2. Classical Greece

- Classical Greece is the name given to the period of Greek history from around 500 BCE to the conquest of Greece by the Macedonian king Philip II in 338 BCE.
- This period was marked not only by a brilliant culture but also by a disastrous war among the Greeks, the Peloponnesian War.
- ...
What did the Greek city-states do to defend themselves against Persian invaders?

By 600 BCE, the Persian Empire controlled the Ionian Greek cities in western Asia Minor.

In 499 BCE, these cities tried to revolt with the help of the Athenian navy, but failed.

In 490 BCE, the Persians (under Darius) landed on the Plain of Marathon (26 miles from Athens). The outnumbered Athenian army attacked and defeated the Persians.

News of their victory was brought by a runner named Pheidippides, where he ran from Marathon to Athens, later dropping dead after speaking the words, “Rejoice! We win!”

After Darius died in 486 BCE, Xerxes could vow revenge and planned to invade Greece.

The Greeks would form a defensive league under the Spartans. The Athenians followed a policy by Themistocles and built a large navy.

Xerxes attacked in 480 BCE with about 180,000 troops and thousands of warships.

The Greeks tried to delay the Persians at Thermopylae for two days. In 479 BCE, the Greeks amassed an army and defeated Persia at Plataea. The Greeks won their war.
2. Classical Greece: The Challenge of Persia

- **490 B.C.** Athenian army wins decisive victory over Persian army.
- **480 B.C.** Greek fleet defeats Persian navy.
- **480 B.C.** Greeks defeat remaining Persian forces, ending the war.
- **480 B.C.** 7,000 Greeks, led by the Spartans, hold off 180,000 Persians for two days before falling.
2. Classical Greece: The Athenian Empire

- Why was the expansion of Athenian democracy by Pericles a turning point in history?
  - After the defeat of Persia, Athens took over leadership of the Greek world.
  - In 478 BCE, they formed a defensive alliance called the Delian League. This league would attack the Persian Empire, liberating all of the Greek states in the Aegean from Persian control.
  - In 454 BCE, by controlling the league, Athens had created an empire.
  - Between 461-429 BCE, under Pericles, Athens expanded its empire abroad while democracy flourished at home.
  - This period of classical Athenian and Greek history, which historians have called the Age of Pericles, saw the height of Athenian power and brilliance.

- ...
2. Classical Greece: The Athenian Empire
2. Classical Greece: The Age of Pericles

- By creating a direct democracy, Pericles expanded the involvement of Athenians in their government.
- Every male citizen participated directly in government decision making through mass meetings.
- Every male citizen voted on all major issues.
- Most residents of Athens were not citizens. By mid 400 BCE, the assembly consisted of 43,000 males older than 18 years old.
- They would meet every 10 days, not everyone showed up.
- They passed laws, elected public officials, and made decisions concerning war and foreign policy. Anyone could speak, but usually only respected leaders did so.
- Pericles made it possible for poor citizens to take part in public affairs and be eligible for public office.
- Athenians also devised the practice of ostracism to protect against ambitious politicians. Members of the assembly could write on a pottery fragment (ostrakon) the name of the person they considered harmful. A person named by at least 6,000 members was banned from the city for 10 years.
- Under Pericles, Athens became the center of Greek culture. He rebuilt many new temples (Parthenon) and statues. Art, architecture, and philosophy flourished. Athens was the “school of Greece.”
- ...
2. Classical Greece: Daily Life in Classical Athens

- By 400 BCE, Athens had the largest population of the Greek city-states.
  - Over 300,000 people lived there and 100,000 slaves.
  - Slavery was common in the ancient world; most people except the very poor owned at least one slave.
  - The economy was based on farming and trade. Lacked fertile land and had to import 50-80% of its grain.
  - Family was important in Greek culture, the primary function was to produce new citizens by having children.
  - Women were citizens and could only participate in religious festivals. They were expected to remain at home and if they left the house, they had to be accompanied by another person.
- Women were expected to be a good wife and bear male children - to keep the family line going.
- They were strictly controlled, could not own property, had to have a male guardian: if unmarried, a father, if married, a husband, if widowed, a son.
- Women were married at the age of 14-15, learned how to run a home, spin and weave cloth. Some learned how to read and play music.

