



PICTURE

Ancient Greece

Menu

Topic



No text



More info

Topic Qs

Activities

Print

Quit

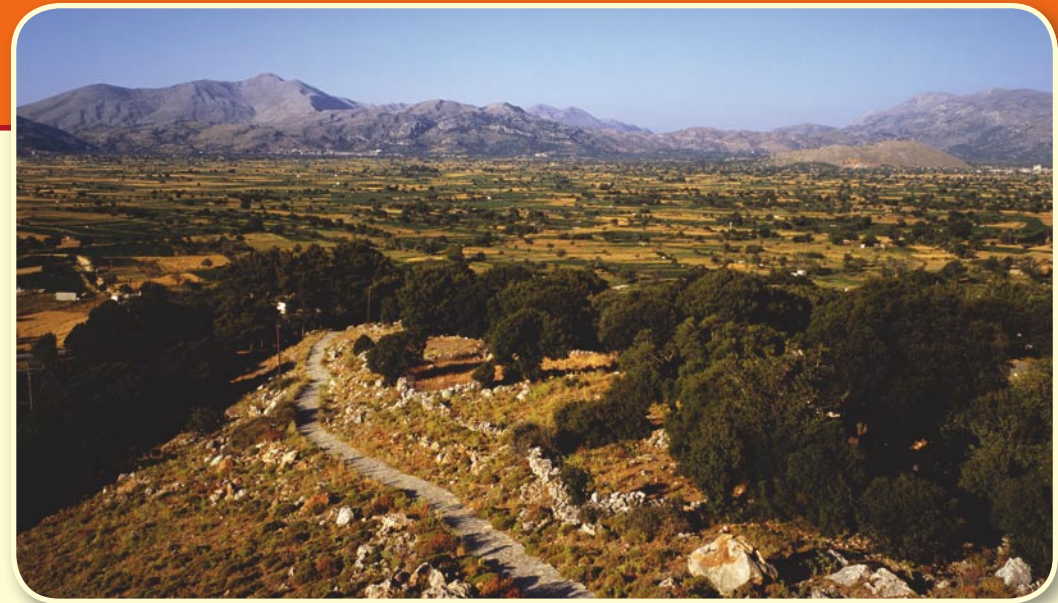
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Where was Ancient Greece?

The land of Greece is made up of mainland Greece and the islands in the Aegean Sea. A long time ago, there were also Greek colonies in areas all around the Mediterranean, such as Asia Minor (now modern Turkey).



The landscape of Ancient Greece was very similar to this modern photograph. The high mountains make it difficult to travel from place to place by land. There is little fertile soil, and the climate is hot and dry.



▲ Greek trading ship

Nowhere in Greece is far from the sea. The Ancient Greeks were great sailors and they travelled far and wide by sea.

