

Chapter 1 : Top 7 Ancient Historical Sites to See in Greece - The FlipKey Blog

The history of Greece encompasses the history of the territory of the modern nation state of Greece as well as that of the Greek people and the areas they inhabited.

Visit Website Did you know? Many of the sculptures from the Parthenon are on display at the British Museum in London. They are known as the Elgin Marbles. Temple Architecture With its rectangular stone platform, front and back porches the pronaos and the opisthodomos and rows of columns, the Parthenon was a commanding example of Greek temple architecture. Typically, the people of ancient Greece did not worship inside their temples as we do today. Instead, the interior room the naos or the cella was relatively small, housing just a statue of the deity the temple was built to honor. Worshippers gathered outside, entering only to bring offerings to the statue. Visit Website The temples of classical Greece all shared the same general form: Rows of columns supporting a horizontal entablature a kind of decorative molding and a triangular roof. At each end of the roof, above the entablature, was a triangular space known as the pediment, into which sculptors squeezed elaborate scenes. On the Parthenon, for example, the pediment sculptures show the birth of Athena on one end and a battle between Athena and Poseidon on the other. So that people standing on the ground could see them, these pediment sculptures were usually painted bright colors and were arrayed on a solid blue or red background. This paint has faded with age; as a result, the pieces of classical temples that survive today appear to be made of white marble alone. Proportion and Perspective The architects of classical Greece came up with many sophisticated techniques to make their buildings look perfectly even. They crafted horizontal planes with a very slight upward U-shape and columns that were fatter in the middle than at the ends. Without these innovations, the buildings would appear to sag; with them, they looked flawless and majestic. Sculpture Not many classical statues or sculptures survive today. Stone statues broke easily, and metal ones were often melted for re-use. However, we know that sculptors such as Pheidias and Polykleitos in the 5th century and Praxiteles, Skopas and Lysippos in the 4th century had figured out how to apply the rules of anatomy and perspective to the human form just as their counterparts applied them to buildings. Earlier statues of people had looked awkward and fake, but by the classical period they looked natural, almost at ease. They even had realistic-looking facial expressions. People offered small terra cotta figurines as gifts to gods and goddesses, buried them with the dead and gave them to their children as toys. They also used clay pots, jars and vases for almost everything. Much of our knowledge of classical Greek art comes from objects made of stone and clay that have survived for thousands of years. However, we can infer that the themes we see in these works—“an emphasis on pattern and order, perspective and proportion, and man himself”—appeared as well in less-durable creations such as drawings and paintings.

Chapter 2 : List of people from Greece - Wikipedia

Famous Greek people This section provides information about Famous Greek people. There couldn't be a website referring to the history of Greece and the Greek islands without a reference to the most famous Greek people and personalities that made this small country famous all over the world with their achievements and thinking.

Javelin Throwing Ancient Greek Boxing dates back to the 8th century when it was considered as an important part of Greek athletic culture. There are numerous legends related to the birth of boxing as a game in ancient Greece. The first legend holds that the heroic ruler Theseus invented boxing. In his Illiad, the Mycenaean warriors included boxing in their competitions favourite the fallen. The competition was not divided into rounds rather it ended when one of the competitors gave up, was killed, or both were exhausted on mutual consent. Moreover, any blow with the hand was allowed except the use of hands to gouge at the eyeballs. Holding or wrestling each other was prohibited. If the fight happened to last too long due to the perseverance of the competitors, they were then allowed to exchange blows undefended for speeding up the process. They were defeated by Pelops who founded the Olympic games in honor of his victory. In the Olympic Games of ancient times, as well as the Panhellenic Games, there were both four-horse and two-horse chariot races. These were primarily held with same rules keeping aside from the number of horses. The sport was first added to the Olympics in BC. Initially, the event took place for a day and later was expanded to a two-day event. Furthermore, the sport was an important patron during the festival days. It was launched back into the second millennium BCE. It was undoubtedly considered to be one of the toughest and most dangerous games as from gouging into the eyes to strangling the other person; everything was permitted. Many Greek vases have been depicting images of the hero conquering the Nemean lion using a strong lock which is a part of the methods of Pankration fighting. It had two main phases. The first was Ano Pankration or the Upper Pankration during which contestants fought upright. The goal was to use punches, kicks, and lethal blows to knock down the opponent. Pankration gave its players liberty to develop their own style. The fighters even got nicknames according to their unique method of defeating enemies. Initially, the players fought with bare hands and naked oiled bodies. Later in the time, they thong wrappings were used to cover their hands and forearms. See Also, Top 10 inventions and discovery by Ancient Greece 4. During the ancient times the discus was made of lead, stone, iron or bronze, lead depending on the availability of the metal in the old Greece. Athletes hurled the discus in a spinning motion. Moreover, the game has not gone any severe changes, it is almost the same even today. Both the shape and the technique of throwing the discus is similar to that of the ancient times. Homer mentioned about the discus throw in his epic, Illiad. Furthermore, Myron, an ancient sculptor has preserved the game in form of a sculptor of an athlete in the motion preparing to throw a discus. Jumping Jumping is believed to have links with the ancient Greek warfare. This provided them with rapid movements during the wars. Adapted as a sport, jumping was a component of pentathlon in the ancient Olympic Games. Unlike the modern-day jumping, the athletes in Greece had stone or lead weights known as halters on their feet. The pit was 50 feet long and had a fixed point known as bater. From this point, the jumps made were measured. The jumper gained acceleration by running and swinging the weights at the same time. Power, followed by the perfect coordination of running and swinging played a major role in achieving a great jump. See Also, 10 Greek inventions and Discoveries 6. Running Running as a sport can be traced back to BC in Greece. The ancient Greeks developed their training programmes which helped people to take part in the running events organized during the Olympic games. Being a spectator to the running events was vastly enjoyed by the Greeks. Wealthy and large-hearted gentlemen even showered the winners with precious gifts. The sport unquestionably was physically challenging. There were different types of foot races having varied lengths that took place in ancient Greece. The standard distance of the races was measured in the stade where a single stadia measured approximately meters. The one-stade race was the most eminent which the legendary founder of the Olympic Games could run in one breath allegedly. Dolichos was a 20 or 24 stades long race. The races which were longer than one stade required runners to turn degrees around a post located at the two ends of the stadium. To win a wrestling match, three points were to be scored by the wrestler. A point was scored when

