Mini Unit: Ancient and Classical Greece
Introduction to Greece – Ancient Civilization

- **Essential Question:** What is classical and what are the inherent biases and differences in the concept of Eastern vs. Western? How did belief systems change and develop from ancient times? How did human beings continue to organize themselves in a more complex manner and what made certain empires rise and fall? Why did empires develop in similar ways despite geographic isolation?

- **Objective:** Be able to outline the basis of success for Greek civilization based on analysis of geography by creating a map of ancient Greece. Be able to list and describe the accomplishments and downfalls of the early people of the Aegean through secondary source analysis, map analysis, and class discussion.
EARLY PEOPLE OF THE AEGEAN
Minoans --> Mycenaeans --> Dorians
Minoans
2000–1400 B.C.

- Crete
- Capital: Knossos
  - Advanced city
  - Peaceful = no fortifications
- Named after King Minos
  - Kept monster minotaur locked in labyrinth
    - Half-human
    - Half-bull
Excavation

- Loved nature and beautiful objects
  - Painted walls, vases, seals
- Enjoyed sports
  - Athletic, graceful people
- Women held high rank, ruled over by a mother earth goddess
- Sacrificed animals and humans
Mysterious End

- 1700 B.C. earthquake
  - Rebuilt
- 1470 B.C. Series of earthquakes
  - Violent volcanic eruption on neighboring island
  - Huge tidal wave
  - Rain of ash
  - No recovery
Mycenaean
1600–1100 B.C.

- Southern Greece
- Fortified city
  - Wall 20 ft thick
  - Withstand attacks
- Warrior king
  - Ruled surrounding villages
- Absorbed Egyptian & Mesopotamian influences
Contact with Minoans
1500 B.C.

- Trade or war
- Saw value of seaborne trade
- Adapted writing system
The Trojan War

- 1200 B.C.
  - 10 year war
- Trojan prince (Anatolia / Turkey) kidnapped Helen
  - Beautiful wife of Greek king
- Greek victory
  - Soldiers hiding in hollow wooden horse
- Downfall of Mycenaeans
  - Sea raiders attacked and burned cities
Dorians
1150–750 B.C.

- Less advanced than Mycenaeans
  - Spoke dialect of Greek
  - Economy collapsed (no trade)
  - Abandoned cities and lived in small isolated villages
  - No written record from 1150 to 750 B.C.E.
Storyteller

- Homer
  - Blind man
  - Little known
- **750–700 B.C. Created epics**
  - Narrative poems celebrating heroic deeds
- **Iliad and Odyssey**
  - Trojan war
  - Greek heroic ideal: Arête
  - Heroes = warriors
  - Virtue and excellence
    - Achilles
    - Hector of Troy
Introduction to Classical Greece – Forms of Government and City-States
Persian Wars
1. Greeks had long settled in Ionia on the coast of Anatolia (Turkey)
2. In 546 B.C. Persians conquered the area, took farmlands and harbors,
   - Conquered people forced to pay tribute and serve in the Persian Army
3. Greeks revolted with the help of the Athenians who left after the initial success
4. Persians defeated Ionians and enslaved much of the population but also sought revenge on Athens
1. In 490 B.C. Darius wanted to conquer mainland of Greece
2. 25,000 Persians landed at Marathon, northeast of Athens
3. Change in technology during the Dorian Age:
   - Bronze → Iron → More people could afford to join the military
   - footsoldiers called Hoplites
4. 10,000 Greeks are vastly outnumbered but arranged in phalanxes
5. Athenians won the battle at Marathon but city was defenseless
6. Pheidippides → chosen by army to run to relay message “Rejoice, we conquer” to city of Athens of victory & to defend the city
   - ...Ran 26.2 miles and then died
7. Persians discovered Athens was well defended and retreated
1. 480 B.C. Darius’ son Xerxes organized a massive invasion of Greece
2. Greeks were badly divided
3. Greeks chose to fight in a narrow mountain pass
4. 7,000 Greeks blocked the Persians way through for 3 days, traitor gave secret pass to Persians
5. 300 Spartans held the pass so rest of Greeks could retreat→ all killed
   - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AufhHUFEqPM
1. Athenians heard of Thermopylae and debated how to best defend their city
2. Athenians decided to evacuate and fight at sea
3. Choose to position fleet near island of Salamis in a narrow channel
4. Xerxes destroyed Athens and then sent warships to Salamis
   - Large ships struggled in the narrow channel

6. Smaller Greek ships battered Persian ships, outmaneuvered them and destroyed 1/3 the fleet

http://app.discoveryeducation.com/player/?assetGuid=CF449101-E333-4DD4-ACCE-1C31F840AAC2&layout=standalone
1. 479 B.C. Xerxes left troops in Greece to attack in the springtime
2. Athens and Sparta joined forces and defeated the Persians
3. Persian Wars lasted several more years until the Greeks finally drove them from their territory
Importance of the Persian Wars

- Preserved Greek independence
- Prevented Persia from conquering the rest of Europe

- 200 Greek city states join the Delian League

- Athens became the head of the league and enters its Golden Age...

