

# **Greek Rivals: Athens vs. Sparta**

# Rivals

- 2 leading city-states = Sparta & Athens  
→ very different from one another



# Sparta

- Founded by descendants of Dorian invaders (from “dark ages”)
- Located on the Peloponnesus Peninsula (southern Greece)
- Invaded neighboring city-states & enslaved people
  - Slaves were called helots
  - Slaves farmed the estates of the Spartans



# Sparta

- Spartans developed a militaristic society to keep control over the people
  - Started this after they suppressed a 30 year revolt by the helots



# A Military Society

- All life revolved around the army
  - Only healthy babies were allowed to live
  - Boys entered the military at age 7
  - Stayed in the military until age 60



# Role of Women



- Women, like men, were expected to exercise and be strong
  - Spartan women trained in gymnastics, boxing, and wrestling
  - Needed to produce healthy babies
  - Had more freedoms than other Greek women
  - Could go shopping in the marketplace, express political opinions, own property, etc. → could NOT take part in government though

# Sparta's Government

- 2 kings ruled Sparta, but had little power
  - Led the army & conducted religious services – that's it
- Assembly had most power = group of male citizens over age of 30
- Council of Elders served as Supreme Court and proposed laws to the Assembly = 28 men over age of 60

# Sparta's Government

- Sparta was behind other city-states in economics, philosophy, science, and arts
  - Rulers afraid of change; afraid of outside influence



# Athens

- Founded by descendants of Mycenaeans
- Lived on Attica peninsula (northeast of Peloponnesus)
- Named after the goddess Athena



# Athens

- Athens' citizenship included more people than Sparta's did
  - Constitution (plan of government) = said that all free, Athenian-born men were citizens, whether they owned land or not
  - Reduced friction between social classes



# Athenian Rulers

- Draco = 621 BCE
  - Issued an improved code of laws with very harsh penalties
  - Because the laws were written down, everyone knew what they were
  - *Draconian* = word that has come to mean harsh or severe



# Athenian Rulers

- Solon = 594 BCE
  - Cancelled all land debt & freed debtors from slavery
  - Placed limits on how much land a person could own
  - Promoted trade by making farmers grow cash crops
  - Required fathers to teach their sons a skill
  - Allowed all citizens to participate in the Assembly & courts of law



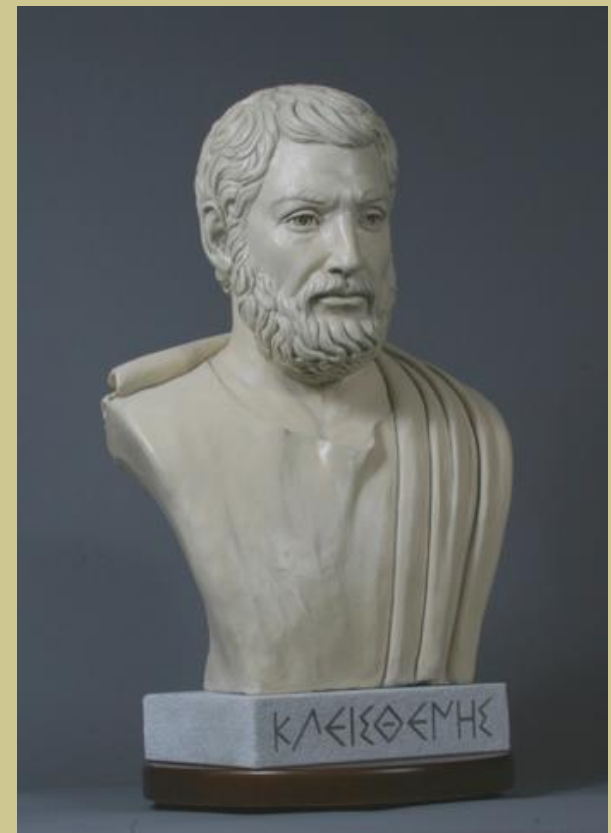
# Athenian Rulers

- Peisistratus = 546 BCE
  - Divided large estates among landless farmers
  - Helped the poor → loaned them money; gave them public works jobs



# Athenian Democracy

- Cleisthenes (ruler – 508 BCE) established democracy in Athens
- Assembly became the most powerful political body
  - Members were chosen by a lottery system – limit of 500 people
  - Open to all citizens

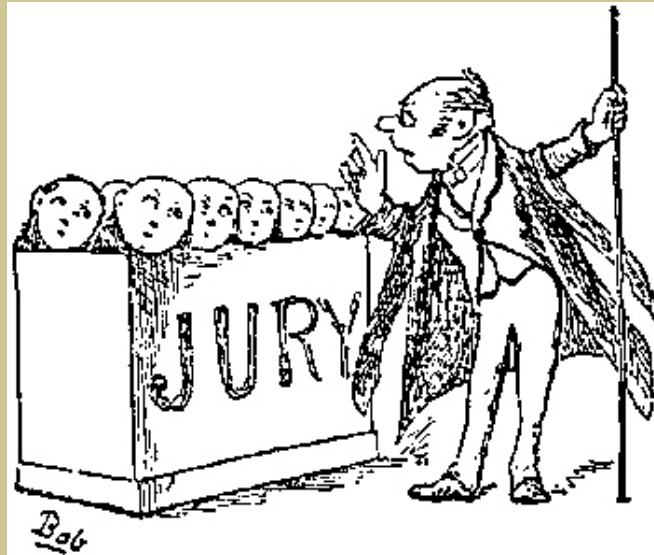


# Athenian Democracy

- Note: Citizens still only 20% of population → excluded slaves, women, and foreign-born
- Citizens considered equal before the law; granted freedom of speech

# Athenian Democracy

- Jury system established
- System of Ostracism = Athenians could get rid of undesirable politicians





# Athenian Education

- Depended on social & economic status
- Athenian citizens were required to educate their sons
- Girls didn't receive a formal education – were trained in household duties



# Athenian Education

- Main textbooks were *the Iliad* and *the Odyssey*
- Learned arithmetic, geometry, drawing, music, gymnastics, and **rhetoric** (art of public speaking)
- At 18, boys entered the military for 2 years

# **War, Glory, and Decline**

# Quick Overview

- 400s BCE → Persian Empire had strongest military in the world
- Persian Empire wanted to invade Europe and expand
- Greek city-states cooperated in resisting Persian attacks
- After victory against Persia, the Greeks enjoyed a “golden age”
- Then – Greek city-states began to fight each other

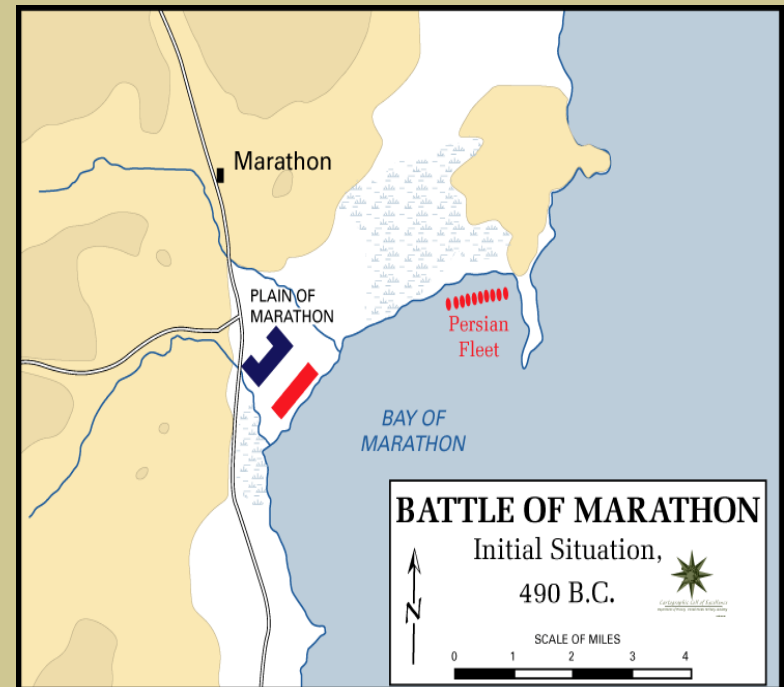
# The Persian Wars

- Persians took over the Greek city-states in Ionia (in Asia)
- Ionians revolted against Persians, with help from other city-states like Athens
- Persians (led by King Darius) defeated the Ionians & decided to punish the other city-states on mainland Greece for helping the Ionians



