His ideas influenced the way Europeans and Americans created their systems of government.
- Herodotus and Thucydides were two Greek historians.
- Ancient Greek scientists included Thales, an astronomer, Pythagoras, a mathematician who developed the

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Pythagorean theorem, and Hippocrates, the father of medicine. Hippocrates wrote a list of rules for doctors to follow, known today as the Hippocratic Oath.

Lesson 3 *Alexander's Empire*

- King Philip II of Macedonia, a small kingdom north of Greece, created a strong army. He planned to unite the Greek city-states and destroy the Persian Empire. He conquered most of Greece by 338 B.C.
- Before Philip could carry out his plans, he was killed. His son Alexander became king and commander of the military forces. Over the next 12 years, Alexander conquered the Persian Empire and Egypt and went as far east as northwest India.
- When his tired soldiers refused to go on, Alexander led them home. They crossed a desert where heat and thirst killed thousands. Shortly after arriving home, Alexander died of wounds and fever at age 32.
- Alexander, known as Alexander the Great, extended Greek rule. He also spread Greek language and culture throughout southwest Asia and Egypt.
- Alexander's achievements marked the beginning of the Hellenistic Era. During this period of time, Greek, or Hellenistic, culture spread to all his conquered lands.
- After Alexander's death, his generals fought. They divided his empire into four kingdoms: Macedonia, Pergamum, Egypt, and the Seleucid Empire.
- The Hellenistic kings built new cities. They brought Greek artists, engineers, artisans, writers, and architects to these new cities.

Lesson 4 *Hellenistic Culture*

- The Hellenistic kings built new cities and remodeled old cities. They modeled their cities after Athens and other Greek cultural centers.
- Two Hellenistic writers were Appolonius, who wrote the epic poem *Argonautica*, and Theocritus, who wrote nature poems.

Chapter Summary *Cont.*

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- Greek New Comedy developed in Athens, which remained the center of Greek theater. The playwright Menander served as its most important poet.
- Epicurus founded a way of life that emphasized happiness and pleasure. This is called Epicureanism. Zeno founded Stoicism, which promoted reason over emotion.
- Aristarchus discovered that Earth circled the sun. Eratosthenes concluded that Earth was round and measured its circumference.
- In mathematics, Euclid wrote *Elements*, which describes plane geometry. The most famous Hellenistic scientist was Archimedes. He worked on solid geometry, discovered pi, and invented machinery and weapons.
- The four Hellenistic kingdoms could not work together. Meanwhile, the city-state of Rome grew into a major power. Gradually, Rome took control of Greece.