one of the opponents touched the ground with his hip, back or shoulder, or accepted the defeat due to a submission hold, and last but not the least was forced out of the wrestling-area. Wrestling was added as a sport in the Olympic Games during BC. The competitions were held following the elimination-tournament style under which the bout continued until one wrestler was crowned the victor. This event came under the pentathlon category. Horse Racing The horse races were quite prominent in the ancient Greece. They were an evident part of festival celebrations. It was listed under the equestrian events that took place in the Olympic games. The people who had a lavish lifestyle were able to afford the horses which later participated in the racing events. The owners irrespective of who rode the horse were given the title of the victors. This gave women an opportunity to be the winners of horse racing without actually being a participant in the event. The sport of horse racing started to lose its importance when the Roman period took over. Not everybody was capable enough to take horses at different regions of Mediterranean, and hence the horse racing in Greece started to demolish. Javelin Throwing Javelin throw was among the five events in the pentathlon in the ancient Olympics. The competition was to take place on a running track where the athletes ran a few meters and stopped before the starting point to throw the javelin to a distance as far as possible from that beginning point. The difference between the contemporary method and the old technique of throwing is that the leather loop was attached to the very spot from where the javelin was held. The athlete could have an artificially extended arm by placing one to two fingers in the loop. Moreover, the loop made the javelin to rotate over its axis which bought stability in the whole throwing process. Sports in Greece had played an important role both now and then. Originated from the warrior skills, the games in Greece became the foundation of Olympics. Games in Greece were both athletically and culturally significant. Greeks have been the most influencing civilizations. From artistic to the architectural world they have ruled like Kings. Now adding to their list, the ancient games that were introduced long back in the historical boundaries of Greece continue to exist even today.

Chapter 3 : Popular Ancient History Books

Greece is a country with a very rich history and the homeland of many famous personalities throughout centuries. This section proposes information about the history of Greece: from Stone and Bronze age to the Twentieth century, but also information about other historical facts: famous quotes, famous personalities of ancient Greece, Olympic games, flags, archaeological sites, historical.

The largest, Sparta, controlled about square miles of territory; the smallest had just a few hundred people. However, by the dawn of the Archaic period in the seventh century B. They all had economies that were based on agriculture, not trade: Also, most had overthrown their hereditary kings, or basileus, and were ruled by a small number of wealthy aristocrats. Visit Website These people monopolized political power. For example, they refused to let ordinary people serve on councils or assemblies. They also monopolized the best farmland, and some even claimed to be descended from the gods. Land was the most important source of wealth in the city-states; it was also, obviously, in finite supply. The pressure of population growth pushed many men away from their home poleis and into sparsely populated areas around Greece and the Aegean. By the end of the seventh century B. Each of these poleis was an independent city-state. In this way, the colonies of the Archaic period were different from other colonies we are familiar with: The people who lived there were not ruled by or bound to the city-states from which they came. The new poleis were self-governing and self-sufficient. The Rise of the Tyrants As time passed and their populations grew, many of these agricultural city-states began to produce consumer goods such as pottery, cloth, wine and metalwork. Trade in these goods made some people—usually not members of the old aristocracy—very wealthy. These people resented the unchecked power of the oligarchs and banded together, sometimes with the aid of heavily-armed soldiers called hoplites, to put new leaders in charge. These leaders were known as tyrants. Some tyrants turned out to be just as autocratic as the oligarchs they replaced, while others proved to be enlightened leaders. Pheidon of Argos established an orderly system of weights and measures, for instance, while Theagenes of Megara brought running water to his city. However, their rule did not last: The colonial migrations of the Archaic period had an important effect on its art and literature: Sculptors created kouros and korai, carefully proportioned human figures that served as memorials to the dead. Scientists and mathematicians made progress too: Anaximandros devised a theory of gravity; Xenophanes wrote about his discovery of fossils; and Pythagoras of Kroton discovered his famous theorem. The economic, political, technological and artistic developments of the Archaic period readied the Greek city-states for the monumental changes of the next few centuries.

Chapter 4 : Top 10 important People in Ancient Greece

Pic Credit: racedaydvl.com The famous ancient Greek physician who used to live around the age of Pericles of the classical Greece and was undoubtedly one of the earliest influential figures in the history of medicine.

Share9 Shares Ancient Greece has had an enormous amount of impact on culture in the Western world. Some of the first works of literature in the west, of which we have record, come from Greece, and although they were created at a time after older works from Mesopotamia, such epic poems as the Iliad and Odyssey have exerted wide influence over generation after generation of western thinkers. Greeks have made huge contributions to the world in various aspects, however this is most noticeable in literature, architecture, Olympic games, science, mathematics and politics. Here is a list of some of the most influential and memorable ancient Greeks. He is referred to as the father of Western medicine in recognition of his lasting contributions to the field as the founder of the Hippocratic School of Medicine. This intellectual school revolutionized medicine in ancient Greece, establishing it as a discipline distinct from other fields that it had traditionally been associated with notably theurgy and philosophy, thus establishing medicine as a profession. Many, most notably Aristotle, regard him as the first philosopher in the Greek tradition. In mathematics, Thales used geometry to solve problems, such as calculating the height of pyramids and the distance of ships from the shore. As a result, he has been hailed as the first true mathematician, and is the first known individual to whom a mathematical discovery has been attributed. Also, Thales was the first person known to have studied electricity. Phidias also designed the statues of the goddess Athena on the Athenian Acropolis, namely the Athena Parthenos, inside the Parthenon and the Athena Promachos, a colossal bronze statue of Athena which stood between it and the Propylaea, a monumental gateway that served as the entrance to the Acropolis in Athens. Prior to the Peloponnesian war, Phidias was accused of embezzling gold intended for the statue of Athena inside the Parthenon. But Solon was given his extraordinary commission by the nobles, who wanted him to eliminate the threat that the position of the nobles as a whole would be overthrown. A Sourcebook, Routledge, London, p. Solon was an Athenian statesman, lawmaker and poet. He is remembered particularly for his efforts to legislate against political, economic and moral decline in archaic Athens. His reforms failed in the short term, yet he is often credited with having laid the foundations for Athenian democracy. He was an influential pre-Socratic philosopher and pupil of Leucippus, who formulated an atomic theory for the cosmos. His exact contributions are difficult to disentangle from his mentor Leucippus, as they are often mentioned together in texts. Their speculation on atoms, taken from Leucippus, bears a passing and partial resemblance to the 19th century understanding of atomic structure that has led some to regard Democritus as more of a scientist than other Greek philosophers; however, their ideas rested on very different bases. Largely ignored in ancient Athens, Democritus was, nevertheless, well-known to his fellow northern-born philosopher Aristotle. Plato is said to have disliked him so much that he wished all his books burned. Although some of his stories were not completely accurate, he claimed that he was reporting only what had been told to him. Little is known of his personal history, since ancient records are scanty, contradictory and often fanciful. Leonidas I is notable for his leadership at the Battle of Thermopylae, which has long been the topic of cultural inspiration, as it is perhaps the most famous military last stand of all time. Although modern historians have questioned the numbers presented by Herodotus, with most at around 7,000 to 10,000 invaders, the story has resonated with authors and poets for centuries over the inspiring bravery and resolution of the Spartans. Even more, both ancient and modern writers used the Battle of Thermopylae as an example of the superior power of a volunteer army of freemen defending native soil. The sacrifice of the Spartans and the Thespians has captured the minds of many throughout the ages and has given birth to many cultural references as a result. Although few details of his life are known, he is regarded as one of the leading scientists in classical antiquity. Among his advances in physics are the foundations of hydrostatics, statics and an explanation of the principle of the lever. He is credited with designing innovative machines, including siege engines and the screw pump that bears his name. Modern experiments have tested claims that Archimedes designed machines capable of lifting attacking ships out of the water and setting ships on fire using an array of mirrors. Archimedes is generally considered to be the