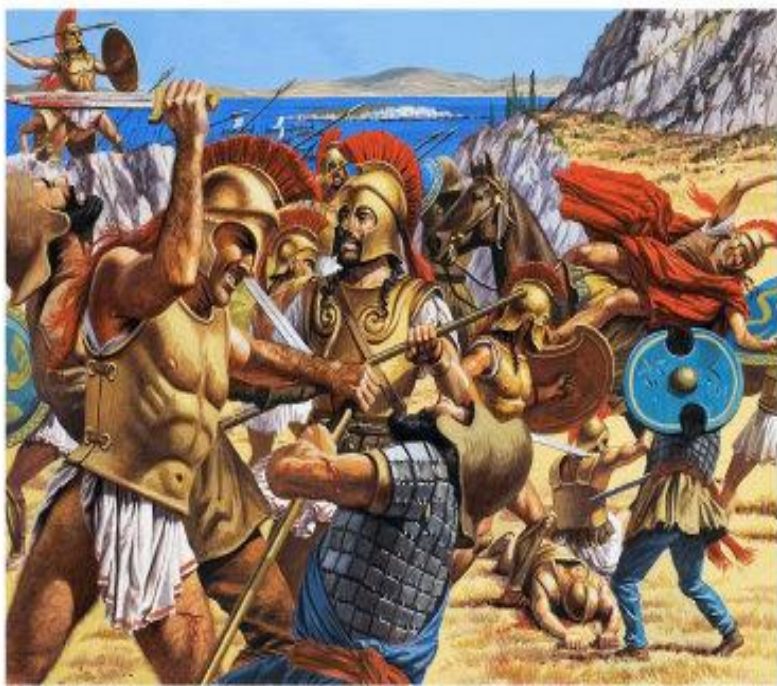
# Battle at Marathon

- Darius sent a Persian fleet across the Aegean Sea to city of Marathon
- Persians waited for the Athenians, but the Athenians were outnumbered and didn't move



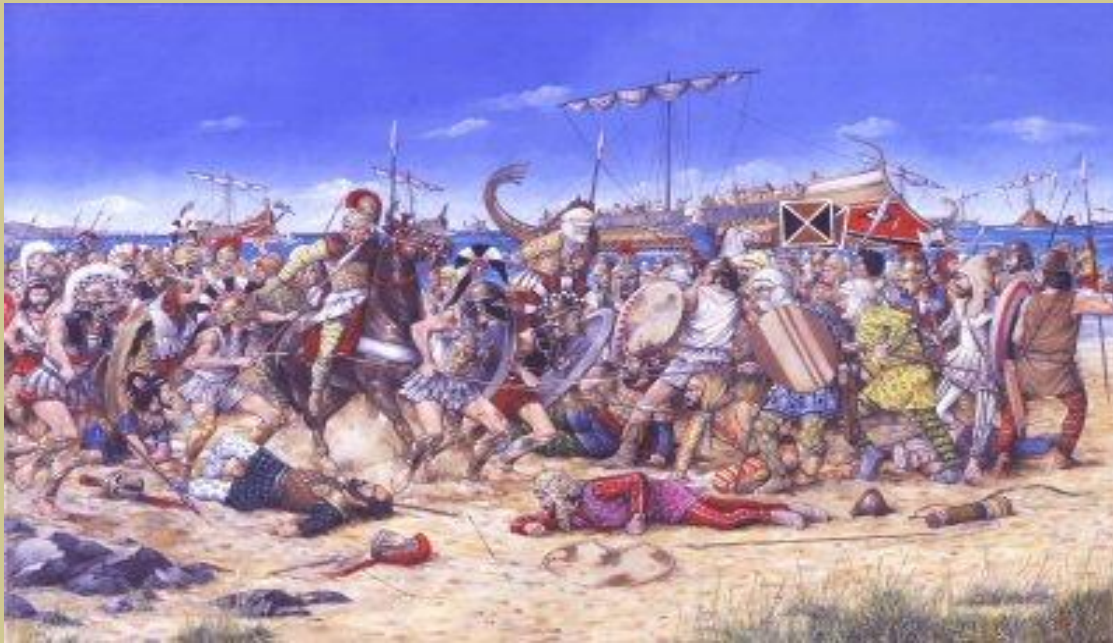
# Battle at Marathon

- Persians decided to attack Athens directly
  - Loaded cavalry & infantry on ships and went north to Athens
  - Athens decides to strike
  - Athens sends foot soldiers to attack Persian troops while they are in shallow water waiting to board ships



# Battle at Marathon

- Persians were caught off guard and lost to the Greeks in this battle





# Battle of Salamis

- 10 years later → Darius's son Xerxes invades Greece from the north
- Xerxes brought 200,000 troops – couldn't live off the land so offshore supply ships came with them
- Greeks under the leadership of Sparta this time



# Battle of Salamis



- Oracle at Delphi said Greeks would be safe behind a “wooden wall”
  - Athenian General Themistocles believed “wooden wall” meant fleet of ships & that they needed to challenge the Persians at sea
  - Greek army had to set up a distraction on land to build this fleet at sea
  - Greeks chose Thermopylae as place for distraction

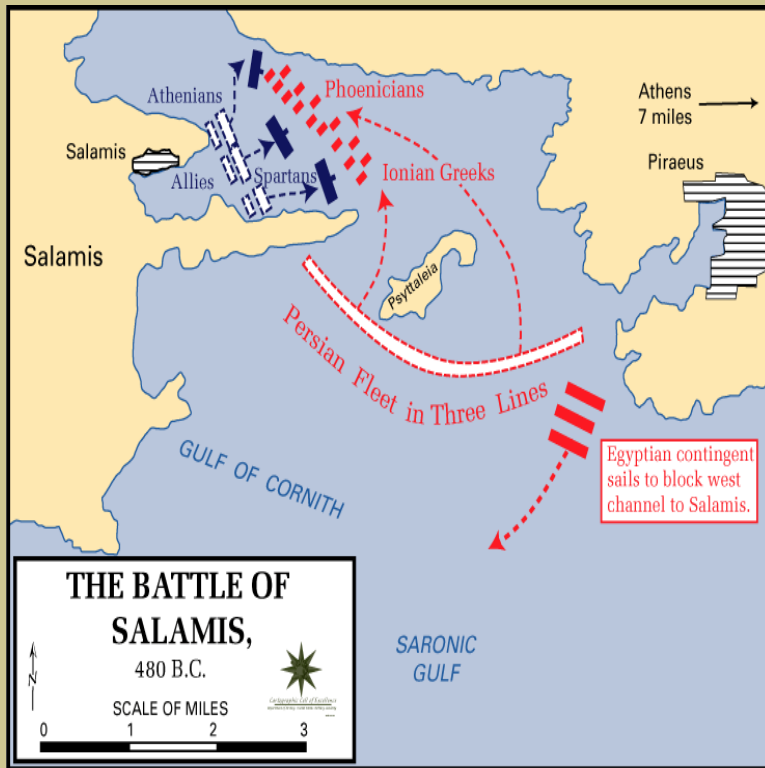


# The 300

- At Thermopylae – 7,000 Greeks led by King Leonidas stood firm for 3 days
- Greek traitor showed Persians a trail they could use to attack the Greeks
  - Leonidas sent home most of his troops to save them
  - He and 300 Spartans stayed to fight
  - They lost, but gave Themistocles time to carry out his plan at sea



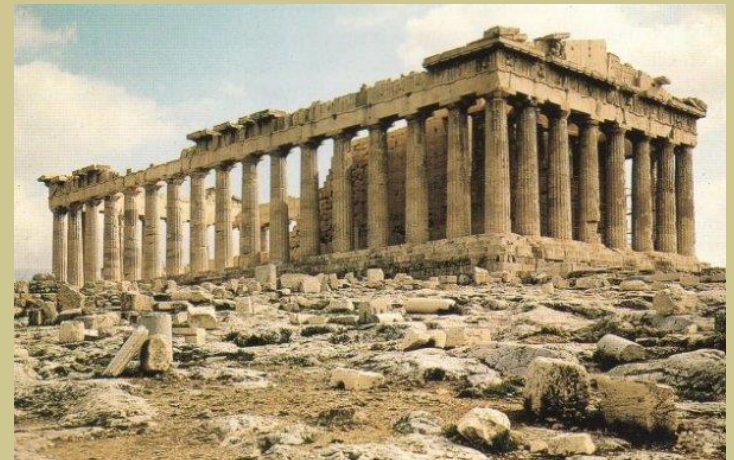
# Battle of Salamis



- Themistocles drew the Persian fleet to the Strait of Salamis
  - Greek navy destroyed Persian fleet in the strait
- Persians never came back → Greeks won the Persian Wars
- Athens emerged as a powerful city-state

# Golden Age of Athens

- Athenian general Pericles rebuilt Athens to become the most beautiful city in Greece
- Public buildings = fancy; Athenian homes = simple
- Most famous building built = Parthenon atop the Acropolis



# **The Golden Age of Athens**

# Quest for Beauty & Meaning

- Greek civilization reached its peak in the mid-400s BCE, particularly in Athens
  - Known as the Golden Age
  - Artists created beautiful architecture, sculptures, paintings
  - Artistic style was classical = simple, graceful, and balanced
  - Advancements in philosophy, literature, and drama