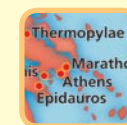
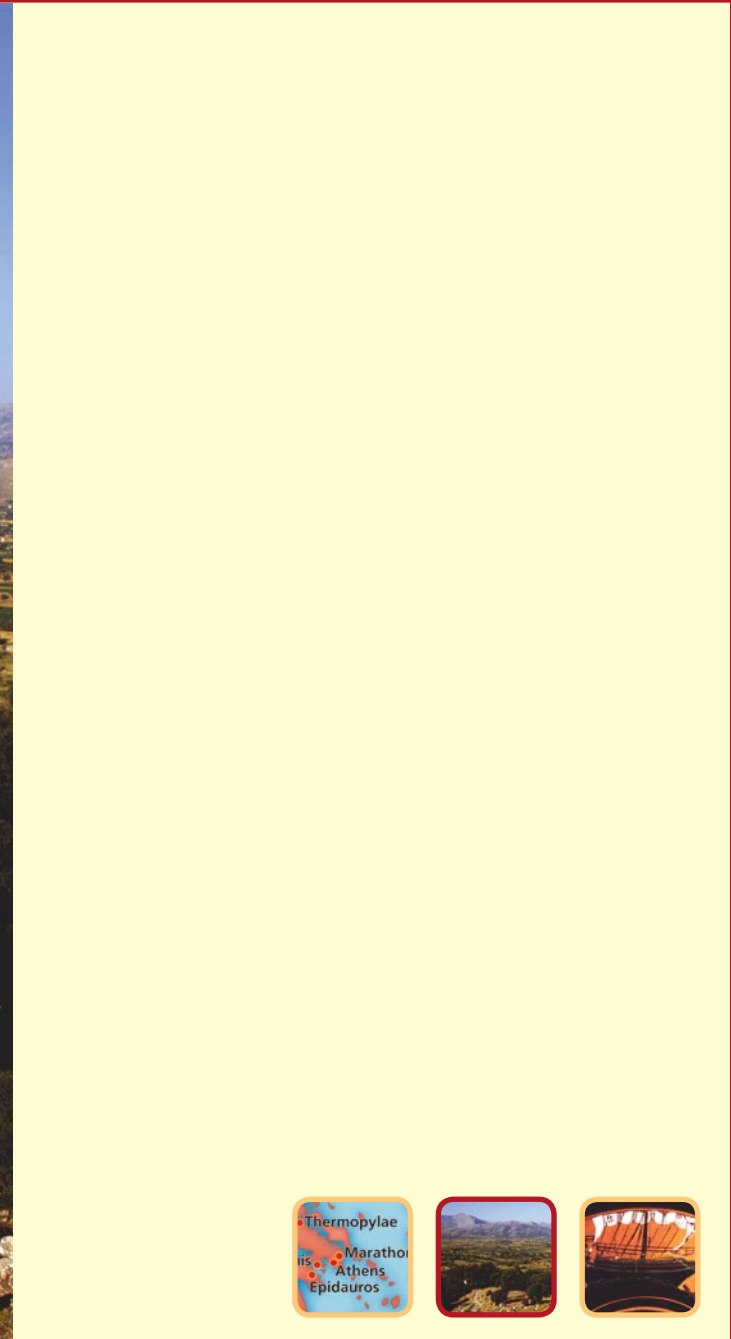
Where was Ancient Greece?



01 Map of Ancient Greece



02 Greek landscape



03 Greek trading ship



More info

The Ancient Greeks did not think of themselves as one country. Because the mountains made communication difficult, settlements grew up in isolation from each other. People in Ancient Greece felt that they belonged to their city state, such as Athens or Sparta. Each city state had its own customs and methods of organisation, and the states were frequently at war with each other. However, they all shared certain things in common. Ancient Greeks spoke the same language and believed in the same gods. They came together for certain festivals, such as the Olympic Games, and would sometimes unite to defeat a common enemy, such as Persia.



Topic Qs

- Q1** What is the capital city of modern Greece?
- Q2** What four things did the Ancient Greeks have in common?
- Q3** Ancient Greek sailors did not have compasses. How do you think they navigated?

[Answers](#)

Topic answers

Q1 What is the capital city of modern Greece?

A1 Athens

Q2 What four things did the Ancient Greeks have in common?

A2 a) The same language; b) the same gods; c) some of the same festivals; d) they sometimes came together if an enemy attacked.

Q3 Ancient Greek sailors did not have compasses. How do you think they navigated?

A3 During the day, they sailed close to the coast, within sight of land. At night, they navigated by the stars.

AS 1: What do you already know about Ancient Greece?

Make notes about your ideas	Where did you find out?
Where and when	
Myths and legends	
Gods	
Daily life	
Buildings	
Significant people	
Influence on our lives today	

What would you like to find out? Write your question here.

Where will you look?



AS 2: Important sites in Ancient Greece

Find these places on a map. Make notes about why each one was important in Ancient Greek times.

	Why was this an important place in Ancient Greece?
Delphi	
Athens	
Sparta	
Marathon	
Troy	
Epidaurus	
Olympia	



