

# Ancient Greece Learning Outcomes

## Geography

- **Ancient Greece** was located in southeast Europe along the Mediterranean Sea.
- Three major seas, Mediterranean, Aegean and Ionian, provided **harbors** for the ancient Greek.
- Greece has over 2,000 **islands**; the island of Crete is the largest.
- An **isthmus** connects the Peloponnesus and Balkan Peninsula.
- Mountains cover nearly three-fourths of Greece.
- Greek city-states developed in isolation from one another due to the geography of the region. The mountains, peninsulas, and islands forced each city to create its own identity, including government, military, and culture.



## History

- The Mycenaeans used art styles and writing first used by the Minoans; this is a form on cultural borrowing.
- The Persian Empire was one of the largest empires in the ancient world
- The Persian Wars were fought between the Persian Empire and the Greek city-states between 500 BCE and 479 BCE. The wars determined whether the city-states would remain independent or become a part of the Persian Empire.
- The Peloponnesian War ended the Golden Age of Athens.
- Athens and Sparta relied on **alliances** to fight the Peloponnesian War.



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## Government

- The mountainous geography made communication difficult within Greece, therefore, Greece was made up of many different **poleis**, or independent city-states.
- A **monarchy** is a form of government in which a single person rules; usually a king.
- An **Aristocracy** is a wealthy class of people who support a king and often have influence in government.
- An **Oligarchy** is a form of government in which a small group rules.
- A **Tyranny** is a form of government in which a ruler has taken over illegally, usually with force and support from the military.
- Sparta created a strong army because they needed to be able to control a polis that had more slaves than citizens.
- A **Democracy** is a form of government in which the people have the power to make political decisions.
- An **assembly** is a group in charge of passing laws and deciding on questions of war or peace.
- **Majority rule** is the idea that by vote or election, the wants and needs of the majority of people will determine the outcome. (Whoever has the most votes wins)
- Athens valued education of men and created the world's first democracy.

## Economics

- The mountainous terrain made trade on land nearly impossible. Because of this the ancient Greek people mostly traveled by water.
- The main exports of ancient Greece were olives and grapes.

## Culture

- The poet, Homer, wrote the epics, *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*.
- Hellenistic means "Greek-like".
- The ancient Greeks were polytheistic. They believed that the 12 major gods and goddesses, known as Olympians, lived on Mount Olympus, the highest mountain in Greece.
- An **acropolis** is a fortified hill at the center of a city-state where you may also find a temple.
- An **agora** is an open-air market at the center of the city-state.
- Greek drama included comedy and tragedy.
- The Greek language forms the basis of many English words.
- The Olympic Games began in ancient Greece as part of a religious festival.
- Greek architecture is commonly divided into three styles: Doric, Ionic, and Corinthian.
- During the classical period, the poses and facial expressions in sculptures in ancient Greece became more natural and lifelike.

## Important People

- There were three main **philosophers** in ancient Greece: Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle.
- **Socrates** used a method of teaching called the Socratic Method. He stressed the quest for human decency.
- **Plato** wrote the *Republic*, which describes his version of an ideal society and influenced many thinkers throughout history.
- **Aristotle** analyzed the process of logical thinking.
- **Phillip II** was a ruler of Macedonia, and was father to Alexander the Great.
- **Alexander the Great** conquered the Persian Empire and spread Greek ideas and culture.