# Building for the Gods

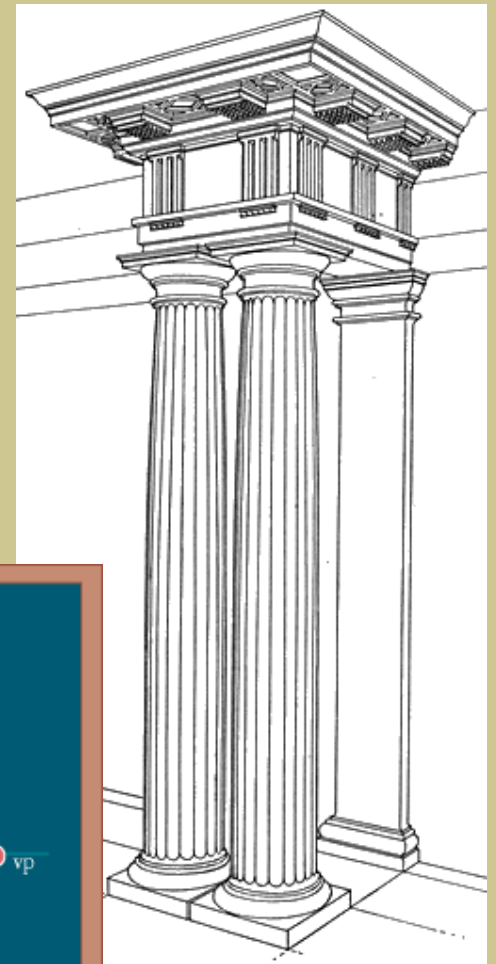
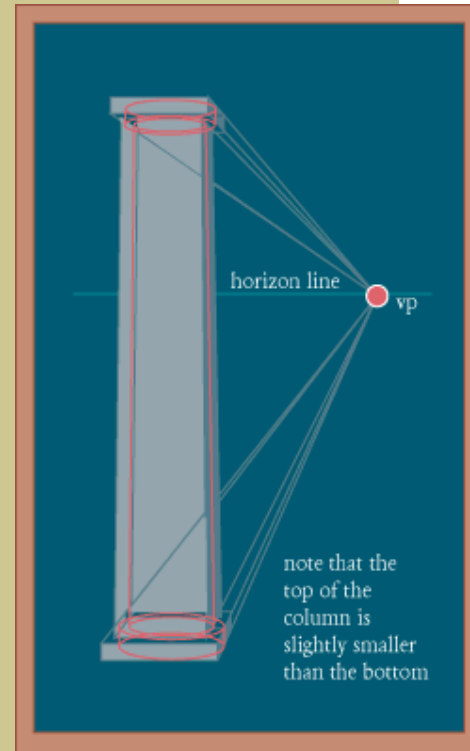


- Each city-state tried to turn its acropolis into an “architectural treasure”
- Parthenon best exemplified Greek architecture
- Greeks didn’t need large **sanctuaries** = places of worship
  - Worshipped at home or at outdoor altars



# Building for the Gods

- Temples were where deities could live
- Greek architects understood illusion and **perspective** = the artistic showing of distances as they appear to the eye
- Created the impression of perfection

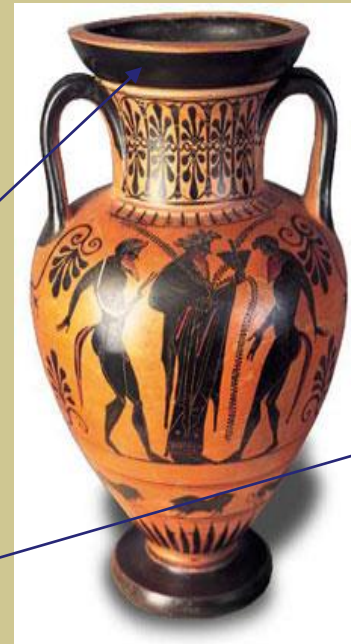


# Greek Arts

- Excelled at portraying the human form
- Some ancient Greek vases still exist
  - Different shapes for different purposes
  - Krater = two-handled vase with a wide mouth --> good for mixing water and wine
  - **Amphora** = large vase for storing oil & other supplies --> decorated with art showing mythology
  - Kylix = drinking cup --> decorated with scenes of everyday life



[click for larger image](#)



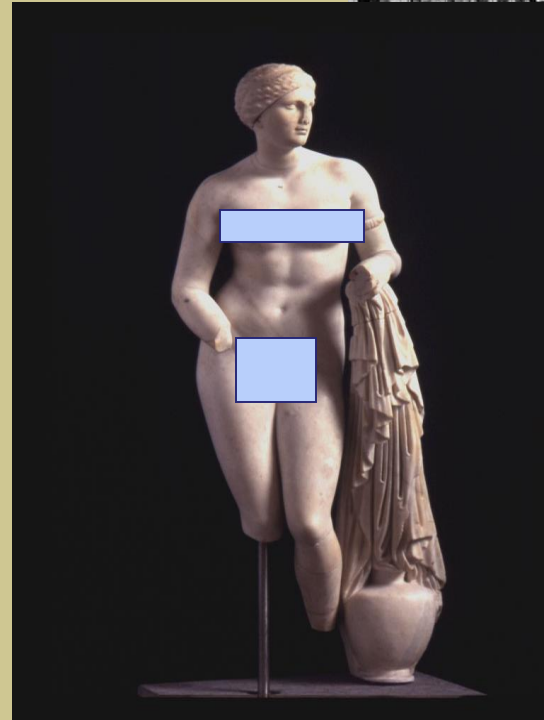
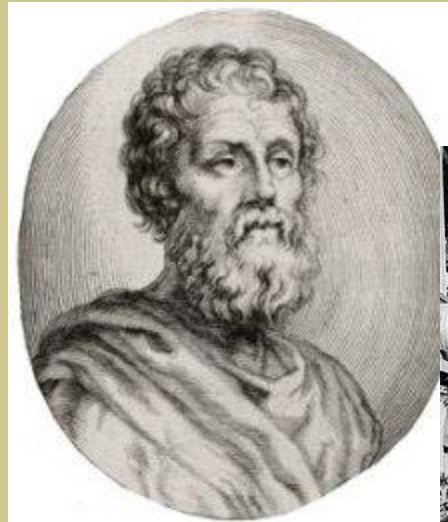
# Greek Arts



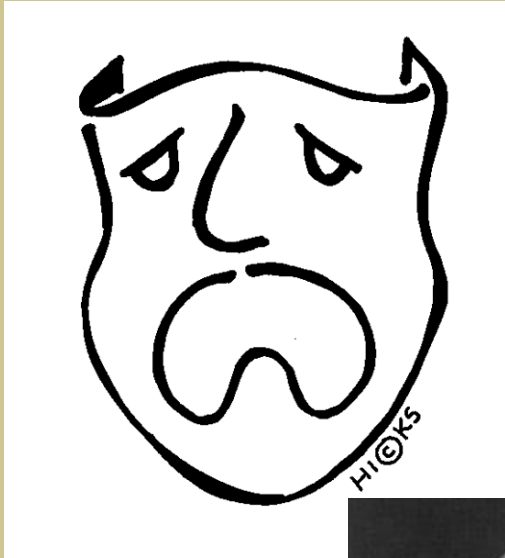
- Myron = one of Greece's greatest sculptors
  - Sculpted what he thought people SHOULD look like
  - Sculpted the “Discus Thrower”

# Greek Arts

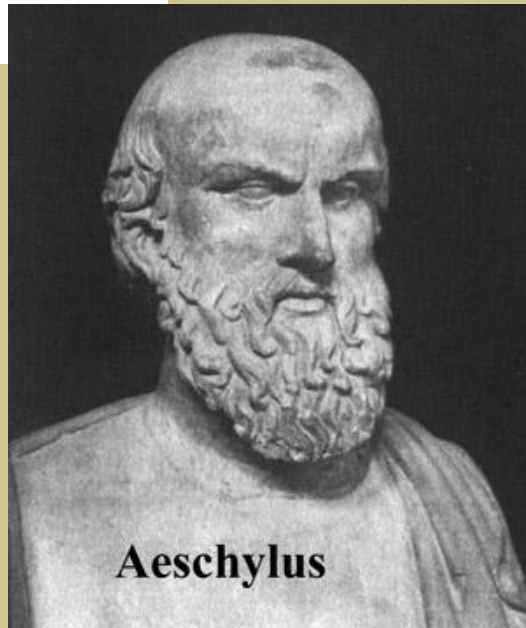
- Phidias = another great Greek sculptor
  - Created statues for inside the Parthenon, including one of Athena
- Praxiteles = sculptor who carved more realistic human sculptures



# Drama and Theater



- Greeks = 1st to write and perform plays
- Earliest Greek plays = tragedies



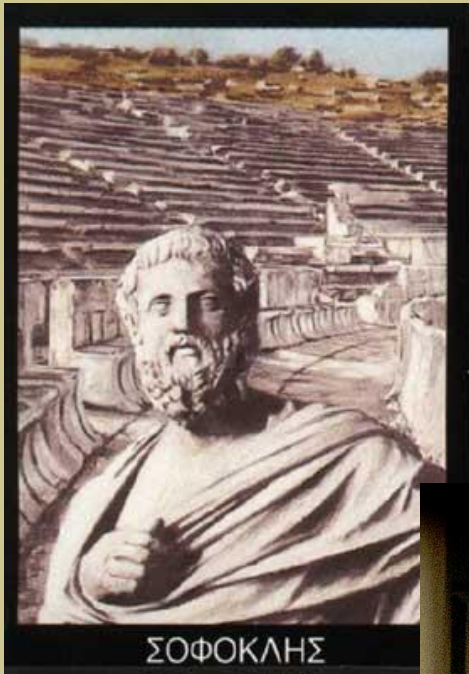
- Had unhappy endings after main character struggled against the fates
- **Aeschylus** = Greek tragedy writer who wrote 90 plays