AS 3: A visit to Ancient Greece

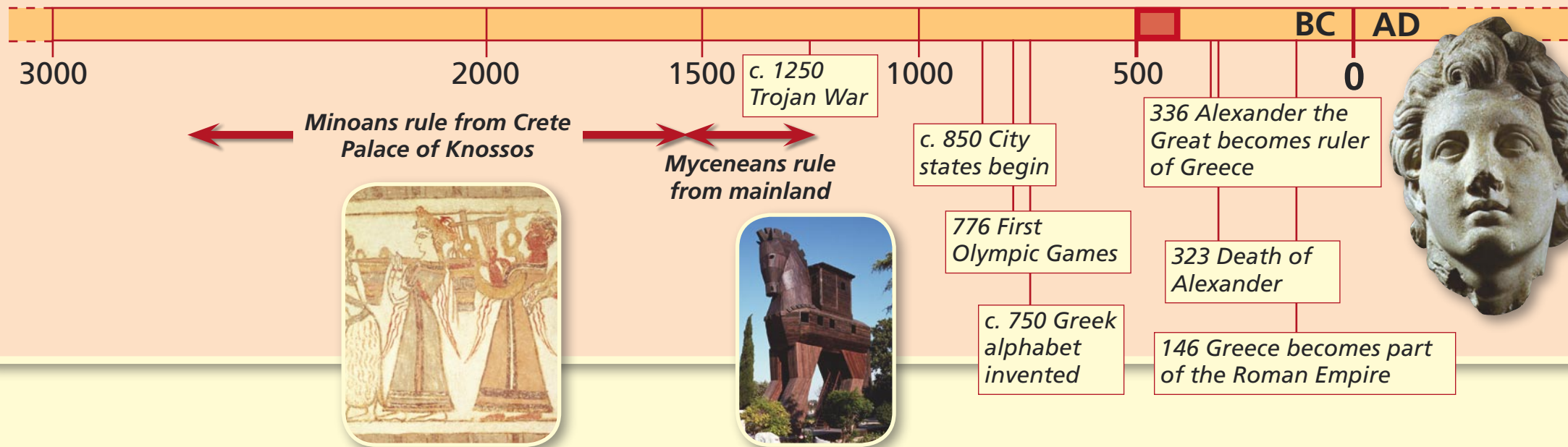
You are visiting Greece to see some of the sites on AS2. However, you only have time to see two of them. Which two sites will you choose? You need to do some research first to help you make a good choice.

I will visit:	Evidence from Ancient Greece to see at this site	My reasons for choosing this site
1		
2		

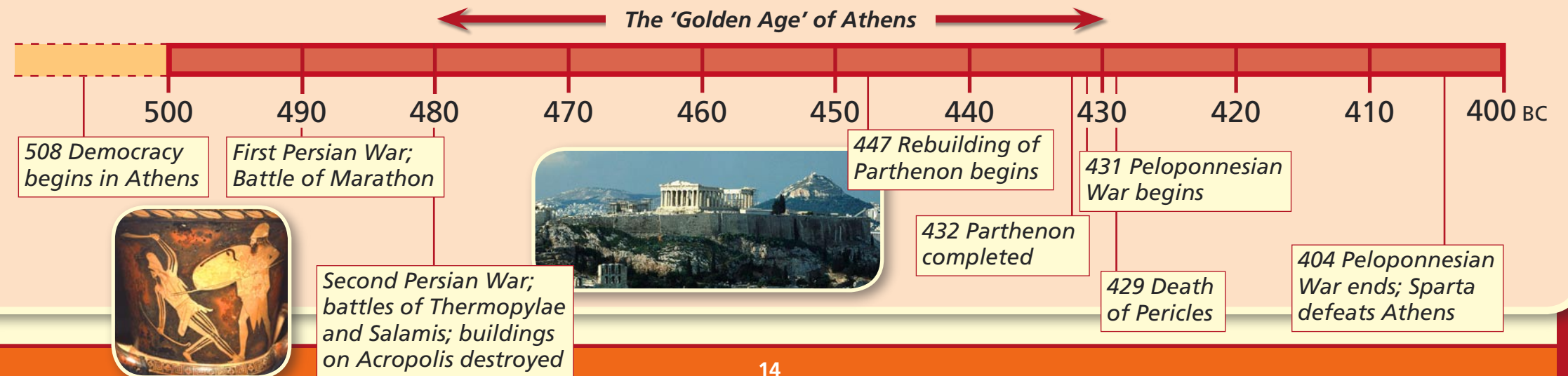


How long ago was Ancient Greece?

