

Classical Greece & The Persian Empire Reading Guide

Section 1: Cultures of the Mountains and the Sea (p. 123)

Geography Shapes Greek Life

1. What does the statement "Greeks did not live on land, but around a sea," mean about their culture and lifestyle?
2. How did Greece's rugged terrain divided by mountains influence:
Greek Political life?

Transportation?

Farming?
3. How did climate effect activity in Greece?

Mycenaean Civilization Develops

4. Mycenaean people were _____ who migrated from the Eurasian Steppes. How was Mycenae ruled?
5. What did Mycenaeans learn from contact with the Minoans?
6. What are the stories told about the Mycenaean war with Troy?

Greek Culture Declines under the Dorians

7. Why did Greek culture decline under the Dorians?
8. With no written record in Greece for 400 years, how did Homer keep the history of Greece alive?
9. What is the significance of the Greek myths?
- 10 Who are the following Greek Gods?
Zeus

Hera

Athena

Section 2: Warring City - States (p. 127)

Rule and Order in Greek City - States

11. What is a polis and how are they important in Greece?

What is an acropolis?

12. Define the following types of Greek city - state governments.

Monarchy

Aristocracy

Oligarchy

13. What is a tyrant and how did they work for the citizens of Greece?

Athens Builds a Limited Democracy

14. How does democracy differ from earlier forms of governments in Greece?

15. What reforms did Cleisthenes bring about that moved Greece toward democracy?

Sparta builds a Military State

16. How did Sparta differ from other city-states?

17. Messenians, after defeat by Sparta were forced to be Helots. What does this term mean?

18. Describe Sparta's government:

What parts of this are similar to the government of the United States?

19. What sacrifices did Spartans make to establish their military strengths?

Persian Wars

20. What caused Sparta & Athens to Unite?

21. How did the shift from bronze to iron change armies?

What is a phalanx?

22. How did the Greeks defeat the Persians & King Darius the Great in Marathon?

23. The Persian failed to defeat Greece. Describe how the things below helped contribute to that.

Pheidippides:

Thermopylae: (Xerxes)

Salamis:

24. What is the Delian League?

25. How did the Persian Wars impact Greece?

Sections 3: Democracy and Greece's Golden Age. (p. 134)

Pericles' Plan for Athens

26. How did Pericles seek to strengthen democracy?

Direct democracy:

27. How did Peloponnesus feel about Pericles attempts to strengthen the empire?

28. Describe achievements of Greece in the following under Pericles.

Art:

Architecture:

Drama:

History:

Athenians & Spartans Go to War

29. Who battled in the Peloponnesian War?

30. How did Athenians hold off the invading Spartans?

31. Who was victorious?

Philosophers Search for Truth

32. What does the term philosopher mean?

33. What were the significant teachings of the following philosophers?

Socrates

Plato

Aristotle

34. What happened to Socrates?

Sections 4: Alexander's Empire (p. 142)

Philip II Builds Macedonian Power

35. How did the Greeks view Macedonians?

36. Philip II was killed shortly after defeating Greece. How had 20-year-old Alexander the Great been prepared to lead Greece?

37. What lands was Alexander the Great able to conquer in his 13 years of reign?

Section 5: The Spread of Hellenistic Culture (p. 146)

Hellenistic Culture in Alexandria

38. How did Alexander the Great's policies affect culture throughout the reign?

What term is used to describe this phenomena?

39. The Egyptian City of _____ became the foremost center of commerce and Hellenistic Civilization.

In becoming an international community, how was the city affected?

41. What attractions is Alexandria most famous for? Why?

Science and Technology

41. Hellenistic scholars really depended on the scientific teaching of what two societies?

42. What two significant scientific discoveries did Aristarchus make?

1.

2.

How were his discoveries viewed by other people of his time?

43. What did Ptolemy put forth for astronomy? Explain the effects of his view.
44. In what areas did Eratosthenes contribute to human kind?
45. Who's word did many thinkers of the time base their mathematic thinking on?
46. What area of math did he specifically contribute to?
47. What contributions did Archimedes make?

Philosophy and Art

48. What were the ideas of stoicism (founded by _____)?
49. What are the teachings of Epicurus? What did he say was the goal of humans?
50. What is Colossus of Rhodes and why is it significant?