greatest mathematician of antiquity, and one of the greatest of all time. He used the method of exhaustion to calculate the area under the arc of a parabola with the summation of an infinite series, and gave a remarkably accurate approximation of pi. He also defined the spiral bearing his name, formulae for the volumes of surfaces of revolution and an ingenious system for expressing very large numbers. Unlike his inventions, the mathematical writings of Archimedes were little-known in antiquity. Mathematicians from Alexandria read and quoted him, but the first comprehensive compilation was not made until c. He is often revered as a great mathematician, mystic and scientist, but he is best known for the Pythagorean theorem which bears his name. However, because legend and obfuscation cloud his work even more than with the other pre-Socratic philosophers, one can give account of his teachings to a little extent, and some have questioned whether he contributed much to mathematics and natural philosophy. Many of the accomplishments credited to Pythagoras may actually have been accomplishments of his colleagues and successors. Whether or not his disciples believed that everything was related to mathematics and that numbers were the ultimate reality is unknown. It was said that he was the first man to call himself a philosopher, or lover of wisdom and Pythagorean ideas exercised a marked influence on Plato, and through him, all of Western philosophy. Pericles promoted the arts and literature; this was a chief reason Athens holds the reputation of being the educational and cultural centre of the ancient world. He started an ambitious project that generated most of the surviving structures on the Acropolis including the Parthenon. This project beautified the city, exhibited its glory, and gave work to the people. Furthermore, Pericles fostered Athenian democracy to such an extent that critics call him a populist. The Acropolis, though in ruins, still stands and is a symbol of modern Athens. Along with his mentor, Socrates, and his student, Aristotle, Plato helped to lay the foundations of Western philosophy and science. In the famous words of A. I do not mean the systematic scheme of thought which scholars have doubtfully extracted from his writings. I allude to the wealth of general ideas scattered through them. His writings cover many subjects, including physics, metaphysics, poetry, theater, music, logic, rhetoric, linguistics, politics, government, ethics, biology and zoology. Together with Plato and Socrates, Aristotle is one of the most important founding figures in Western philosophy. In the zoological sciences, some of his observations were confirmed to be accurate only in the 19th century. His works contain the earliest known formal study of logic, which was incorporated in the late 19th century into modern formal logic. In metaphysics, Aristotelianism had a profound influence on philosophical and theological thinking in the Islamic and Jewish traditions in the Middle Ages, and it continues to influence Christian theology, especially the scholastic tradition of the Catholic Church. His ethics, though always influential, gained renewed interest with the modern advent of virtue ethics. These epics lie at the beginning of the Western canon of literature, and have had an enormous influence on the history of literature. The formative influence played by the Homeric epics in shaping Greek culture was widely recognized, and Homer was described as the teacher of Greece. The Iliad and the Odyssey reveal much about the values of the ancient Greeks. The heroes display honor, courage, and eloquence, as when Achilles rallies his troops. For almost 3, years, the epic of Homer have inspired writers and artists around the world. Credited as one of the founders of Western philosophy, he is an enigmatic figure known chiefly through the accounts of later classical writers, especially the writings of his students Plato and Xenophon, and the plays of his contemporary Aristophanes. The latter remains a commonly used tool in a wide range of discussions, and is a type of pedagogy in which a series of questions are asked not only to draw individual answers, but also to encourage fundamental insight into the issue at hand. By the age of thirty, he had created one of the largest empires of the ancient world, stretching from the Ionian Sea to the Himalayas. Alexander broke the power of Persia in a series of decisive battles, most notably the battles of Issus and Gaugamela. At that point his empire stretched from the Adriatic Sea to the Indus River. Alexander died in Babylon in BC, without executing a series of planned campaigns that would have begun with an invasion of Arabia. He founded some twenty cities that bore his name, most notably Alexandria in Egypt. Alexander became legendary as a classical hero in the mold of Achilles, and features prominently in the history and myth of Greek and non-Greek cultures. He became the measure against which military leaders compared themselves and military academies throughout the world still teach his tactics.

Chapter 5 : Popular History of Greece: Charlotte Mary Yonge: racedaydvl.com: Books

History >> Ancient Greece. Ancient Greece was one of the greatest civilizations in history. They put an emphasis on the value of the person and education. It was their people that made them great.