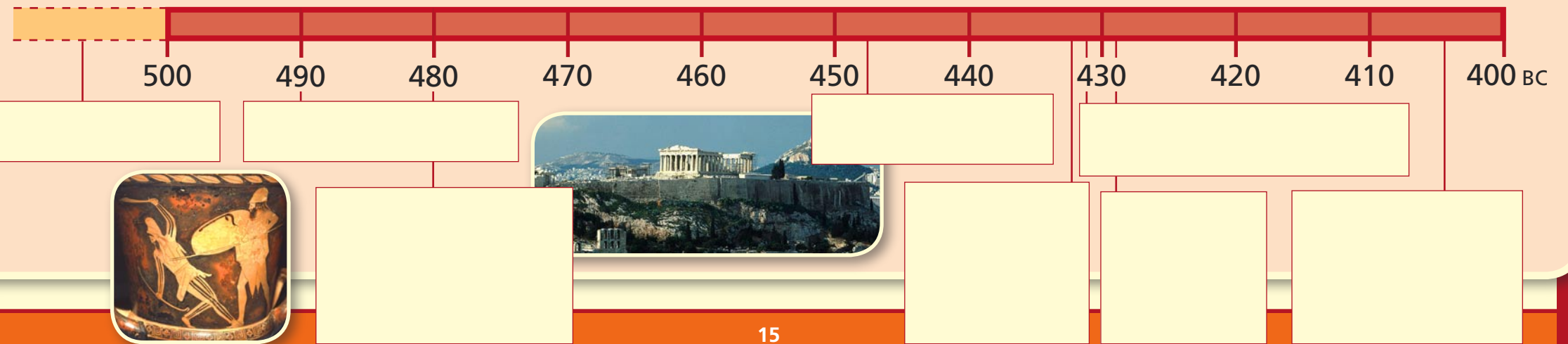
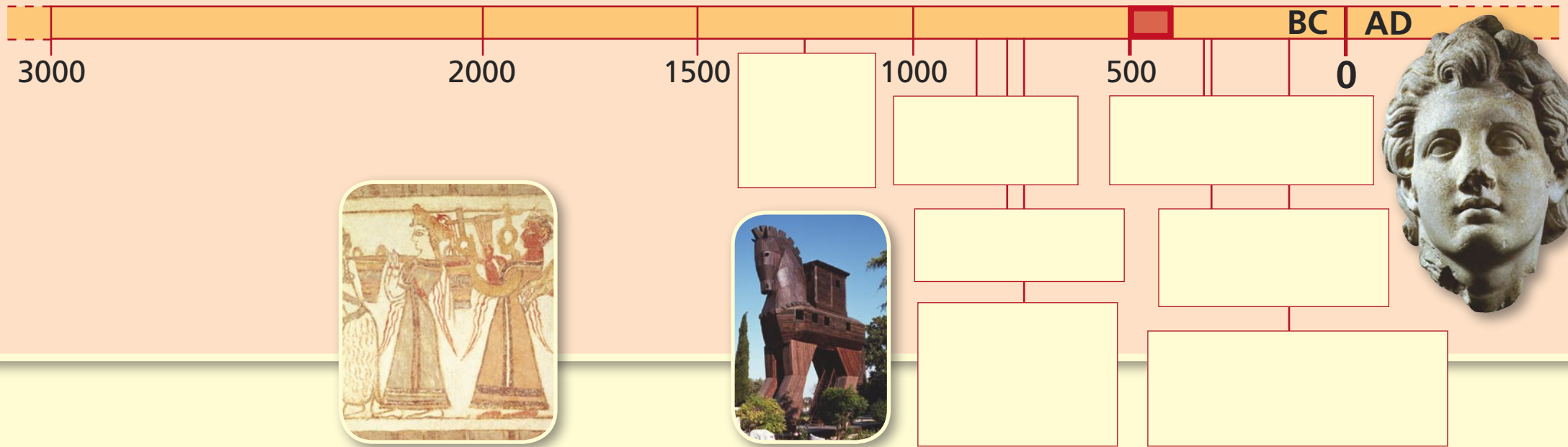
The period we call Ancient Greece began a very long time ago. It lasted for around three thousand years.



However, much of our knowledge about the Ancient Greeks comes from just one small part of this time-span: the fifth century BC.



