



# Ancient Greek Study Guide

- The Greek mountainous islands and waterways helped to isolate the Greek peoples, and helped lead to the creation of independent city-states. Also, a location on a peninsula / use of the many waterways are geographical features that generally helped the growth of Greek Civilization through ease of trading on the water.
- Socrates, Aristotle, and Plato were famous Greek philosophers.
- Asking open-ended questions, so students learned through reasoning was called the Socratic method of teaching. Socrates was imprisoned for corrupting the minds of young children. They did not want a lot of citizens questioning governmental decisions. They would lose control.
- Aristotle thought that the aim of good government should be the protection of its people.
- Alexander the Great was one of the most influential military commanders in history, conquering most of the world known to the ancient Greeks and never lost a battle. Aristotle was his teacher
- Alexander the Great's conquest of Greece, Asia Minor, and Persia led the spread of Greek culture.
- In expanding his empire, Alexander the Great eliminated the empire of Persia, who had taken over Egypt. Therefore, they crowned him an Egyptian Pharaoh
- Life in Athens was focused on education, while life in Sparta was focused on the military. Athens became a direct democracy where citizens (male, not slaves) voted. Athens is generally considered the first civilization that allowed government based on citizen votes. The government of ancient Athens would probably not be considered very democratic today because only about 1 in 7 people could actually vote – women, slaves, and non-citizens could not. Athens had a Direct Democracy – meaning that citizens vote on everything. A Representative Democracy is when citizens vote for legislators, or people, who then make and vote on laws.
- In a tyranny, usually a person takes over by force – illegally, and is usually ruthless. A small group of rich and powerful people ruling is considered an oligarchy. Within the many Greek city-states, some were oligarchies and some were tyrannies.
- The primary purpose of education for young boys in Ancient Sparta was to train them to serve in the army. By the age of seven a Spartan boy would go to military training
- Ancient Greek farmers were innovative in developing agricultural technologies different than farmers in other civilizations with river valleys.
- Greek vases a valuable source of information for archaeologists because they contained images of everyday events on them. We could look at the drawings and gather information about life in Ancient Greece.
- The idea of Democracy, Mythology, and the Olympics are some of the Greek contributions to our world today.