- Recorded in history by Herodotus, the first historian
  - https://app.discoveryeducation.com/learn/videos/6245c9d4-27ba-4623-a674-f1e7a7db7803?hasLocalHost=true
Closer:

- Make a prediction:
  - What will the victory of the Persians mean for the Greeks?
  - Why do you think Athens will have a “Golden Age?”
    - Why not Sparta?
DEVELOPMENT OF DEMOCRACY

- **DRACO**
  - 621 B.C. LEGAL SYSTEM
  - IDEA = EQUALITY UNDER THE LAW
    - DEATH FOR MOST CRIMES
    - DEBT SLAVERY
    - Harsh, but put laws down and into writing
SOLO

- 594 BC
- OUTLAWED DEBT SLAVERY
- 4 SOCIAL CLASSES
  - BASED ON WEALTH
  - TOP 3 HOLD OFFICE
  - ALL CITIZENS PARTICIPATE IN ASSEMBLY
- CITIZENS CAN BRING CHARGES AGAINST WRONGDOERS
CLEISTHENES

- 500 B.C.
- BROKE UP NOBLE POWER
  - ORGANIZE INTO 10 GROUPS
  - BASED ON WHERE THEY LIVE, NOT WEALTHY
- INCREASED POWER OF ASSEMBLY
  - CITIZENS COULD SUBMIT LAWS FOR DEBATE
- COUNCIL OF 500
  - PROPOSED LAWS
  - COUNSELED THE ASSEMBLY
  - CHOSEN BY RANDOM
- CREATED LIMITED DEMOCRACY
  - CITIZENSHIP RETRICTED
PERICLES

- 461 TO 429 B.C.
- LED ATHENS FOR 32 YRS
  - SKILLFUL POLITICIAN
  - INSPIRING SPEAKER
  - RESPECTED GENERAL
- PLAN FOR ATHENS
  - STRENGTHEN DEMOCRACY
  - STRENGTHEN EMPIRE
  - GLORIFY ATHENS
STRENGTHEN DEMOCRACY

• INCREASED PUBLIC OFFICIALS WITH PAID SALARIES
  – RICH AND POOR CITIZENS COULD SERVE IF ELECTED
  – MORE CITIZENS ENGAGED IN SELF-GOVERNMENT

• DIRECT DEMOCRACY
  – CITIZENS ESTABLISHED ALL GOV’T POLICIES
ATHENIAN EMPIRE

- ORGANIZE DELIAN LEAGUE
  - ATHENS DOMINATED
  - USED MONEY TO BUILD ATHENIAN NAVY
  - STRENGTHEN SAFETY
    - GAIN ACCESS OF WATERWAYS
    - NEEDED TRADE FOR GRAIN AND OTHER RAW MATERIALS
GLORIFYING ATHENS

- Used League money to beautify Athens
- Bought gold, ivory, and marble
- Paid artists, architect, and workers
  - Without League’s approval
COMPARE AND CONTRAST THE ATHENIAN DEMOCRACY TO U.S. DEMOCRACY.
PELOPONNESIAN WAR & PHILOSOPHERS SEARCH FOR TRUTH
PELOPONNESIAN WAR

• Hostility grew towards Athens
  • Delian League—wealth, prestige, power
  • War was inevitable with Sparta
• 431 B.C. Sparta declared war
  • Athens stronger navy
  • Sparta stronger army
• Sparta invade Athens
  • Pericles brings people inside the city walls
  • People → safe as ships continued to bring supplies through harbor
  • Plague destroyed city = 1/3 population dies
PELOPONNESIAN WAR: SPARTA GAINS VICTORY

- 421 B.C. Truce signed
- 415 B.C. Athenians sent fleet
  - Carried 20,000 soldiers to Sicily
  - Goal = destroy Syracuse
  - Sparta’s wealthiest ally
- 413 B.C. Athens = crushing defeat
- 404 B.C. Athenians surrendered
  - Lost empire, power, and wealth
EFFECTS OF WAR