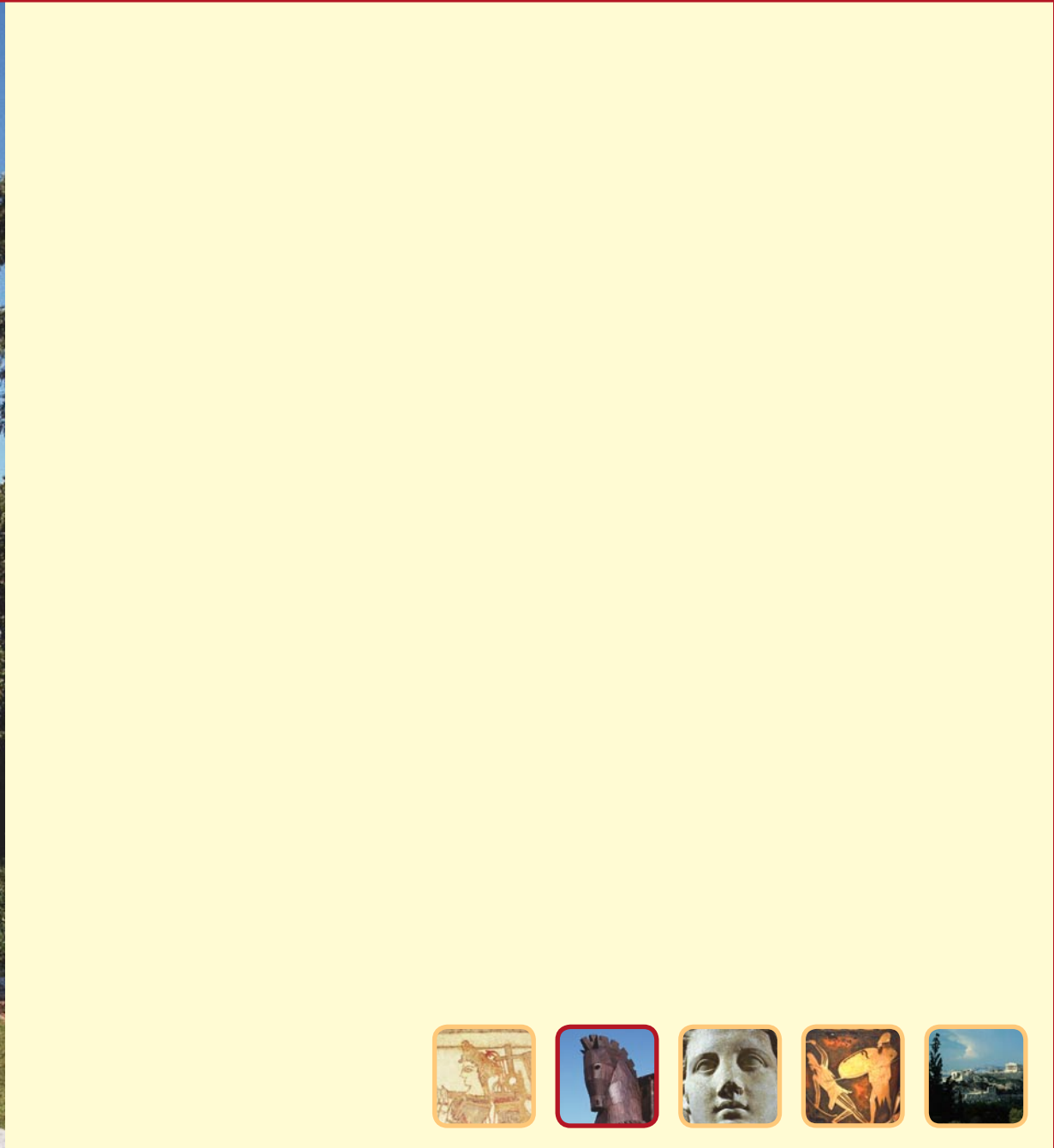
How long ago was Ancient Greece?