# Aeschylus

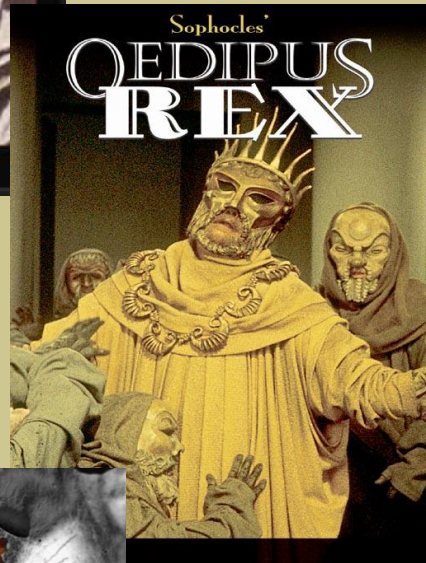
- His trilogy of plays called *Oresteia* shows how the consequences of one's actions are carried down from generation to generation
- Law of community, not personal revenge, should decide punishment



# Sophocles



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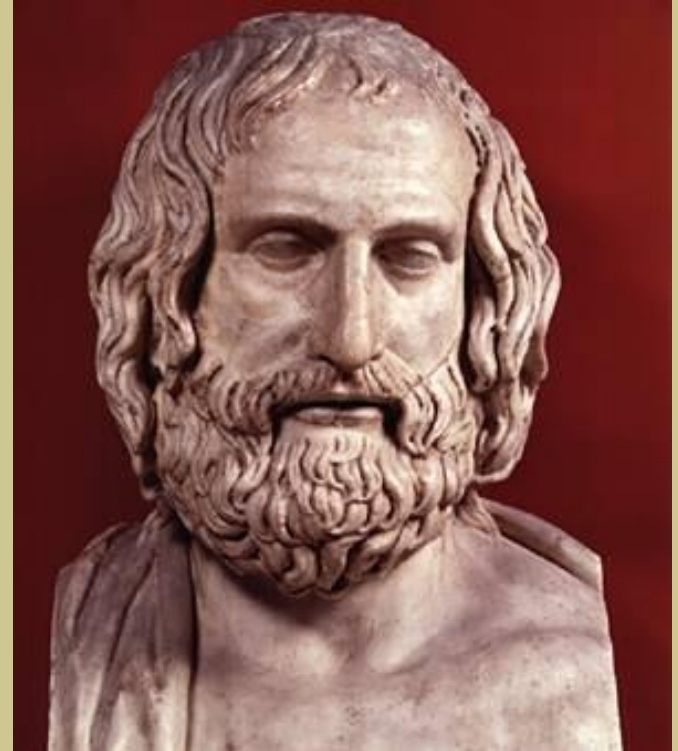


- General in Athenian army
- Wrote tragedies
- Accepted human suffering as an unavoidable part of life
- Wrote *Oedipus Rex* = deals with King Oedipus's struggle to beat the fates, but he can't win against them



# Euripedes

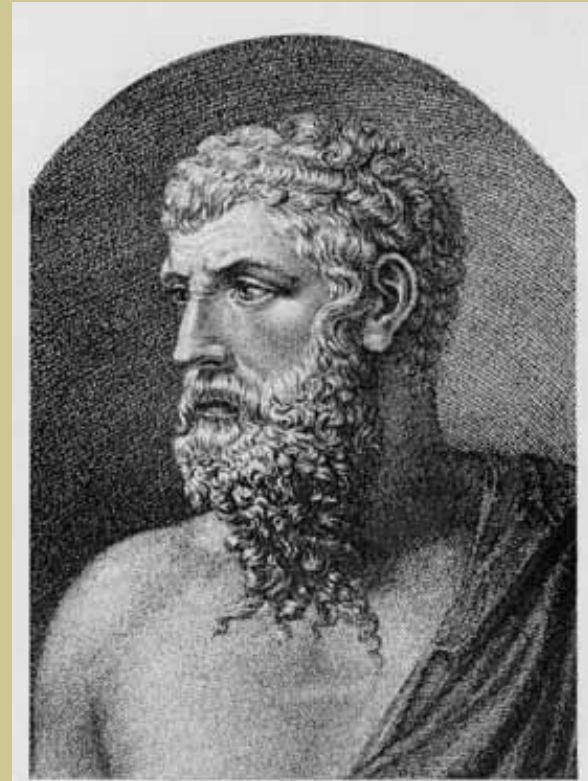
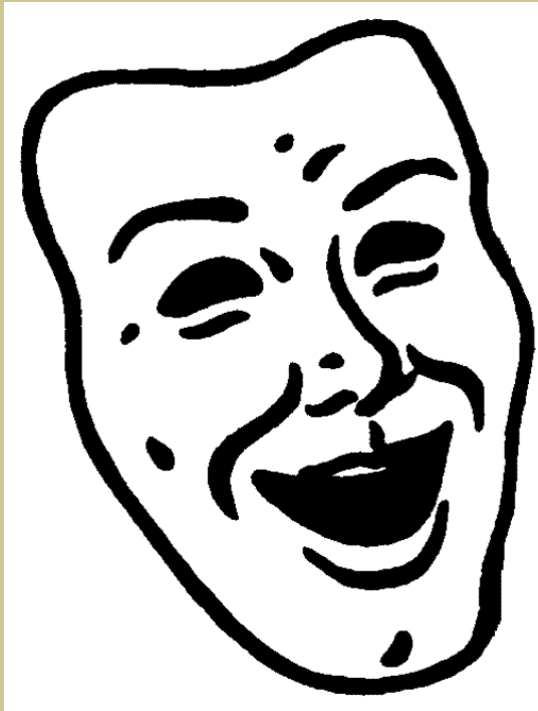
- Wrote tragedies
- Hated war and his plays often showed the misery of war
- Focused on human behavior that brought disaster





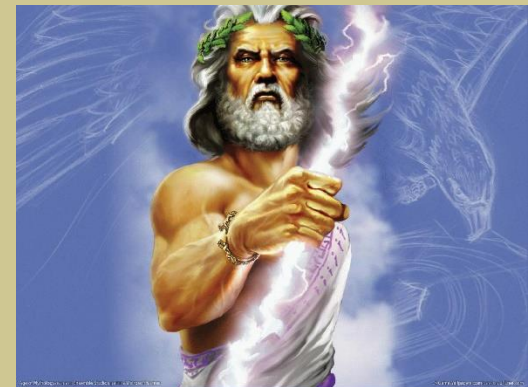
# Comedies

- Had humorous plots and happy endings
- **Aristophanes** = most famous writer of Greek comedies



# The Olympic Games

- Ancient Greeks stressed athletics in school
- Greek men often spent their afternoons exercising
- Olympic games were held every 4 years in Olympia
  - To honor Zeus
  - Fighting and trade stopped



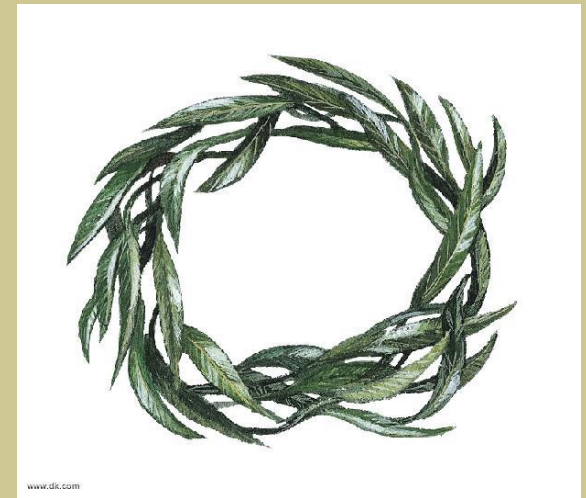
# The Olympic Games

- Only males were able to participate
  - Women weren't even allowed to watch
  - Greek women had their own games honoring Hera



# The Olympic Games

- Individual, not team, events
  - Footrace, broad jump, discus throwing, boxing, wrestling, pentathlon
- Winners = crowned with olive leaves; parades held in their honor
- Olympic athletes often given special privileges, like not having to pay taxes



