

ANCIENT GREECE – MSL Study Guide

1. **Physical Geography of Greece** - located on Balkan Peninsula; stretched into Mediterranean Sea; mountainous terrain
2. **How did the geography of Greece prevent a unified country of Greece?** due to the mountainous terrain; transportation and communication was extremely hard in this terrain; thus, Greece was a region made up of numerous city-states
3. **Minoans** - earliest civilization in vicinity of Greece; lived on Island of Crete; palace at Knossos is major architectural ruins; culture suddenly died out
4. **Mycenaeans** - lived on the mainland of Greece; constructed fortress city of Mycenae ; thought to be Greeks that fought at Troy; culture ended with Dark Age
5. **The Dark Ages in Greek history** - period where all advancement stopped; Dorians invaded; famine due to food shortages; political centralization vanished
6. **City -state** - the city and all the land around it that was controlled by that city; comes from word polis; early ones were built on hill tops called acropolis
7. **Identify the following as the factors that helped to unify the Greeks:** (a) common good - gave then a sense of nationality; referred to all others as Barbarians (b) sports - brought people together from different city-states to compete in Olympics which began as a way to honor Zeus (c) common enemy - would unit to defeat an enemy; caused them to stop fighting among themselves for resources
8. **Barbarians** - term used by Greeks to refer to all people who were not Greeks
9. **Greco-Persian War** - series of conflicts due to Persia wanting to defeat and control the Greeks
10. **Battle of Salamis** - naval battle between Athenian Navy and Persian Navy; Persians defeated; caused Xerxes to return to Persia leaving 1/3 of his army to fight the Greeks; the Persians were defeated
11. **Identify the following forms of government used in Ancient Greece:** (a) monarchy - rule by one; chosen king because your father was king (b) aristocracy - rule by the best; group of aristocrats believed themselves to be the best suited for ruling (c) oligarchy - rule by a few rather than one or many; king was removed by this group and a committee was formed to rule (d) tyranny - bad form of one man rule; imposed by one man that rose to power by the discontent of the the lower classes; rules for his best interest alone; promises to help the lower classes and then forgets about them after he seizes power (e) democracy - rule by the many or common people; Indirect Democracy - when elected officials represent the people; Direct Democracy - when each citizen is allowed to participate directly in the process of governing
12. **Athens** - city-state that introduced the concept of Democracy; very open society; one of the most powerful city-states
13. **Pericles** - ruler of Athens that introduced Democracy at its fullest extent during his time
14. **Sparta** - city-state that did not progress beyond Oligarchy; felt like an armed military camp; strangers were not welcomed in Sparta; military presence so strong because they feared a revolt by the Helots
15. **Identify the following Greek philosophers:** (a) Socrates - questioned what was right or what was wrong; looked for answers through logical analysis; developed Socratic Method of asking questions to

lead to students to find answers to their questions inside of themselves (b) Plato - student of Socrates; believed people could be split between three classes - workers who would produce the necessities of life, the warriors to guard the state from its enemies, and philosophers who would rule in the best interest of the people; wrote 30 or more "Dialogues" to answer fundamental questions (c) Aristotle - student of Plato; first great Greek scientist; believed analysis of data would furnish answers to all questions

16. **Greek Alphabet** - alphabet adopted from Phoenicians who created an alphabet but did not include vowel; Greeks took alphabet and added vowels
17. **Homer**: - a blind bard that wrote epic poems that used the gods and gave the qualities of a hero (a) *Iliad* - told of the Trojan War, (b) *Odyssey* - told of the return of Odysseus or Ulysses (the hero) home after the war
18. **What was the purpose of myths?** - to explain things that man had not explanation for
19. **Zeus** - head of the Greek gods
20. **Poseidon** - brother of Zeus; god of the oceans and seas
21. **Macedonia** - kingdom north of Greece; Macedonians considered themselves to be Greeks but the Greeks would not accept them
22. **Philip II** - King of Macedonia; conquered a portion of Greece; did not punish the Greeks as he wanted them to be loyal to him; poisoned so his son could become king
23. **Phalanx** - military formation of foot soldiers armed with spears and shields; trained to charge the enemy and could easily win against other foot soldiers and cavalry; one of the advantages used by the Macedonians
24. **Alexander the Great** - son of Philip II; student of Aristotle; never lost a battle; always lead from the front; conquered the known world around the Mediterranean; spread Greek culture; tried to invade India but soldiers wanted to return home; he returned to his capital of Babylon and died
25. **How did Alexander spread the Greek culture?** Greek became the language of the world; spread Greek architecture by founding 16 cities named Alexandria; most famous one in Egypt; spread Greek philosophy and alphabet
26. **What happened to Alexander's empire after his death?** it was divided between his top four generals
27. **Hellenistic Age** - 200 year period after the death of Alexander; ended with the domination of Rome