...
2. Classical Greece: The Great Peloponnesian War

• How did Athen’s growing power lead to conflict with Sparta?
  • The Greek world divided into two main camps: The Athenian Empire (Athens and the Delian League) and Sparta and its supporters (the Peloponnesian League).
  • Athens and Sparta had different societies and both hated the other’s system.
  • Sparta and its allies feared the Athenian Empire and a series of disputes finally led to the Great Peloponnesian War in 431 BCE.
    • Both sides believed they had a winning strategy.
      • Athens planned to remain behind the city’s protective walls and receive supplies from their colonies and navy.
      • The Spartans and their allies surrounded Athens, hoping that the Athenians would send out their army to fight.
    • Pericles knew the Spartan forces could beat the Athenians in open battle. So he decided to stay behind the walls.
  • In 430 BCE a plague broke out and killed more than 1/3 of the people in the city. By 429 BCE Pericles died.
  • Despite these losses the Athenians fought for another 25 years.
  • In 405 BCE, their fleet was destroyed at Aegospotami on the Hellespont. A year later, Athens surrendered. Its walls torn down, the navy disbanded, and the empire destroyed.
  • This was weakened the major Greek states and for the next 67 years Sparta, Athens, and Thebes struggled to dominate ignoring the growing power of Macedonia to their north.
• ...
2. Classical Greece: The Great Peloponnesian War
How was Greek religion an essential part of Greek society?

- Affected every aspect of Greek life. Considered it necessary to the well-being of the state.
- Temples were dedicated to the gods and goddesses. Twelve main gods and goddesses thought to have lived on Mount Olympus: Zeus, Athena (wisdom), Apollo (sun), Artemis (moon), Ares (war), Aphrodite (love), Poseidon (sea).
- Greeks would use the oracle, a sacred shrine where the gods would reveal the future through a priest or priestess. Most famous was the oracle of Apollo at Delphi.

...
3. Classical Greek Culture: The Writing of History

- Herodotus wrote the History of the Persian Wars, often seen as the first real history in Western civilization. Its central theme is the conflict between the Greeks and the Persians, a struggle between freedom and despotism. He would travel and question many people to gather his information.
- Another great historian of the ancient world was Thucydides.
  - He was an Athenian general who fought in the Great Peloponnesian War and wrote its history. He saw war and politics caused by the activities of human beings, not gods.
  - He examined the war clearly and fairly, placing much emphasis on facts and accuracy.
  - He believed the study of history was of great value in understanding the present.
- ...
3. Classical Greek Culture: Greek Philosophy

- What were the philosophical ideas that came out of ancient Greece?
  - Review: what does philosophy mean?
    - the love of wisdom; the development of critical or rational thought about the nature of the universe.
- Sophists: were a group of traveling teachers in ancient Greece who rejected speculation. They argued that it was beyond the reach of the human mind to understand the universe, it was more important for individuals to improve themselves. They stressed the importance of rhetoric (the art of persuasive speaking for winning debates and swaying people.) This was a valuable skill in democratic Athens.
- Socrates: little is known about him, he taught many pupils, but accepted no pay. He believed that the goal of education was only to improve the individual. He used the Socratic Method of teaching using question-and-answer format. “The unexamined life is not worth living.” He also questioned authority, but after the Great War, Athenians no longer trusted open debate. He was accused of corrupting the youth of Athens by teaching them to question and think for themselves. He later died in prison.
- Plato: considered the greatest philosopher of Western civilization. He wrote a lot about the question of reality. How do we know what is real? He believed in a higher world of eternal, unchanging Forms; they make up reality, and only a trained mind (the goal of philosophy) can become aware of or understand these Forms. Eg. Treeness - perceive with our senses. He also explained his ideas about government - The Republic, he distrusted democracy. To him, individuals could not achieve a good life unless they lived a just and rational state. His just state: Top was philosopher king, next, were warriors, last rest of people - driven by desire. Also believed that men and women have the same education and equal access to all positions.
3. Classical Greek Culture: Greek Philosophy

- Aristotle:
  - Was taught by Plato for 20 years. He did not accept Plato’s theory of ideal Forms.
  - He thought that by examining individual objects (trees), we could perceive their form (treeness). He did not believe that these forms existed in a separate, higher world of reality beyond material things.
  - He thought of forms as part of things themselves - we know what treeness is by examining trees.
  - He analyzed and classified things based on observation and investigation. He defined study of logic, biology, and physics, wrote about ethics, politics, poetry, and sciences.
  - He also wanted an effective form of government and wrote Politics. He looked at over 158 states’ constitutions and found three good forms of government: monarchy, aristocracy, and constitutional government (best form for most people).
How did the Macedonians and Greeks conquer the Persian Empire?