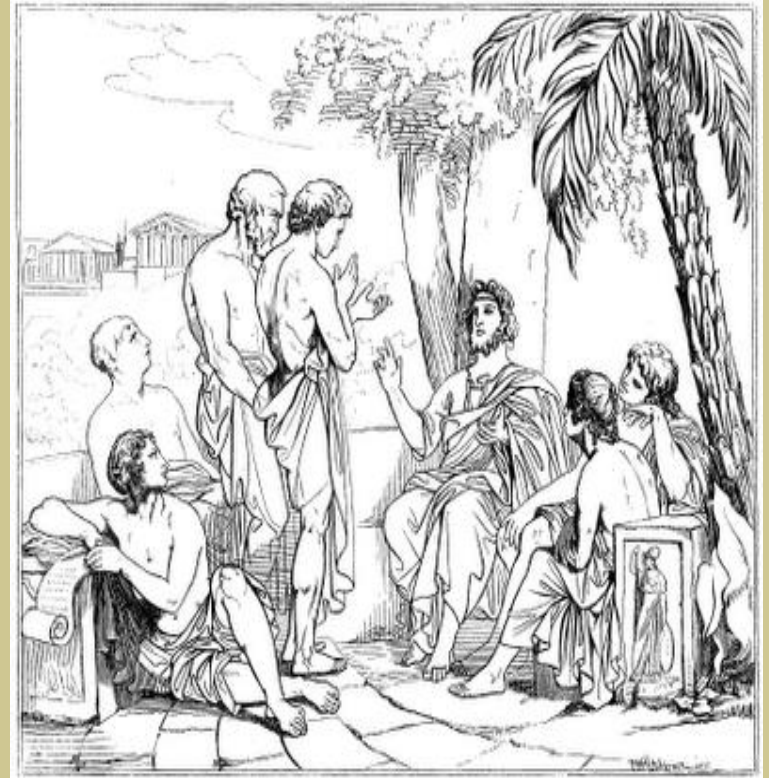
# The Greek Mind



- Greek philosophers = thinkers --> produced some remarkable ideas
- Their philosophy laid the foundations for history, political science, biology and logic (science of reasoning)

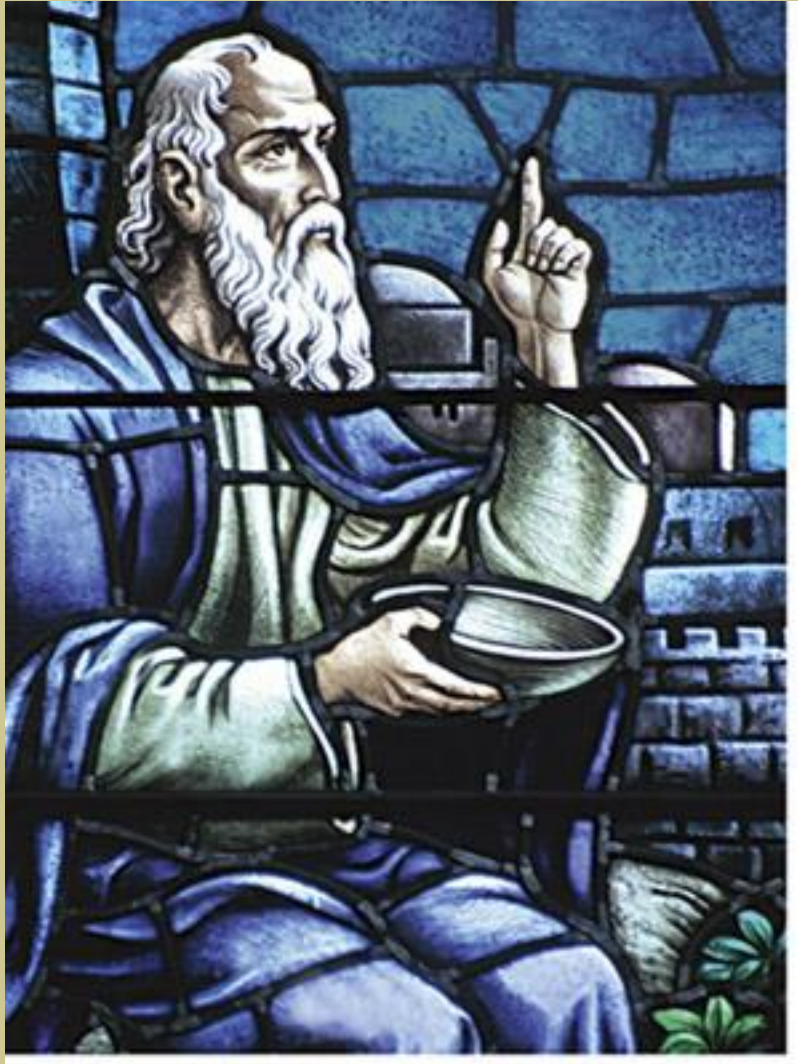
# The Sophists

- Higher education was provided by professional teachers, called Sophists
- Traveled from polis to polis, but usually gathered in Athens because more freedom of speech there
- Said they could find the answers to all questions



# The Sophists

- Rejected the idea that gods could influence human behavior
- Challenged traditional Greek beliefs
- Believed “truth” was different for each individual
- Criticized by Socrates and Plato



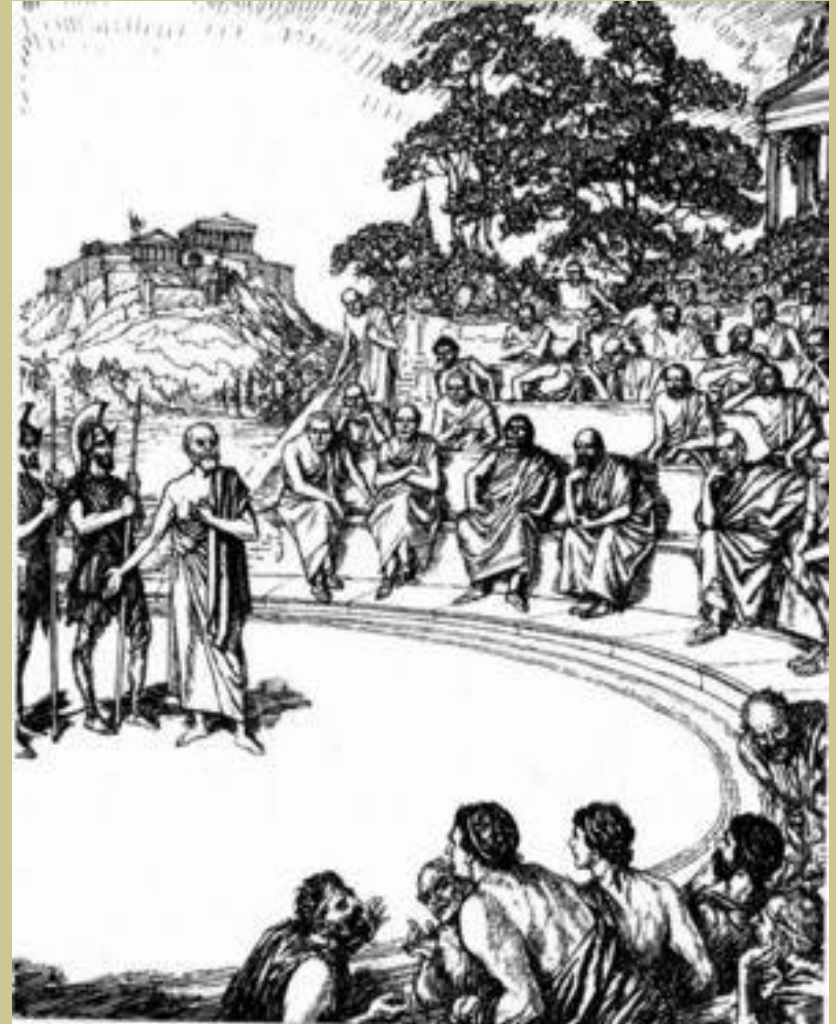
# Socrates

- Sculptor by trade, but spent most of his time teaching
- Believed in absolute truth vs. relative truth
- Interested in the process by which people learn to think for themselves



# Socratic Method

- Developed a teaching method called the Socratic Method
  - Asked students questions, then argued with their answers
  - Forced students to clarify their thoughts



# Socrates

- Accused of corrupting the young & not worshipping Greek gods
  - Jury found him guilty and sentenced him to death
  - Killed himself by drinking poison and died among his followers

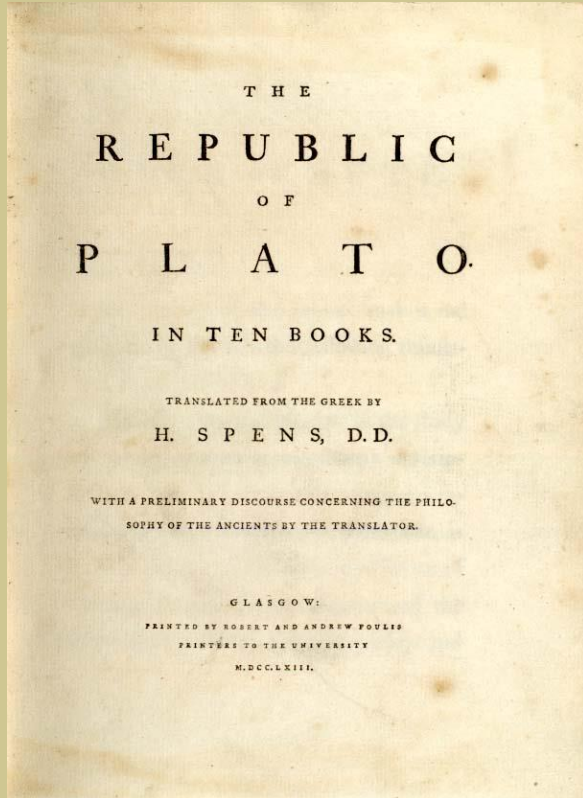


# Plato

- Born an aristocrat
- Became a teacher and opened an academy
- Recorded conversations between Socrates and his followers from memory