04 Ancient Greek painting of Minoans



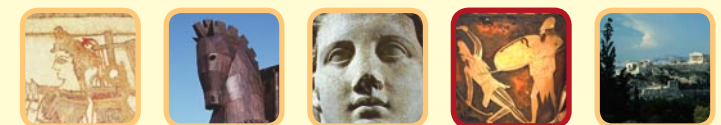
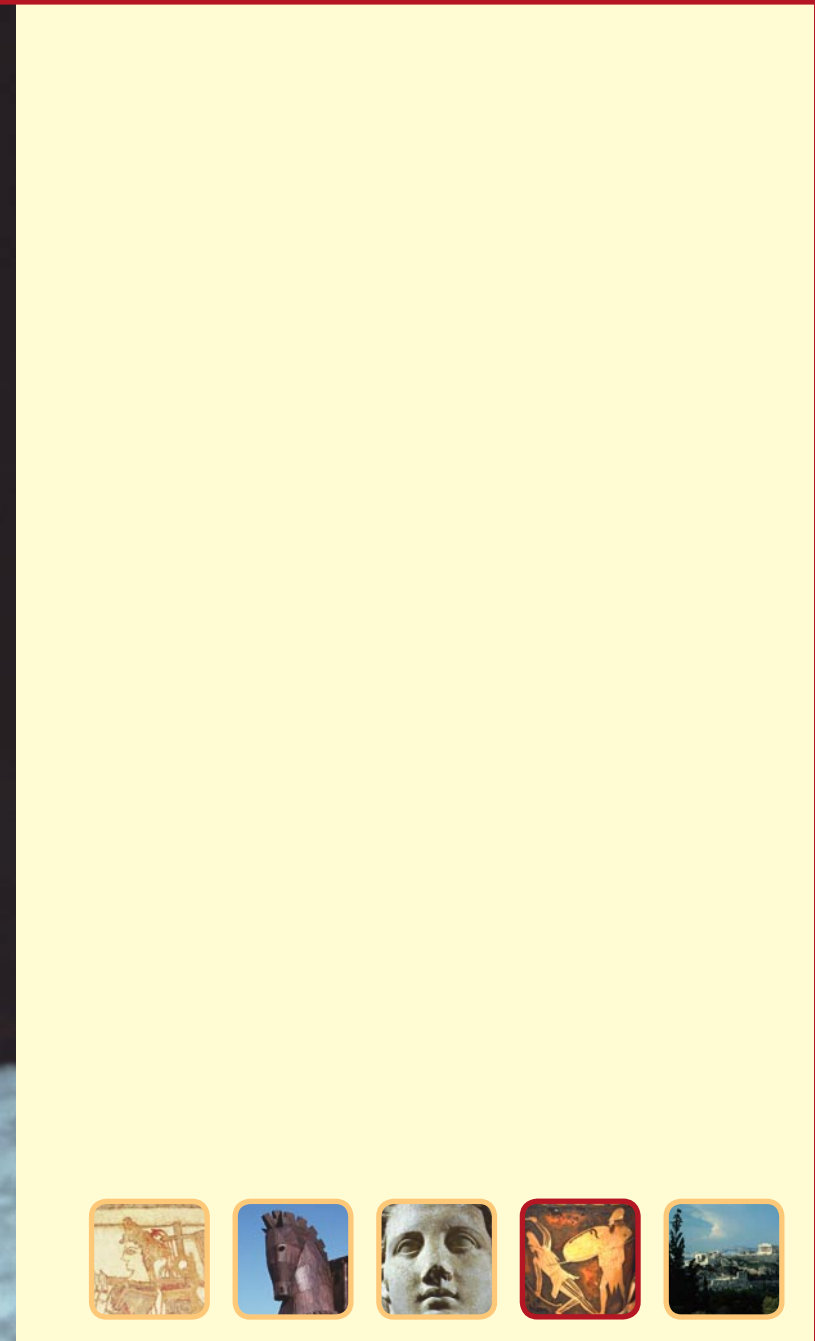
05 Reconstruction of the Trojan horse