- The Greeks viewed their northern neighbors, the Macedonians, as barbarians.
- They were a rural people organized in groups, not city-states.
- By end of 5th century BCE they emerged as a powerful kingdom.

In 359 BCE, Philip II came to power and built a powerful army and made Macedonia the chief power in the Greek world.

He admired Greek culture and wanted to unite all of Greece under Macedonia. At the battle of Chaeronea, near Thebes in 338 BCE, he crushed the Greeks.

Philip created a league with the Greek states to war against Persia. He was later assassinated and his son Alexander would take over.

Alexander the Great was 20 years old when he became king. He was motivated by desire for glory and empire but also by the desire to avenge the Persian burning of Athens in 480 BCE.
• Alexander entered Asia Minor in the spring of 334 BCE with an army of 37,000 men and 5,000 cavalry.
• Within a year he freed the Ionian Greek states and defeated a large Persian army at Issus.
• By the winter of 332 BCE, he had Syria and Egypt under his control. He would later built the city of Alexandria and is still an important city to this day.
• In 331 BCE he fought and won a battle with the Persians at Gaugamela. Soon after he controlled the rest of Persia.
• Over the next three years he would move as far as modern Pakistan. In 326 BCE, he reached India, but his soldiers refused to go any farther. He returned to Babylon, but in 323 BCE, at the age of 32, he died.
• His legacy was enormous. He extended Greek and Macedonian rule over a vast area. The creation of monarchies became part of Alexander’s political legacy. Culturally, he spread the Greek language, architecture, literature, art, religious diversity throughout parts of Asia and North Africa.
• ...
4. Alexander and the Hellenistic Era: Alexander’s Conquests

The Empire of Alexander the Great 323 B.C.

- MACEDONIA
- ASIA MINOR
- PERSIA
- EGYPT

- Extent of empire
- Alexander’s routes of conquest
- Major battle

Map showing the extent of Alexander the Great's empire and key battles and conquests.
4. Alexander and the Hellenistic Era: The Hellenistic Era

- What was the significance of Hellenistic cities as a result of Alexander's the Great's conquests?
  - He created a new age, the Hellenistic Age. The word is derived from Greek meaning “to imitate Greeks.”
  - After Alexander’s death, his empire fell apart due to Macedonian generals struggle for power.
  - In 300 BCE, four Hellenistic kingdoms emerged: Macedonia, Syria, Pergamum (Western Asia Minor), and Egypt. All would be later conquered by Rome.
- Hellenistic kings would build their cities based on the Greek homeland.
  - Alexandria would be home to poets, writers, philosophers, and scientists. The library in this city was the largest with 500,000 scrolls. It encouraged the study of literature and language.
- Advances in astronomy and mathematics: Aristarchus of Samos, developed the theory that the sun is at the center of the universe while Earth rotates around in a circular orbit. His theory was not widely accepted. :)
- Eratosthenes determined that Earth was round calculated Earth’s circumference. He was 185miles off the actually figure.
- The most famous was Archimedes, who devised the “screw,” a machine used to pump water out of mines and helped with irrigation.
- As for philosophies, Epicurus, founder of Epicureanism, believed that human beings were free to follow their own self-interests and make happiness their goal. Freedom was from emotional turmoil and worry. People had to free themselves from public activity.
- Another school of thought by Zeno was Stoicism. He thought happiness could be found only by living in harmony with the will of God. Stoics did not want to separate themselves from the world. Public service was regarded as noble. The real Stoic was a good citizen.
4. Alexander and the Hellenistic Era: The Hellenistic Era

Aristarchus' Heliocentric Universe

Aristarchus method of determining the size of the sun:

If the sun is 19 times further away than the moon from the earth, as Aristarchus thought, then the sun must be 19 times bigger than the moon. His logic is correct, but the sun is actually 390 times further from the earth than the moon.

Eratosthenes Measures the Earth

500 miles

500 mi. x 360/7.1 = 25352 mi.

Is God willing to prevent evil, but not able? Then he is not omnipotent.
Is he able, but not willing? Then he is malevolent.
Is he both able and willing? Then whence cometh evil? Is he neither able nor willing? Then why call him God?

- Epicurus

The reason why we have two ears and only one mouth is that we may listen the more and talk the less.

(Zeno of Citium)
5. What’s Due?

- Primary Source Readings - various dates
- Project: Time Travel Brochure - April 10
- Knowledge Assessment I - April 17
- Historical Research Paper (Essay I) - April 24
- Historical Portfolio - May 1