Proto-Greek linguistic area according to linguist Vladimir I. The Minoan civilization in Crete , which lasted from about c. Little specific information is known about the Minoans even the name Minoans is a modern appellation, derived from Minos , the legendary king of Crete , including their written system, which was recorded on the undeciphered Linear A script [6] and Cretan hieroglyphs. They were primarily a mercantile people engaged in extensive overseas trade throughout the Mediterranean region. Mycenaean Greece Mycenaean Greece, ca. Mycenaean civilization originated and evolved from the society and culture of the Early and Middle Helladic periods in mainland Greece. Mycenaean Greece is the Late Helladic Bronze Age civilization of Ancient Greece and it is the historical setting of the epics of Homer and most of Greek mythology and religion. The Mycenaean period takes its name from the archaeological site Mycenae in the northeastern Argolid , in the Peloponnesos of southern Greece. Athens , Pylos , Thebes , and Tiryns are also important Mycenaean sites. Mycenaean civilization was dominated by a warrior aristocracy. Around BC, the Mycenaeans extended their control to Crete , center of the Minoan civilization , and adopted a form of the Minoan script called Linear A to write their early form of Greek. The Mycenaeans buried their nobles in beehive tombs tholoi , large circular burial chambers with a high-vaulted roof and straight entry passage lined with stone. They often buried daggers or some other form of military equipment with the deceased. The nobility were often buried with gold masks, tiaras, armor and jeweled weapons. Mycenaeans were buried in a sitting position, and some of the nobility underwent mummification. Around " BC, the Mycenaean civilization collapsed. Numerous cities were sacked and the region entered what historians see as a " dark age ". During this period, Greece experienced a decline in population and literacy. The Greeks themselves have traditionally blamed this decline on an invasion by another wave of Greek people, the Dorians , although there is scant archaeological evidence for this view. Ancient Greece " BC [edit] Further information: Classical Anatolia and Ancient history of Cyprus "The safest general characterisation of the European philosophical tradition is that it consists of a series of footnotes to Plato. Ancient Greece refers to a period of Greek history that lasted from the Dark Ages to the end of antiquity circa AD. In common usage it refers to all Greek history before the Roman Empire , but historians use the term more precisely. Some writers include the periods of the Minoan and Mycenaean civilizations, while others argue that these civilizations were so different from later Greek cultures that they should be classed separately. Traditionally, the Ancient Greek period was taken to begin with the date of the first Olympic Games in BC, but most historians now extend the term back to about BC. The period that follows is classed as Hellenistic. Not everyone treats the Classical Greek and Hellenic periods as distinct; however, and some writers treat the Ancient Greek civilization as a continuum running until the advent of Christianity in the 3rd century AD. Ancient Greece is considered by most historians to be the foundational culture of Western civilization. Greek culture was a powerful influence in the Roman Empire , which carried a version of it to many parts of Europe. Ancient Greek civilization has been immensely influential on the language, politics, educational systems, philosophy , art and architecture of the modern world, particularly during the Renaissance in Western Europe and again during various neo-classical revivals in 18th and 19th-century Europe and the Americas. Iron Age " BC [edit] Further information: Protogeometric art The Greek Dark Ages ca. The collapse of the Mycenaean coincided with the fall of several other large empires in the near east, most notably the Hittite and the Egyptian. The cause may be attributed to an invasion of the Sea People wielding iron weapons. When the Dorians came down into Greece they also were equipped with superior iron weapons, easily dispersing the already weakened Mycenaeans. The period that follows these events is collectively known as the Greek Dark Ages. Kings ruled throughout this period until eventually they were replaced with an aristocracy, then still later, in some areas, an aristocracy within an aristocracy"an elite of the elite. Warfare shifted from a focus on cavalry to a great emphasis on infantry. Due to its cheapness of production and local availability, iron replaced bronze as the metal of choice in the

manufacturing of tools and weapons. Slowly equality grew among the different sects of people, leading to the dethronement of the various Kings and the rise of the family. At the end of this period of stagnation, the Greek civilization was engulfed in a renaissance that spread the Greek world as far as the Black Sea and Spain. Writing was relearned from the Phoenicians , eventually spreading north into Italy and the Gauls.

Chapter 6 : Ancient Greece for Kids: 25 Famous People of Ancient Greece

The Greek Cypriots' demand for enosis (union with Greece) was opposed by Turkish Cypriots, constituting a major division in the island's politics; a string of almost annual petitions demanding enosis were matched by counterpetitions and demonstrations from the Turkish Cypriots.

Few today would accept this literally. In the first book of the Iliad, the son of Zeus and Leto Apollo, line 9 is as instantly identifiable to the Greek reader by his patronymic as are the sons of Atreus Agamemnon and Menelaus, line 10. In both cases, the audience is expected to have knowledge of the myths that preceded their literary rendering. Little is known to suggest that the Greeks treated Homer, or any other source of Greek myths, as mere entertainment, whereas there are prominent Greeks from Pindar to the later Stoa for whom myths, and those from Homer in particular, are so serious as to warrant bowdlerization or allegorization. Homer, copy of a lost bust from the 2nd century from Baiae, Italy. Theogony and Works and Days The fullest and most important source of myths about the origin of the gods is the Theogony of Hesiod c. 700. The elaborate genealogies mentioned above are accompanied by folktales and etiological myths. The orthodox view treats the two poems as quite different in theme and treats the Works and Days as a theodicy a natural theology. It is possible, however, to treat the two poems as a diptych, each part dependent on the other. The Theogony declares the identities and alliances of the gods, while the Works and Days gives advice on the best way to succeed in a dangerous world, and Hesiod urges that the most reliable way is to be just. Courtesy of the Rheinisches Landesmuseum, Trier, Ger. Other literary works Fragmentary post-Homeric epics of varying date and authorship filled the gaps in the accounts of the Trojan War recorded in the Iliad and Odyssey; the so-called Homeric Hymns shorter surviving poems are the source of several important religious myths. Many of the lyric poets preserved various myths, but the odes of Pindar of Thebes flourished 6th-5th century bce are particularly rich in myth and legend. The works of the three tragedians Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides, all of the 5th century bce are remarkable for the variety of the traditions they preserve. Apollonius of Rhodes, another scholar of the 3rd century bce, preserved the fullest account of the Argonauts in search of the Golden Fleece. In the period of the Roman Empire, the Geography of Strabo 1st century bce, the Library of the pseudo-Apollodorus attributed to a 2nd-century-ce scholar, the antiquarian writings of the Greek biographer Plutarch, and the works of Pausanias, a 2nd-century-ce historian, as well as the Latin Genealogies of Hyginus, a 2nd-century-ce mythographer, have provided valuable sources in Latin of later Greek mythology. Archaeological discoveries The discovery of the Mycenaean civilization by Heinrich Schliemann, a 19th-century German amateur archaeologist, and the discovery of the Minoan civilization in Crete from which the Mycenaean ultimately derived by Sir Arthur Evans, a 20th-century English archaeologist, are essential to the 21st-century understanding of the development of myth and ritual in the Greek world. Such discoveries illuminated aspects of Minoan culture from about 2700 to 1500 bce and Mycenaean culture from about 1600 to 1100 bce; those eras were followed by a Dark Age that lasted until about 800 bce. Unfortunately, the evidence about myth and ritual at Mycenaean and Minoan sites is entirely monumental, because the Linear B script an ancient form of Greek found in both Crete and Greece was mainly used to record inventories. Geometric designs on pottery of the 8th century bce depict scenes from the Trojan cycle, as well as the adventures of Heracles. The extreme formality of the style, however, renders much of the identification difficult, and there is no inscriptional evidence accompanying the designs to assist scholars in identification and interpretation. In the succeeding Archaic c. 700-500 Heracles fighting with the Amazons, detail from a volute krater attributed to Euphronius, c. 500. Religious myths Greek religious myths are concerned with gods or heroes in their more serious aspects or are connected with ritual. They include cosmogonical tales of the genesis of the gods and the world out of Chaos, the successions of divine rulers, and the internecine struggles that culminated in the supremacy of Zeus, the ruling god of Olympus the mountain that was considered the home of the gods. The gods on Olympus: Athena, Zeus, Dionysus, Hera, and Aphrodite. Some myths about heroes and heroines also have a religious basis. The tale of creation and moral decline forms part of the myth of the Four Ages see below Myths of the ages of the world. The