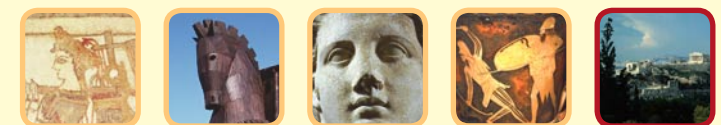
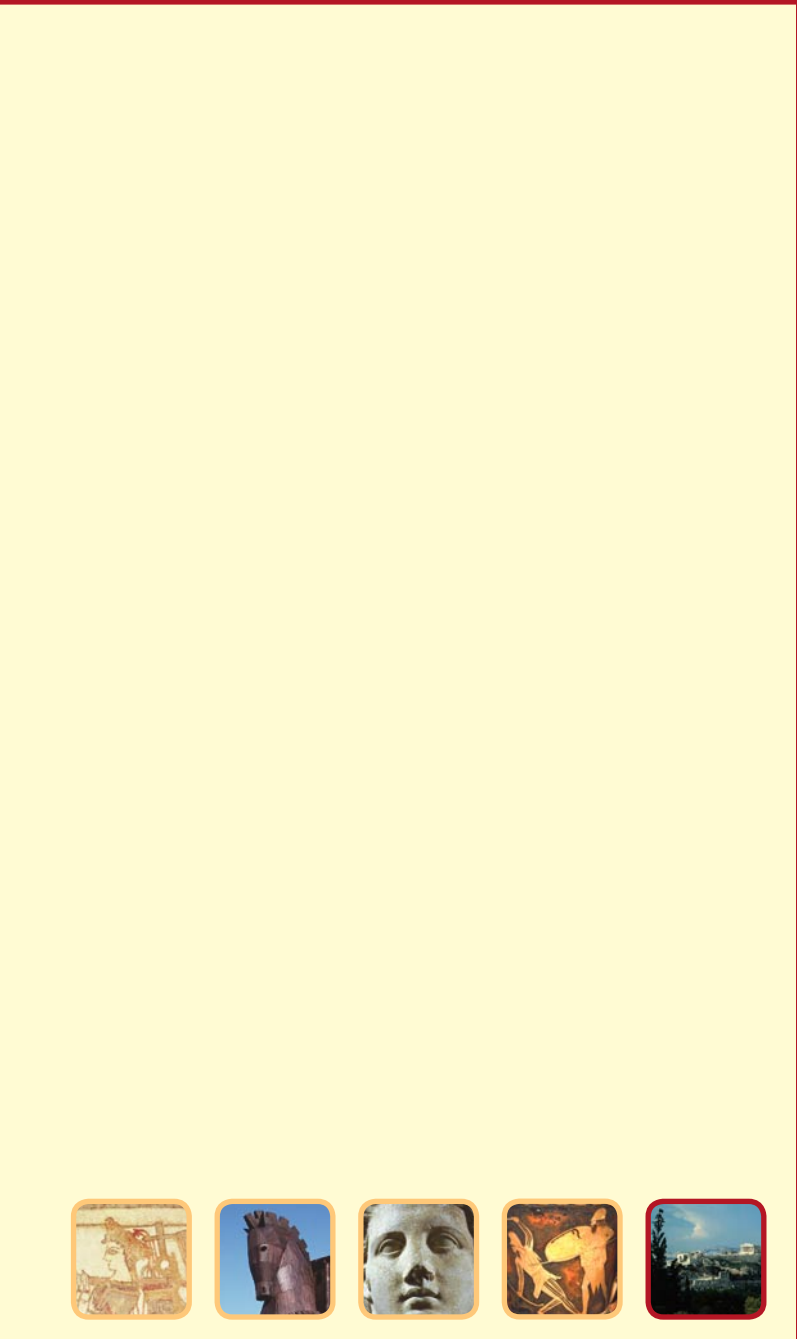
06 Bust of Alexander the Great



07 Greek soldier killing a Persian



08 The Parthenon, Athens



More info

When we use the term 'Ancient Greece', we often mean just the Classical period, during the fifth century BC. Most of our information for this time comes from one area: ancient Athens. Athens was the most powerful city state for much of the fifth century BC, and some of its buildings and works of art have survived to the present day. Also, many Athenians were literate, so we can read about their thoughts and feelings, their history and literature in their own words. Although ancient Athens may seem long ago and far away, it still has an effect on our lives today. Our language, culture and political system all have roots in Athenian society, two and a half thousand years ago.



Topic Qs

- Q1** What name do we give the fifth century BC?
- Q2** How long did it take to rebuild the Parthenon?
- Q3** Did Alexander the Great fight in the Trojan War?

[Answers](#)

Topic answers

Q1 What name do we give the fifth century BC?

A1 Classical Greece. Part of this is also called the 'Golden Age'.

