

ANCIENT GREECE VOCABULARY

I. Terms

- a. **acropolis [p. 232]**: a high hill upon which a Greek fortress was built.
- b. **polis [p. 232]**: Greek word for “city-state”
- c. **fables [p. 247]**: a short story that teaches a lesson about life or gives advice about how to live.
- d. **phalanx [p. 273]**: a group of warriors who stood close together in a square/line/circle with spears pointed out.
- e. **Classical Age [p. 232]**: an age marked by great achievements.
- f. **democracy [p. 236]**: a type of government in which the people rule themselves.
- g. **citizens [p. 237]**: people who have the right to participate in government.
- h. **aristocrats [p. 237]**: a rich land owner or noble
- i. **oligarchy [p. 237]**: a government in which only a few people hold power (families).
- j. **tyrant [p. 237]**: a leader who holds power through the use of force.
- k. **helots [p. 268]**: Spartan slaves controlled by government who didn't revolt out of fear of the military.
- l. **Delian League [p. 270]**: an alliance formed between Greek city-states after the Persian Wars.
- m. **mythology [p. 243]**: a body of stories about deities (gods) and heroes that try to explain how the world (nature) works.
- n. **Iliad [p. 246]**: a story by Homer that discusses the final years of the Trojan War. Achilles is the main character.

- o. *Odyssey* [p. 246]:** a story by Homer about the challenges of returning home from the Trojan War. Odysseus is the main character.
- p. *Homer* [p. 246]:** author of the *Iliad* and *Odyssey*. Both stories were historical and educational. Homer is both author and educator.
- q. *Socratic Method* [p. 281]:** when teachers teach by asking questions. Common question words include: what, where, when, why, and how.
- r. *Hippocratic Oath* [N/A]:** promise made by physicians beginning in ancient Greece and still practiced today. New physicians promise to
1. treat all who are sick; 2. preserve privacy of their patients; 3. teach medicine to the next generation.

II. Philosophers

- a. *Socrates* [p. 281]:** teacher and thinker who believed people must never stop seeking knowledge.
- b. *Aristotle* [p. 281]:** Plato's student; taught about moderation and balance between extremes.
- c. *Plato* [p. 281]:** Socrates' student; created a school called the Academy where people would gather as a learning community.

III. Leaders

- a. *Alexander the Great* [p. 274]:** one of the greatest conquerors in history who squashed Theban rebellion, conquered Persian Empire, and spread Greek culture around the world.
- b. *Cleisthenes* [p. 238]:** did not want aristocrats (nobles/elite) in charge of the government. Overthrew aristocracy and established world's first democracy in Athens.
- c. *Pericles* [p. 240]:** believed participation in government was just as important as defending it during times of war. Spread democracy throughout Greece.

IV. Scientists and Mathematicians

- a. **Euclid [p. 282]:** studied geometry: the study of lines, angles, and shapes.
- b. **Archimedes [p. 282]:** engineer who invented water screws to bring water from low areas to higher areas ie. bring water to the fields.
- c. **Hypatia [p. 282]:** a woman who taught mathematics and astronomy.
- d. **Hippocrates [p. 282]:** studied the causes of disease and developed expectations for doctors' behavior.

V. Writers

- a. **Aesop [p. 247]:** writer of fables that used mostly animals to teach meaningful and important life lessons.
- b. **Sappho [p. 247]:** famous female lyric poet who wrote beautiful and emotional poems about love and family.
- c. **Aeschylus [p. 280]:** tragedy playwright aka "the father of tragedy" who wrote *Agamemnon* and a play called *The Persians*
- d. **Thucydides [p. 280]:** historian who wrote about current events in history and war strategies. One of his works was entitled *History of the Peloponnesian War*. Considered more accurate than Herodotus.
- e. **Sophocles [p. 280]:** tragedy playwright who wrote *Oedipus Rex*.
- f. **Aristophanes [p. 280]:** comedy writer who used humor to make serious points about war, law, and people. Wrote *Lysistrata*, *The Birds*, and *The Frogs*