subsequent destruction of humanity by flood and regeneration of humans from stones is partly based on folktale. Hence, famous events in epics, such as the Trojan War, were generally regarded as having really happened, and heroes and heroines were believed to have actually lived. Earlier sagas, such as the voyage of the Argonauts, were accepted in a similar fashion. Most Greek legends were embellished with folktales and fiction, but some certainly contain a historical substratum. Such are the tales of more than one sack of Troy, which are supported by archaeological evidence, and the labours of Heracles, which might suggest Mycenaean feudalism. Again, the legend of the Minotaur a being part human, part bull could have arisen from exaggerated accounts of bull leaping in ancient Crete. Theseus killing the Minotaur, detail of a vase painting by the Kleophrades Painter, 6th century bc; in the British Museum. Courtesy of the trustees of the British Museum In another class of legends, heinous offenses—such as attempting to rape a goddess, deceiving the gods grossly by inculcating them in crime, or assuming their prerogatives—were punished by everlasting torture in the underworld. The consequences of social crimes, such as murder or incest, were also described in legend e. Legends were also sometimes employed to justify existing political systems or to bolster territorial claims. Folktales Folktales, consisting of popular recurring themes and told for amusement, inevitably found their way into Greek myth. Such is the theme of lost persons—whether husband, wife, or child e. Journeys to the land of the dead were made by Orpheus a hero who went to Hades to restore his dead wife, Eurydice, to the realm of the living, Heracles, Odysseus, and Theseus the slayer of the Minotaur. The victory of the little man by means of cunning against impossible odds, the exploits of the superman e. The babes-in-the-woods theme of the exposure of children and their subsequent recovery is also found in Greek myth. The Greeks, however, also knew of the exposure of children as a common practice. Types of myths in Greek culture Myths of origin Myths of origin represent an attempt to render the universe comprehensible in human terms. Greek creation myths cosmogonies and views of the universe cosmologies were more systematic and specific than those of other ancient peoples. Yet their very artistry serves as an impediment to interpretation, since the Greeks embellished the myths with folktale and fiction told for its own sake. According to Hesiod, four primary divine beings first came into existence: The creative process began with the forcible separation of Gaea from her doting consort Heaven Uranus in order to allow her progeny to be born. The crudity is relieved, however, in characteristic Greek fashion, by the friendly collaboration of Uranus and Gaea, after their divorce, on a plan to save Zeus from the same Cronus, his cannibalistic sire. The Sun Helios traversed the heavens like a charioteer and sailed around the Earth in a golden bowl at night. Natural fissures were popularly regarded as entrances to the subterranean house of Hades—i. Helios in his chariot, relief sculpture excavated at Troy in ; in the National Museums in Berlin. Staatliche Museen zu Berlin—Preussischer Kulturbesitz Myths of the ages of the world From a very early period, Greek myths seem to have been open to criticism and alteration on grounds of morality or of misrepresentation of known facts. Golden, Silver, Bronze, and Iron. These races or ages are separate creations of the gods, the Golden Age belonging to the reign of Cronus and the subsequent races being the creation of Zeus. Those of the Golden Age never grew old, were free from toil, and passed their time in jollity and feasting. When they died, they became guardian spirits on Earth. After an inordinately prolonged childhood, the men of the Silver Age began to act presumptuously and neglected the gods. Consequently, Zeus hid them in the Earth, where they became spirits among the dead. Zeus next created the men of the Bronze Age, men of violence who perished by mutual destruction. At this point the poet intercalates the Age or Race of Heroes. He thereby destroys the symmetry of the myth, in the interests of history: This subjection of myth to history is not universal in Greece, but it is found in writers such as Hesiod, Xenophanes, Pindar, Aeschylus, and Plato. Of these heroes the more-favoured who were related to the gods reverted to a kind of restored Golden Age existence under the rule of Cronus forced into honourable exile by his son Zeus in the Isles of the Blessed. Hector donning his breastplate, amphora by Euthymides, c. Hirmer Fotoarchiv, Munich The final age, the antithesis of the Golden Age, was the Iron Age, during which the poet himself had the misfortune to live. But even that was not the worst, for he believed that a time would come when infants would be born old and there would be no recourse left against the universal moral decline. Elsewhere in Greek and Roman literature, the belief in successive periods or races is found with the belief that by some means, when the worst is reached, the system gradually Plato, Politikos or quickly Virgil, Fourth

Eclogue returns to the Golden Age. Hesiod may have known this version; he wishes to have been born either earlier or later. There is also a myth of progress, associated with Prometheus, god of craftsmen, but the progress is limited, for the 19th-century concept of eternal advancement is absent from Greek thought. Myths of the gods described their births, victories over monsters or rivals, love affairs, special powers, or connections with a cultic site or ritual. As these powers tended to be wide, the myths of many gods were correspondingly complex. Thus, the Homeric Hymns to Demeter, a goddess of agriculture, and to the Delian and Pythian Apollo describe how these deities came to be associated with sites at Eleusis, Delos, and Delphi, respectively. Poseidon god of the sea was unusually atavistic in that his union with Earth, and his equine adventures appear to hark back to his pre-marine status as a horse or earthquake god. Antikenabteilung, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin—Preussischer Kulturbesitz Many myths are treated as trivial and lighthearted, but this judgment rests on the suppressed premise that any divine behaviour that seems inappropriate for a major religion must have seemed absurd and fictitious to the Greeks. Dionysus; Ariadne; Eros; Greek mythology Dionysus and Ariadne with an Eros figure, fragmentary Apulian red-figure pelike, terra-cotta from Apulia, Italy, about 400 bce. Paul Getty Museum object no. Such etiological myths proliferated during the Hellenistic era, though in the earlier periods genuine examples are harder to detect. Water nymphs Naiads were reputed to drown those with whom they fell in love, such as Hylas, a companion of Heracles. Even the gentle Muses goddesses of the arts and sciences blinded their human rivals, such as the bard Thamyris. Like sea deities, silenoi possessed secret knowledge that they would reveal only under duress. Charon, the grisly ferryman of the dead, was also a popular figure of folktale. Myths of heroes Hero myths included elements from tradition, folktale, and fiction. The saga of the Argonauts, for example, is highly complex and includes elements from folktale and fiction. Even heroes like Achilles, Hector, or Diomedes are largely fictional, though doubtlessly based on legendary prototypes. The Odyssey is the prime example of the wholesale importation of folktales into epic. All the best-known Greek hero myths, such as the labours of Heracles and the adventures of Perseus, Cadmus, Pelops, or Oedipus, depend more for their interest on folktales than on legend. Coin was struck in the Roman Republic, 82 bce. Mercury is commonly identified with the Greek god Hermes. WGS Photofile Certain heroes—Heracles, the Dioscuri the twins Castor and Pollux, Amphiaras one of the Argonauts, and Hyacinthus a youth whom Apollo loved and accidentally killed—may be regarded as partly legend and partly religious myth. Thus, whereas Heracles, a man of Tiryns, may originally have been a historical character, the myth of his demise on Oeta and subsequent elevation to full divinity is closely linked with a cult. Similarly, the exploits of the Dioscuri are those of typical heroes: After their death they passed six months alternately beneath the Earth and in the world above, which suggests that their worship, like that of Persephone the daughter of Zeus and Demeter, was connected with fertility or seasonal change. Attic red-figure kylix by Epictetus showing Heracles slaying Busiris, c. Courtesy of the trustees of the British Museum Myths of seasonal renewal Certain myths, in which goddesses or heroes were temporarily incarcerated in the underworld, were allegories of seasonal renewal. Perhaps the best-known myth of this type is the one that tells how Hades Latin Pluto, the god of the underworld, carried Persephone off to be his consort, causing her mother, Demeter, the goddess of grain, to allow the earth to grow barren out of her grief. In less benign climates, she was said to spend six months of the year in each.