# Plato



- Wrote the earliest book on political science = “The Republic”
  - Outlined his plan for what he considered ideal society and government
- Disliked Athenian democracy, preferred the government of Sparta
- Said the community should come before the individual

# Plato

- Too much freedom = social disorder
- Disliked lower classes
- Thought only most intelligent and best-educated should participate in government
- Rejected the senses as a source of truth
- The real world was constructed from ideas

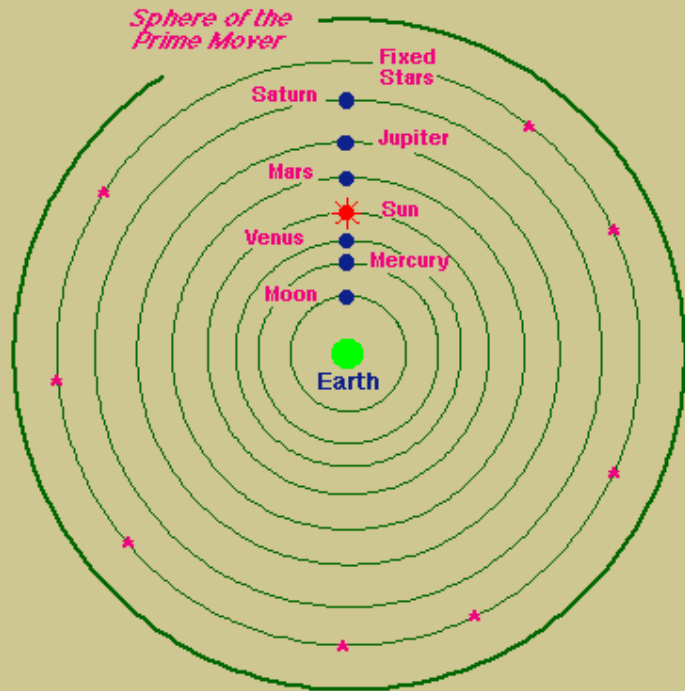


# Aristotle

- Wrote more than 200 books ranging from astronomy to political science
- Started a school known as the Lyceum
- Taught the Golden Mean = to live moderately and avoid extremes



# Aristotle

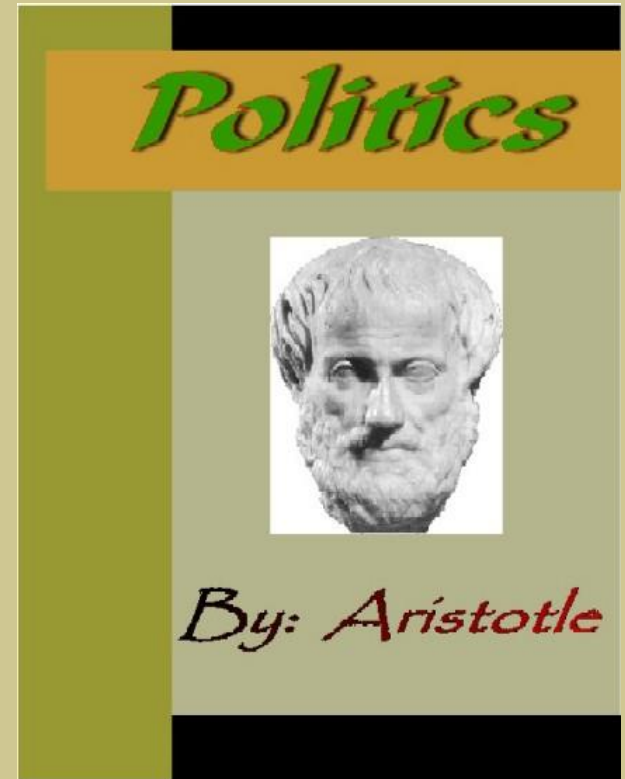


*Aristotle's Universe*

- Unlike Plato, Aristotle believed in knowledge gained through the senses
- First person to observe facts, then classify them into categories, and make generalizations
- Some of his ideas were incorrect (ex: Earth is center of the solar system)

# Aristotle

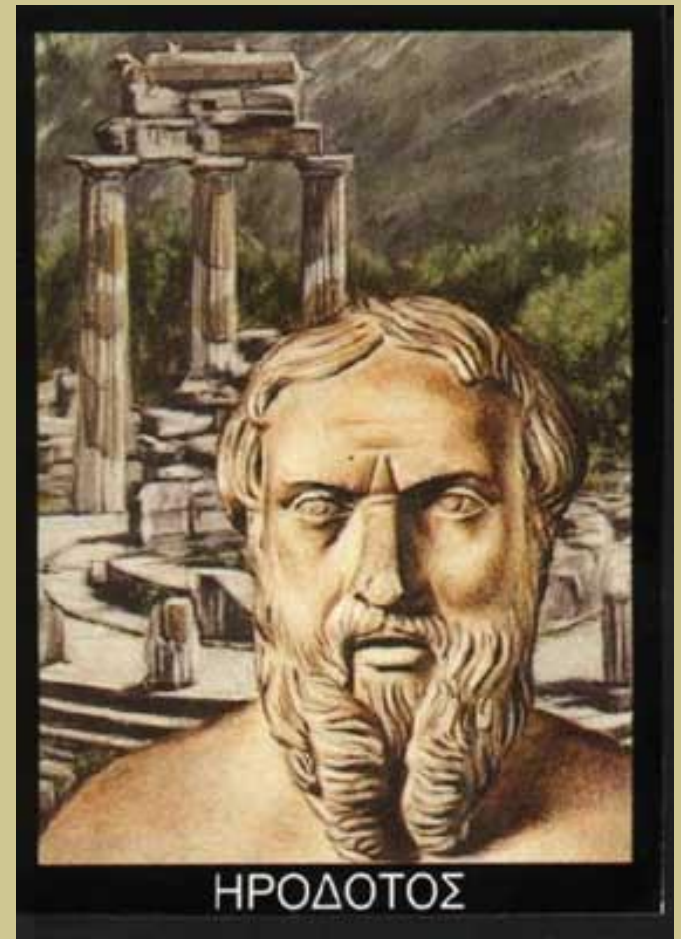
- Compared the political structures in different Greek city-states
- Wrote a book called “Politics”
  - Idea form of government is a balance between a monarchy, aristocracy, and democracy
  - Middle class is the best suited to rule because they know how to command AND obey



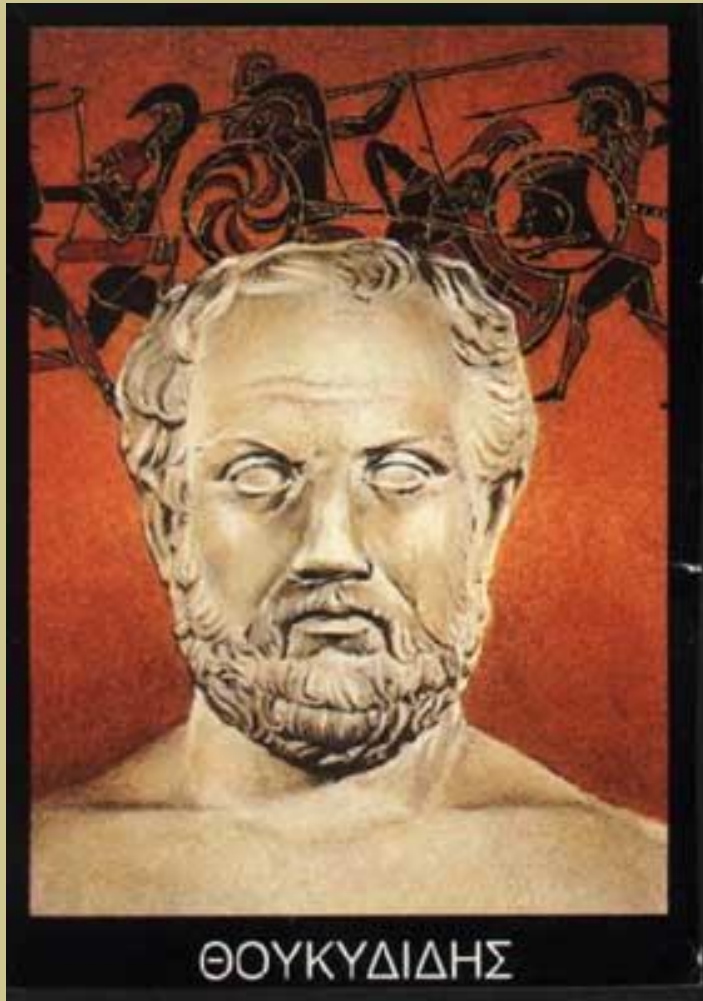


# Writers of History

- Herodotus = “father of history”
  - Wrote about the Persian Wars in “Historia”
  - Sometimes accepted statements that weren’t true and exaggerated numbers
  - Sometimes offered supernatural explanations of events