- Athenians lose confidence in democracy
  - Seek the truth
- Philosophers
  - Meaning “lovers of wisdom”
- Two Beliefs
  - Universe is put together in an orderly way and subject to absolute laws
  - People can understand laws through logic and reason
Alexander the Great and Hellenism
Alexander was known as “The Great.” Are there other historical figures that you believe deserve this title? Why? Explain.
"Hellenistic" Greece
Macedonia

- Macedonia: Located to the north of Greece
- 359 B.C. Philip II becomes king
- Organized peasants into phalanxes
- Conquered northern opponents & then focused on Greece
Conquest of Greece

- Greek city-states weakened from Peloponnesian War
- 338 B.C. Athens & Thebes join to fight Philip II
- Battle of Chaeronea = ends Greek independence
- 336 B.C. Philip II killed at daughter’s wedding
Alexander the Great
356–323 B.C.E.

• Proclaimed himself king
• Student of Aristotle
• 334 B.C. Alexander the Great invades Persia
• Wins battle at Granicus River
• Darius III informed by the Royal Road
• Battle of Issus – Alexander almost captured Darius III
Conquering the Persian Empire

- Alexander rejects Darius III’s peace settlement
- Alexander invades Egypt = viewed as a liberator & named pharaoh
- Alexander defeats Darius III in Mesopotamia - ends Persian rule
- Captured Persepolis - Darius III killed
Alexandria, Egypt

- Egyptian city becomes center of the Hellenistic world
- Lighthouse = “Pharos” stands over 350 ft
- Museum contains art galleries, a zoo, botanical gardens, dining hall
- Library holds masterpieces of ancient literature; supports scholars, ½ million papyrus scrolls
- Scholars preserve Greek and Egyptian learning in the sciences
Conquering India

- 326 B.C. - After 11 years of fighting, Alexander reaches Indus Valley
- 323 B.C. Morale is low - decide to return home
- In Babylon, Alexander dies of a fever at the age of 32
The Breakup of Alexander’s Empire

Division of Alexander's Empire, 303 B.C.

- Kingdom of Lysimachus
- Kingdom of Cassander
- Kingdom of Antigonus
- Kingdom of Ptolemy
- Kingdom of Seleucus

Map showing the division of Alexander's Empire with key cities and regions marked.
Hellenistic Culture

- Macedonian generals fought for power and divided empire
- New culture: Hellenistic Culture
  1. Greek
  2. Egyptian
  3. Persian
  4. Indian
Realism in Sculpture

- Colossus of Rhodes – Hellenistic bronze sculpture over 100 feet tall
- Sculptors move to non-classical, natural forms; real people
Classical vs. Hellenistic Art

Nike of Samothrace
Hellenistic Philosophers

- Philosophers – concerned with how people should live their lives
- Stoicism
  - Founder Zeno
  - Live in harmony with laws God established
- Epicureanism
  - Founder Epicurus
  - Gods did not have interests in humans
  - Promoted good behavior & harmony with body and mind
Hellenism: The Arts & Sciences

- **Aristarchus**
  - Sun was 300 x larger than Earth
  - Earth revolves around sun

- **Ptolemy**
  - Incorrectly placed Earth at center of universe

- **Eratosthenes**
  - Roughly calculated Earth’s true size

- **Euclid**
  - Proofs in book *Elements* are basis for modern geometry

- **Archimedes**
  - Calculated the value of pi
  - Explain the law of a lever
The “Known” World
What are the Greek contributions to future civilizations?

*Think in particular about social norms, moral values, customs, belief systems, politics, technology, and art.*
Roots of Western Civilization

1. What is your golden rule in life? OR What is your guiding principle or moral?

2. Define the characteristics of a man or woman that you would elect into the office of Presidency.

3. If you were a doctor and your patient was suffering from a deadly disease, would you assist your patient by providing them with medicine to end their life?

4. Imagine a beloved family member (mother, father, wife, husband) was dying of a disease. A scientist invented a cure that would heal your beloved, however, he charged an extraordinary sum for the cure. You cannot afford to pay the sum. Would you steal the medicine to save the life of your beloved?

5. What pictures come to your mind with the mention of Washington, D.C.?

6. What are your memories of the Olympics?
What do you think is the *most important* root of Western Civilization from Greece?