Chapter 7 : Ancient Greece - HISTORY

The term Ancient, or Archaic, Greece refers to the time three centuries before the classical age, between B.C. and B.C.â€”a relatively sophisticated period in world history. Archaic Greece.

For his remarkable contributions to the earliest of known medical history, which helped to shape the later medical norms and culture referred to this day, he is often regarded as the father of western medicine. He also founded the Hippocratic school of medicine, which, in due course of time, established the practice of medicine as distinct field and thus revolutionized medicine and medical practice in ancient Greece. It was his initiative that helped medicine, attain the status it has at the present time, separating it from associated practices such as philosophy and theurgy. From the earliest of descriptions of severe health conditions such as clubbed fingers also called Hippocratic fingers , lung cancer and cyanotic heart disease to the eventual professionalization of medicine, Hippocrates had a lasting impact in the field of medicine. Leonidas I Pic Credit: At a time when every single spartan citizen was built for battle, their daily routine pretty much covered up by rigorous fighting and training since early childhood â€” Leonidas was destined to glory when the Persian came knocking on the doors of ancient Greece. It was said that Leonidas, one of the sons of king Anaxandridas II of Sparta, was believed to be a descendant of Heracles more popularly known as Hercules , possessing much of his strength and capabilities. Leonidas left a notable mark on the face of history with his impressive leadership against the might of Persians in the Battle of Thermopylae. His unbelievable last stand against all odds have been passed on to generations by the writings of famous Greek historian Herodotus. Yes modern historians do put that number around , Persians, but the show of utmost bravery Leonidas and his men put up defending at the small pass of Thermopylae is used, to this very day, as a pinnacle example of how training, experience and tactical use of terrain can be used to maximize the potential of even the smallest of forces. Due to lack of earlier documentations, and the fact that most of the documents on the life of Euclid happen to have perished with time, a very little is known about his life. According to this, Euclid was an influential and active mathematician involved in the library of Alexandria, and that he lived in the time when Ptolemy I was around, which was much earlier than the era of another famous Greek â€” Archimedes. Regardless of all the confusion that still remain unresolved to this day, his contributions have had a great impact in the subsequent history of geometry and mathematics as a whole. His main work is the Elements, which gave birth to basic geometry in its concept and essence. Originally written in a set of 13 books, his famous work is used even today as a textbook in mathematics and comes second only to bible in terms of number of reprints sold. His collection of definitions, postulates, proposition and proofs created the base of mathematics that we are learning these days. But he was not just a mathematician, he was also a competent engineer, physicist, philosopher, inventor and astronomer among many more. Infact, he was one of the leading scientist who made his impact in the classical Greek era of the overall human civilization. His major contributions in science include some of the profound advances in physics. Moreover, his tactical mind along with his mechanical engineering genius helped Syracuse put on a strong offense when the Roman came knocking down their doors. His precise calculations led to remarkably accurate approximation of the value of Pi. He also defined the geometry and volumes of different shapes such as the sphere and cylinder. Pythagoras Often called the first of the Greek philosophers, Pythagoras was born in BC on the isle of Samos somewhere off the coast of present day Turkey. Legends has it that his earliest days were spent as a learning disciple under some of the greatest mathematicians and astronomers of that time. All this while, he learnt a lot of secret teachings, taught himself to play the famous lyre and he could recite those epics by Homer just from memory. Such was his influence that en route to the town of Kroton, he was joined by more than people who formed an insane cult worshipping him as an incarnation of the god Apollo Together with his cult, he went on to create dozens of mathematical and philosophical principles. They proved the Pythagorean theorem for calculating the area of a triangle. They even proposed the concept of the sun being at the center and the earth revolving around, almost years before it would be proved by the likes of Galileo and Copernicus. For obvious reasons, such activities miffed off a number of people in the-then Greece, and a group of angry mob ended his life burning him to death. Even