# Writers of History



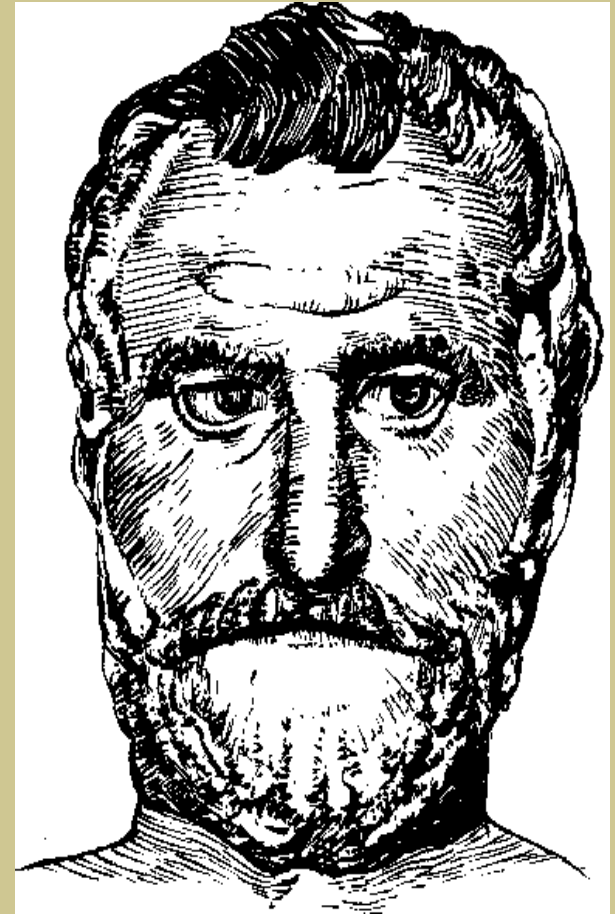
- Thucydides
  - Wrote about the Peloponnesian War
  - Rejected the idea that deities played a role in history
  - Writings were accurate and impartial
  - Believed that future generations could learn from the past

# The First Scientists

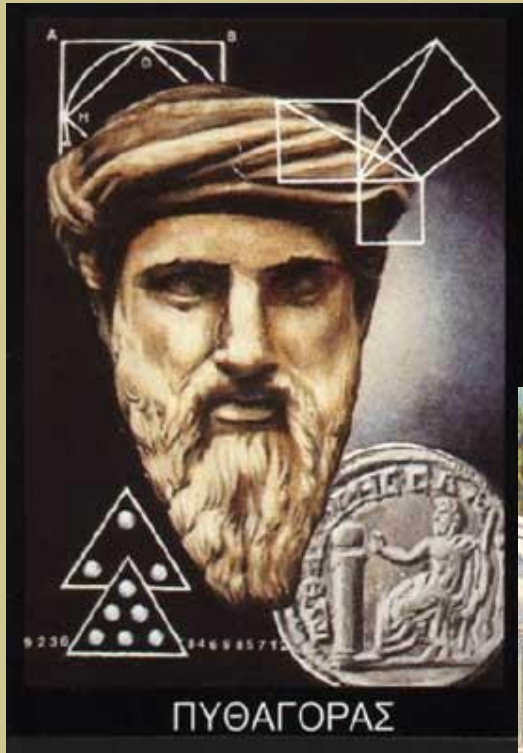
- Greeks made scientific discoveries through observation and thought

# Mathematics

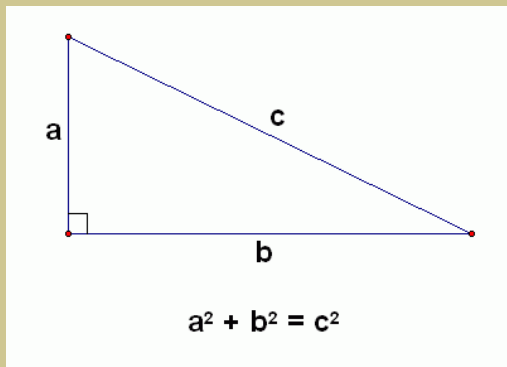
- Seen as a pure science
- Believed they could find absolute knowledge through math
- Thales = studied astronomy and mathematics
  - Could foretell a solar eclipse
  - Said water was substance from which everything was made



# Mathematics

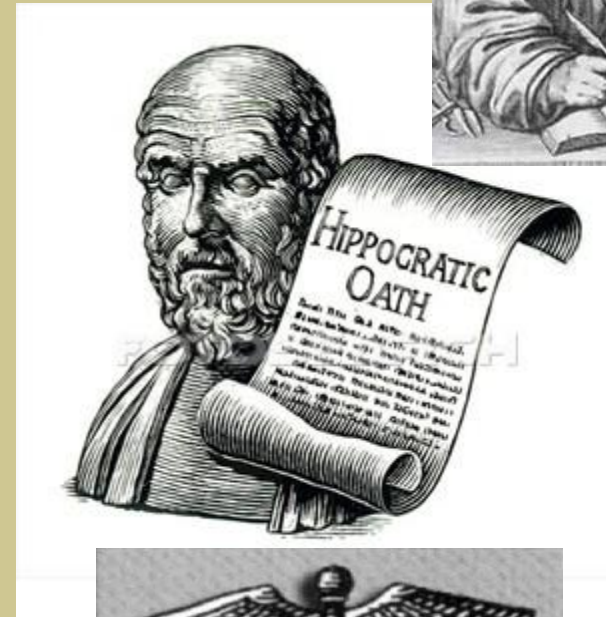
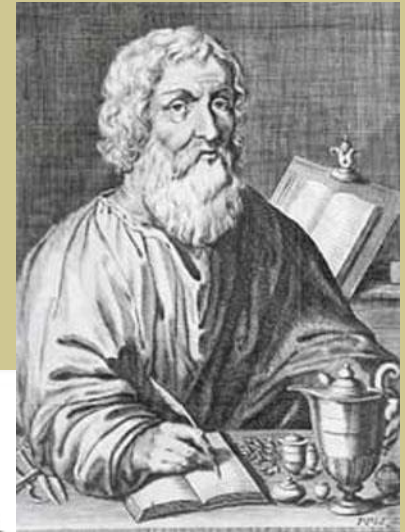


- Pythagoras = tried to explain all of life in mathematical terms
  - Pythagorean Theorem = relationship of sides of a right-angled triangle
  - Said the world was round



# Medicine

- Hippocrates --> “father of medicine”
  - Believed that diseases had natural causes
  - Body can heal itself
  - Strongly advocated proper hygiene (**health care**), a good diet, and plenty of rest
  - Wrote a code for ethical medical conduct = Hippocratic Oath --> still used today



# Daily Life in Athens

- Men worked in the morning as artisans, farmers, or merchants
- In the afternoon – men attended the Assembly or exercised



# Daily Life in Athens

- Slaves (1/3 of population) = did heavy work in craft production and mining
  - Many slaves = also teachers and house servants
  - Slaves = prisoners of war; foreigners; debtors



# Daily Life in Athens

- Women stayed at home  
→ cooked and made wool cloth
- Poor women worked in markets as food sellers and cloth weavers



# Daily Life in Athens

- Upper-class men & men from other city-states participated in symposiums
  - **Symposium** = drinking session following a banquet
  - Discussed public affairs, philosophy, literature
  - Entertained by dancers, singers, magicians, acrobats



# Athenian Women

- Many restrictions – but still some progress
- Many learned to read & write
- Many participated in city festivals

# The Peloponnesian War

- Persian threat remained even though they lost the Persian Wars
- Most city-states (but not Sparta) joined together in Delian League to protect themselves from the Persians

# The Delian League

- They freed Ionia from Persian rule
- Got rid of pirates in the Aegean Sea
- Made Greece rich because trade grew



# The Delian League



- Athens began to dominate the other city-states
  - Several city-states formed an alliance against Athens
  - Led by Sparta
  - Threatened by Athens' economic and political power and influence
  - Sparta was afraid and jealous of Athens

# The Conflict

## [431 BCE - 404 BCE]

- Peloponnesian War = fought between Athens (and its allies) and Sparta (and its allies)
- Sparta allied itself with Persia -- made a deal for their help



# The Conflict

## [431 BCE - 404 BCE]



- Plague hit Athens -- killed 1/3 of its people (including General Pericles)
  - After Pericles died, some Athenians wanted to surrender and others wanted to keep fighting
  - No decision made -- fighting continued for many years





# The Conflict

## [431 BCE - 404 BCE]

- Several city-states switched sides and joined Sparta
- Spartans then destroyed Athenian navy
  - Athens surrendered in 404 BCE



# Effects of the War

- War brought disaster to Greek city-states:
  - 1) Fields destroyed
  - 2) Unemployment high
  - 3) Populations declined
  - 4) Many men left and became mercenaries (hired soldiers) in Persian Army

