

Chapter 1 Section 2

The Civilization of the Greeks

Focus Questions #2

- Identify at least three of the major contributions made by the Greek culture.
- Why is the Polis significant to Greek society?
- What are some of the major differences between Sparta and Greece? Identify at least three.
- Who are the three major philosophers and why is Greek philosophy so important?

Greek Civilization and Culture

- In the region known as the Mediterranean the Greeks developed an advanced culture.
- Their medicine, mathematics, engineering, and artwork were by far some of the most advanced examples seen for this period.
- The polis, or Greek city-state, was central to Greek life. Not only did the polis serve as a town or village, but it was the center for political, social, and religious activities. It was, in a sense, a community.

Athens and Sparta

- Athens and Sparta emerged as the most powerful city-states, and they became models for Western government.
- The concept of citizenship was developed and democracy was defined by the Greeks.

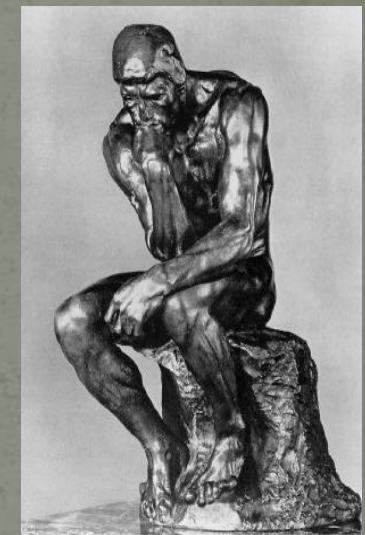
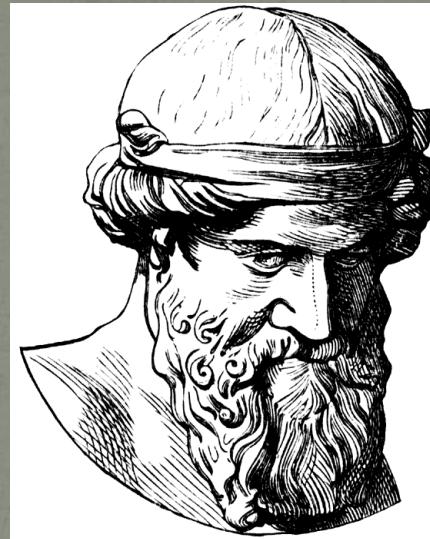


Athens vs Sparta

- Sparta
- Military driven, men lived in the service from ages 20- 30.
- Men could vote at age 30.
- Women experienced more freedoms because men lived with the barracks.
- Oligarchy government, two kings.
- Council of elders made up by citizens and the two kings.
- Conservative style of government.
- Restrictive society. Could not travel, feared foreigners, discouraged the study of art, literature, and philosophy.
- Athens
- Oligarchy with aristocrats in control.
- Democratic government in 594.
- Solon introduced reforms that improved the social and economic condition of Athens.
- Legislative Branch
- Direct Democracy; citizens voted directly on issues.

Greek philosophy

- led to the study of history, political science, science, and mathematics.
- Greek thinkers called philosophers developed ideas that are still relevant today.
- The most famous philosophers—Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle—contributed to Western society in a number of ways, including their commitment to rational inquiry.



Pythagoras

by Guy Murchie

Music of the Spheres, Volume II

The Legacy of Greece

- Greece was the principle source of Western culture.
- Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle established the foundations of Western philosophy.
- The rational method of inquiry is so important to modern science.
- Democracy introduced to citizens a strict sense of duty.
- Today America as a result has adopted some these important contributions.