more astonishing is the fact that he created such powerful timestamps in the literature world more than years ago, way back somewhere between 8th and 9th century BC – though another set of thoughts say that he may have lived much earlier around 12th century BC. Since not much was documented about him at his time, the exact whereabouts about his birthplace, his era, what he was like and sometimes even his very existence still remain a mystery. But does not take away any points from his poems – the Iliad and the odyssey, for they are the symbolic roadmap to the world mythology. From the narration of the happenings in Iliad, which was a city within the state of Troy during the time of Trojan war in Iliad, to the specific focus on the ten year long journey Odysseus made from Troy to Ithaca after the end of Trojan war in Odyssey – Homer did create two classic epics that lie at the very base of western literature. These epics went on to have a massive impact and influence in the history of literature, the readers getting valuable insight about the ancient Greece. And one cannot simply miss the legend of Trojan horse and the heroics of Achilles and Hector that have inspired writers and artists around the world alike. A bonafide student of Socrates, another philosophical legend from ancient Greece, he was named Aristocles by birth, but later earned the nickname of Platon meaning broad courtesy his broad built. His family had a rich history in the Athenian politics, and Plato too, seemed headed to a life in keeping with this history. But as it happened, he could not have taken a more different yet influential way. Amid certain political crisis, most noticeably the execution of his teacher Socrates, Plato needed no more conviction to leave the virtues of Athenian politics. Together with his master Socrates, and his disciple Aristotle, Plato had already done heaps of work in laying the foundations of western philosophy and science. He then went on to found the Academy in Athens, the first of institutions for higher learning in the western world. He went to write a number of books on philosophy and lifestyle. His dialogues have been used wide range of topics like philosophy, mathematics, logic, ethics and so on. A famous Greek philosopher and polymath, he gained all his knowledge and wisdom under the mentorship of Plato and later on made the likes of Alexander the Great. When it comes to being the quintessential figure in the history of western philosophy, he had indeed surpassed his master Plato, being the first person to create a comprehensive system of western philosophy, encompassing several essential aspects and virtues. Apart from revolutionizing the concepts of morality and aesthetics, logic, science, politics and metaphysics, he was also known as avid writer who covered a number of topics on poetry, theater, music, rhetoric and many more. His views on physical science had an enormous influence on the scholarship of the middle ages, and their impact lasted as late as the age of Renaissance, where the concepts were replaced by the Newtonian physics. Some of his now popular concepts and assumptions in zoology were so far off for the science of the ancient ages and many centuries to come that those observations were proved to be accurate as late as in the 19th century. Alexander the Great Pic Credit: Born as an illegitimate child, considering the unbelievable deeds of heroics he went on to accomplish in his later life, legends were made saying he was the son of the God of Thunder Zeus himself, that he shared a bloodline with the likes of Hercules and Perseus. He was tutored under the apprenticeship of philosophical great Aristotle up to the age of 16 years. When his father Philip II of Macedon was assassinated in BC, he inherited the Macedonian throne commanding a strong kingdom and a skillful army. He started with the invasion of Persia ruled Minor Asia, and then went on with his expansion campaign for more than 10 years. Throughout his campaign, he showed his calibre as a battle hardened general who accomplished more behemoth tasks that reflected an unprecedented level of bravery and courage in thirty three years of his life, than what a number of armies could ever dream of achieving in their entire lifetime. He broke the might of Persia in a series of battles, eventually overthrowing king Darius III and bringing down the entire Persian empire to its knees. Seeking to reach out to the end of the world, he invaded as far east into Asia up to the then India, and had only to fall back because his army could not take it any more. Although he eventually died on his way back in Babylon at a young age of 33, he still remains an impeccable figure that military leader looks up to and measure their calibre against 1. This renowned classical philosopher, famous for his wisdom and knowledge, is documented majorly on accounts of subsequent writers. He is especially prominent in the writings of his many popular disciples Plato and Xenophon. As his so happened, his new philosophical views and ideas on ethics were not entertained by the then society and authority. He was eventually put on trial for two different charges – Corrupting the youths and impiety. In terms of philosophical beliefs, he was always

at odds with many of his fellow Athenians, be it morally, ethically, intellectually or even politically. Disregarding any possible retributions that he may have to face for his philosophical stand, he went on to answer all the conviction made on his philosophical beliefs. He was ultimately sentenced to death by drinking a hemlock based liquid poison which he happily drank. The ancient Greek civilization reflects the pinnacle in the beginning of philosophical, political, social, ethical and scientific advances in human societies. The people listed above have had an enormous amount of impact in the subsequent western civilization and it would not be an overstatement to say that some of them had far reaching influences beyond the western world. Be it the revolutionary philosophers like Aristotle, Socrates and Plato, or the earliest of faces in western literature, including the likes of Homer, Herodotus, Pericles and so on, the Greek influence on philosophy and literature is phenomenal. The theories proposed by Archimedes, Euclid, Pythagoras are studied to this very day – laying the foundations of modern science and mathematics. And one can never dismiss the cultural impact that Alexander brought about when he invaded nation after nation, bringing them all under the single umbrella. Needless to say, this list limited to 10 people does not do full justice to all the ancient Greeks who have had significant impact in their times and the times to come.

Chapter 8 : Top 15 Influential Ancient Greeks - Listverse

List of Greeks who were born outside modern Greece This is a list of ethnic Greeks who were born after the Declaration of the Greek War of Independence (), outside the borders of the Greek state.

Famous Greek people This section provides information about Famous Greek people. This section is dedicated to providing the biographies of the most famous Greeks ever. From the ancient till the modern times, there are many Greek people that have left their mark in various domains: You can also read about famous quotes. Alexander the Great Alexander the Great is the most famous Greek personality ever. His short life was full of adventures. Born in Pella, Macedonia, in BC, he became king at the age of After he united the Greek city-states, he launched an expedition to the East and managed to conquer the Persian Empire and extend the borders of his kingdom till India. He died a month before he turned 33, beloved as a god while he was alive and celebrated as a legend after his death. Homer the Epic Poet Homer, the famous poet of the Greek antiquity, is known all over the world for his two epic poems, the Iliad and the Odyssey. Many cities claim to be the birthplace of Homer, while it is believed that he died in Ios, the homeland of his mother. Socrates the Enigmatic Philosopher Socrates is considered today as the founder of Western philosophy. His notions of ethics, virtue and truth passed through centuries. Although we have no manuscripts of Socrates himself, his life and ideology are vividly presented in the works of Plato and Xenophon, his direct students, while some accounts are also found in Aristotle and Aristophanes. Socrates believed that the real truth is hidden in every man and all he has to do is to discover it. Because of his philosophical teachings, he was accused of corrupting the youth and was sentenced to death by the Athenian politicians. He died in prison drinking poison. Student of Socrates and teacher of Aristotle, Plato is the most vague of the classical thinkers. His theories were much innovative for his time. Plato introduced a new political system, where philosophers, as the holders of real truth and knowledge, would rule. An opponent of democracy, Plato thinks that ruling a state must not be based on persuasion but on wisdom. Giving his theories a metaphysical aspect, Plato believed that two parallel worlds exist, the real world and the world we live in, which is a reflection of the real world. Aristotle the Philosopher of Reason Aristotle, student of Socrates and Plato, is the third most famous philosopher of the Greek antiquity. He studied in the Academy of Plato, the first university of the world. On his return to Athens, he founded Lyceum, a school of philosophy and other sciences. Although only one third of his work survives today, it can be seen that he studied almost all sciences known in the ancient times. His philosophical notions survived for centuries and influenced a lot the Western culture. An inspired politician, a brave general and a persuasive orator, Pericles led his hometown to the top scale. It was under his guidance that Athens became the greatest naval power all over Greece, that the Acropolis was built and that culture was developed. Born in BC, he took part in many battles and remained leader of the town for 40 years. After his death, Athens lost his power and never managed to recover from this loss. Leonidas the legendary King of Sparta Leonidas, the legendary king of Sparta, is world famous for his act of self-sacrifice, when he and his Spartan soldiers died in the battle of Thermopylae to protect the rest of Greece from the Persian invasion, in BC. Today, the statue of Leonidas lies at the site of Thermopylae to commemorate this special event. The tomb of the king is found in Sparta, his homeland, where he was honored as a god till the Roman times. He came into power in a time when the society of Athens was facing serious social problems and his reforms were crucial for the creation of a new governmental system that would make the fate of the town, democracy. He actually gave political rights to common citizens, not only the noblemen, and enforced trade as the main economic source of the town. Although his political measures lasted for short, Solon had already set the ground for the development of the town which came with Pericles about half a century later. Developing very innovative theories and practices for his time, he combined medical observation and philosophy to cure illnesses. Hippocrates believed that the human body has the power to heal itself. He said that all is a matter of balance between the four elements of the body: People get ill in case this balance is interrupted. Archimedes the Mathematician Archimedes BC is famous as the greatest mathematician, engineer, inventor and astronomer of the ancient world, a Leonardo da Vinci of his times. He was born in the Greek colony of