# Effects of the War

- 5) Lost ability to govern themselves
- 6) Increased tension between aristocrats and commoners
- 7) Limited democracy and free political discussion
- 8) Continual fighting among city-states
- 9) Unable to resist the invasion of the Macedonians (with Alexander the Great)



# Alexander the Great

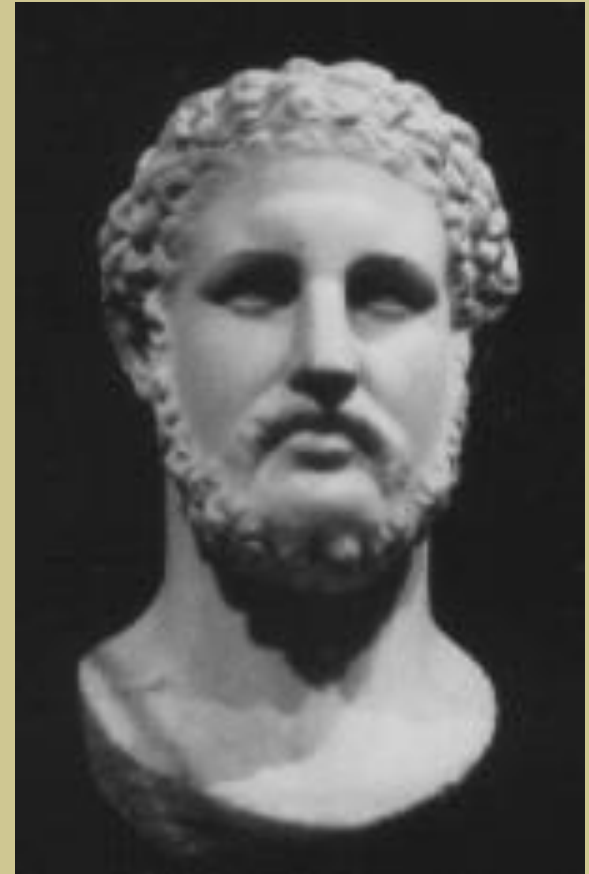
# Rise of Macedonia

- Macedonians descended from the Dorians
- Lived just north of Greece
- Greeks looked down on them – saw them as backward mountain people



# Rise of Macedonia

- Philip II became King of Macedonia in 359 BCE
  - Determined to do 3 things:
    - 1) Create a strong army
      - used Greek-style phalanxes
    - 2) Unify the Greeks under Macedonian rule
    - 3) Destroy the Persian Empire



# Rise of Macedonia

- Pursued his ambition for the next 23 years:

- Sometimes conquered a polis
- Sometimes bribed a polis's leader to surrender
- Sometimes made allies with a polis through marriage (had many wives)



# Rise of Macedonia

- Greek city-states wouldn't cooperate with one another to fight off the Macedonians
- By 338 BCE = Philip II had conquered all of Greece except Sparta





# Rise of Macedonia



- Just as he was preparing to conquer Persia, Philip II was murdered
  - Possibly by a Persian or an assassin hired by his 1<sup>st</sup> wife Olympias
  - Olympias and Phillip II's son = Alexander the Great – became king

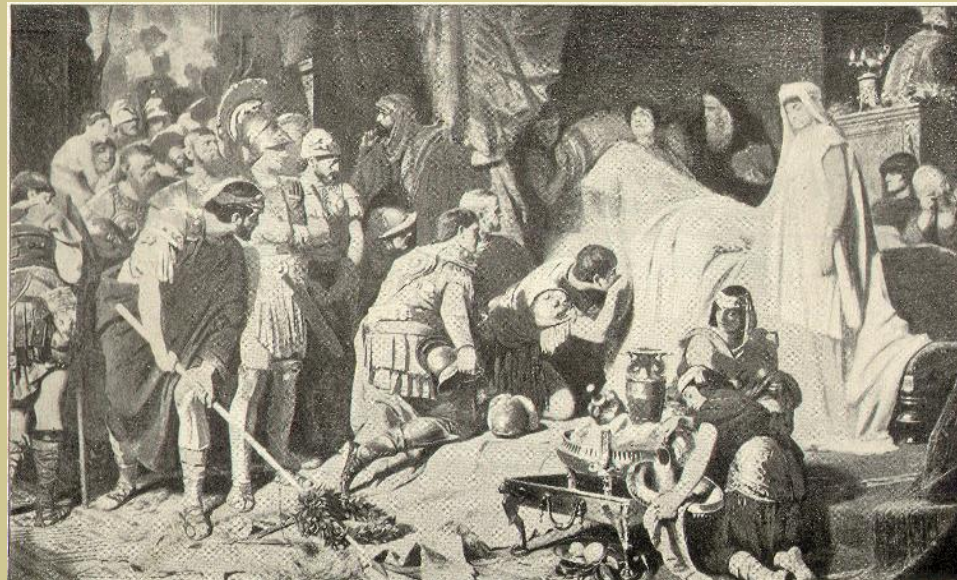
# Alexander's Conquest [336-323 BCE]

- Only 20 when he took over the empire
- Highly respected for his courage and military skill
- Tutored by Aristotle
- Conquered Persian territories – including Egypt and Mesopotamia
- Conquered India



# Alexander's Conquests

- Died at 33, probably of malaria
- Wanted to unite Europe and Asia under 1 empire and combine the best of Greek and Persian cultures



# Divided Domain

- 3 of Alexander's general divided his empire into separate domains = **territories**
  - 1) Ptolemy ruled Egypt, Libya, and party of Syria





2) Seleucus ruled the rest of Syria, Mesopotamia, Iran, and Afghanistan

- Forced to give up all by Syria

- Lost Jerusalem to the Jews = an event that's now remembered by the Jewish holiday Hanukkah

# Divided Domain

3) Antigonus ruled Macedonia and Greece

- Would eventually be conquered by the Romans

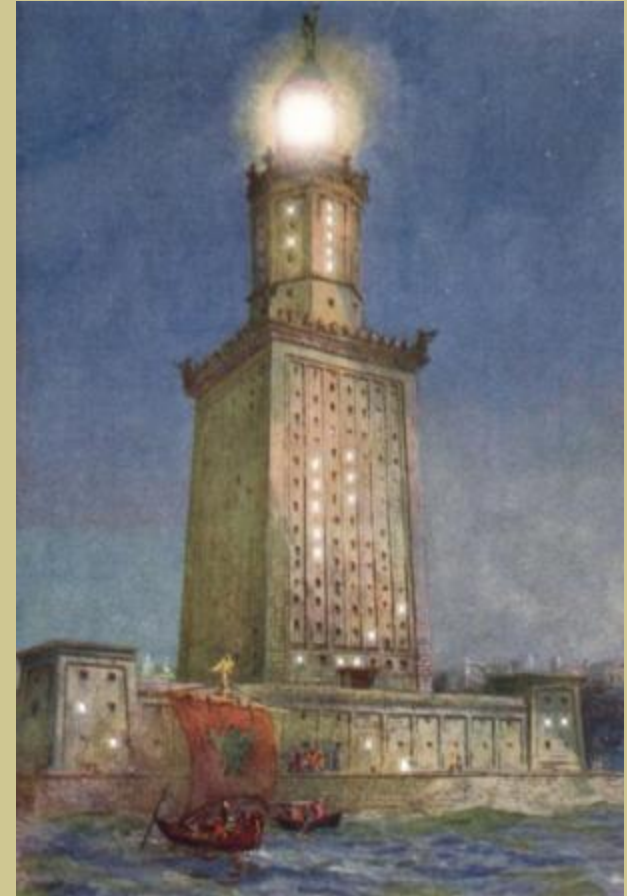


# Hellenistic Culture

- Greek language and culture spread in the lands Alexander had conquered
- Greek (Hellenic) ways of life mixed with Persian culture of Middle East to form a new culture = **Hellenistic**
- Hellenistic culture was concentrated in cities

# Hellenistic Culture

- Largest and wealthiest city was Alexandria in Egypt
  - Had a double harbor with a lighthouse
  - First ever museum
  - Large library
  - Scientific research institute
  - Zoo and botanical garden
  - It was here that Jewish scholars translated the Bible into Greek





# Hellenistic Culture

- Social status of upper-class Greek women improved
  - Could move about freely, learn how to read and write, have certain jobs
  - Commoners' status didn't improve

# Hellenistic Philosophers

- 3 systems of thought:
  - 1) Cynicism = live simply and avoid materialism
  - 2) Epicureanism = accept the world as it is, avoid politics, and live simply
  - 3) Stoicism = ignore emotions and follow reason

# Hellenistic Art & Literature

- Art often showed people in the grip of emotions
- Wrote comedies about everyday life



# Science, Medicine, and Math

- Performed experiments and developed new theories
- Eratosthenes estimated the circumference of the Earth within 1%
- Dissected corpses to learn about human anatomy
  - Learned how to use drugs to relieve pain



# Science, Medicine, and Math

- Euclid organized a book about geometry
- Archimedes invented the compound pulley (used for lifting heavy objects) and the cylinder screw (for irrigation)