Syracuse in modern Italy. However, when his manuscripts were found and translated in the Medieval times, he attracted the attention of many scientists. His most famous theory is the Principle of Archimedes, the centre of hydrostatics, according to which when an object is immersed in liquid, the amount of liquid displaced is equal to the volume of that object. Archimedes is also famous for measuring the circle. When he was born, Crete was under Venetian Occupation. At the age of 26, he moved to Italy, opened a workshop and spent several years there. In , he moved to Toledo Spain, where he stayed till his death. Regarded as a precursor of Expressionism and Cubism by modern critics, the paintings of El Greco were mostly inspired by religion. He also made many famous portraits. Nikos Kazantzakis Nikos Kazantzakis is the most translated Greek novelist of the 20th century. His work as correspondent gave him the chance to travel in most countries of the world. His book *The Last Temptation of Christ* , where Kazantzakis shares his metaphysical and existential concerns, was prohibited by the Roman Catholic Church. Following his will, his epitaph reads I hope for nothing. Constantine Cavafy the Poet Constantine Cavafy is one of the most famous Greek poets worldwide. Born in Alexandria Egypt to Greek parents, he managed to distinguish with his sensitive and liberal style of writing. His poems are inspired by philosophy, mythology and history, while he frequently expresses personal experience in his works. His work was often a base to express his homosexuality, which was a taboo for his time. The best known poem of Cavafy is *Ithaca*, a philosophical poem based on the journey back home of Ulysses. Aristotle Onassis Aristotle Onassis is probably the most famous Greek businessman and he was considered one of the richest man in the world, when he was alive. Born in Smyrna, now Izmir Turkey, to Greek parents, he left to Argentina and managed to make a vast fortune out of tobacco trade at first and then of shipping. Although his methods were not always legal, he managed to exploit his persuasive nature, acquaintances and good luck to get rich. Onassis married twice, to Athina Livanos and to Jacqueline Kennedy. He also had a long-term affair to opera diva Maria Callas. Maria Callas She is mostly called *La Divina* and she has been awarded as the greatest opera singer in the world. Maria Callas was born in in New York to Greek parents. In , her family moved to Athens and she attended music courses in the Conservatory of Athens. Soon, her teachers appreciated her warm and heavy voice. Her career reached its peak in the s and then it decreased, either from a vocal decline or because she wanted to focus on her personal life, which was marked by an unlucky marriage, a devastating affair to Greek ship owner Aristotle Onassis and loneliness.

Chapter 9 : Famous People From Greece, Famous Natives Sons - racedaydvl.com

Greece is a country rich in ancient history. Visiting Greece can be overwhelming if you don't know where to start. The culture, food, annual events, and landscapes of Greece consistently draw in visitors from around the world. There are numerous historical sites to visit, but these are the top.

Ancient Greece was one of the greatest civilizations in history. They put an emphasis on the value of the person and education. It was their people that made them great. Here are 25 of the most famous people from Ancient Greece:

He is considered by many to be the founder of Western philosophy. Plato - Student of Socrates. He wrote many dialogues using Socrates as a major character. He also founded the Academy in Athens.

Aristotle - Student of Plato. Aristotle was a philosopher and scientist. He was interested in the physical world. He was also teacher to Alexander the Great.

Greek Playwrights Aeschylus - A Greek playwright, he is considered the father of the tragedy.

Sophocles - Sophocles was probably the most popular playwright during Greek times. He won many writing competitions and is thought to have written over plays.

Euripides - The last of the great Greek tragedy writers, Euripides was unique in that he used strong women characters and intelligent slaves.

Aristophanes - A Greek playwright who wrote comedies, he is considered the father of the comedy.

Hesiod - Hesiod wrote a book that was about Greek rural life called Works and Days. This helped historians to understand what the daily life for the average Greek person was like. He also wrote Theogony, which explained a lot about Greek Mythology.

Homer - Homer was the most famous of the Greek epic poets. He wrote the epic poems the Iliad and the Odyssey.

Pindar - Pindar is considered the greatest of the nine lyric poets of Ancient Greece. He is most known today for his odes.

Sappho - One of the great lyric poets, she wrote romantic poetry that was very popular in her day.

Thucydides - A great Greek historian who was known for the exact science of his research, he wrote about the war between Athens and Sparta.

Greek Scientists Archimedes - He is considered one of the great mathematicians and scientists in history. He made many discoveries both in math and physics including many inventions.

Aristarchus - An astronomer and mathematician, Aristarchus was the first to put the sun at the center of the known universe rather than the Earth.

Euclid - The Father of Geometry, Euclid wrote a book called Elements, likely the the most famous mathematical textbook in history. Doctors still take the Hippocratic Oath today.

Pythagoras - A scientist and philosopher, he came up with the Pythagorean Theorem still used today in much of geometry.

Greek Leaders Alexander the Great - Often called the greatest military commander in history, Alexander expanded the Greek empire to its greatest size, never losing a battle.

Cleisthenes - Called the Father of Athenian Democracy, Cleisthenes helped to reform the constitution so the democracy could work for all.

Demosthenes - A great statesman, Demosthenes was considered the greatest orator speech giver of Greek times.

Draco - Famous for his Draconian law that made many offences punishable by death.

Pericles - A leader and statesman during the golden age of Greece. He helped democracy to flourish and led great building projects in Athens that still survive today.

Solon - Solon is usually credited with laying the foundations and ideas for democracy.

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