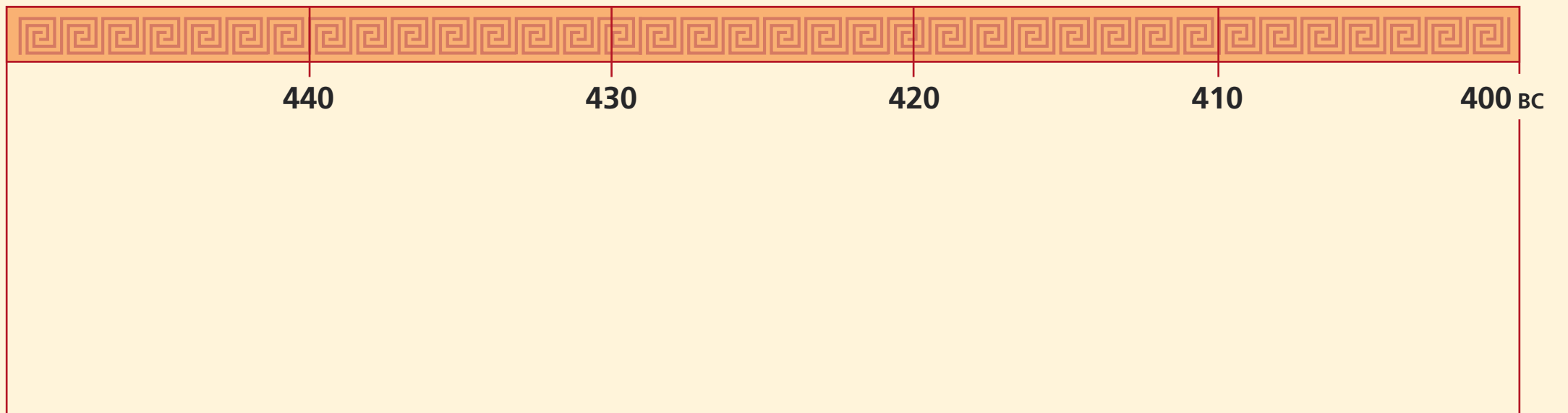
Q2 How long did it take to rebuild the Parthenon?

A2 Only fifteen years.

Q3 Did Alexander the Great fight in the Trojan War?

A3 No. He lived nearly one thousand years later.

AS 4: Timeline of Classical Greece



AS 5: Events in Ancient Greece

In what sequence did these events happen? Put them in the correct order by writing numbers 1 to 6 in the boxes.

First Olympic Games

Battle of Marathon

Trojan War

Battle of Salamis

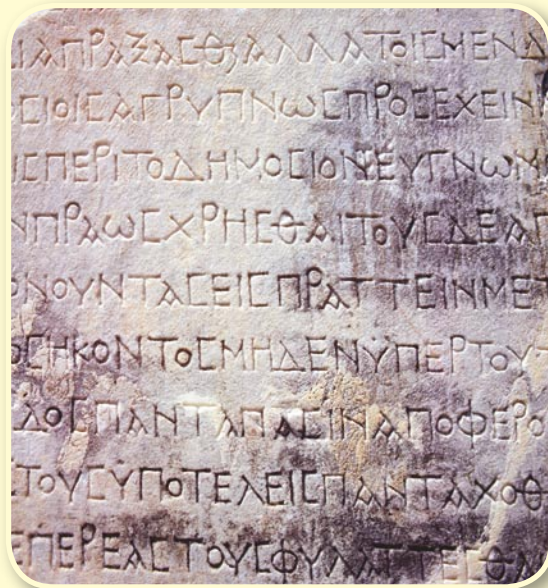
Death of Alexander the Great

Parthenon rebuilt



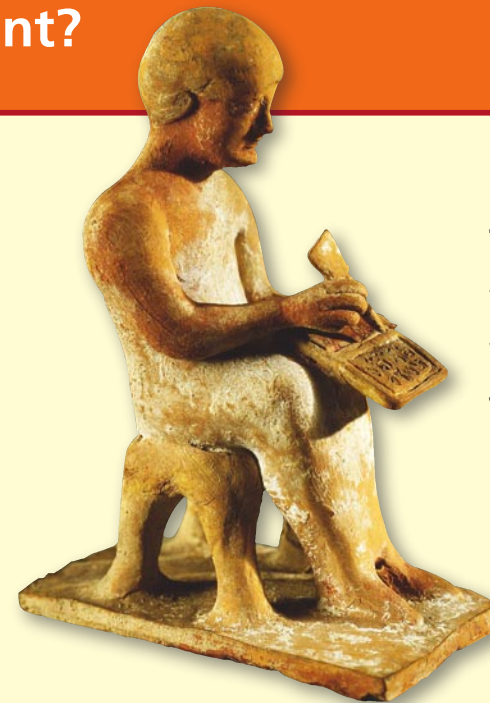
Why is the Ancient Greek language important?

In the eighth century BC, the Greeks developed a new form of writing. The letters we write with today derive from this Ancient Greek alphabet. The word 'alphabet' comes from the names of the first two Greek letters, *alpha* and *beta*.



How many letters can you recognise on this Ancient Greek inscription?

The Greek writing on this baby's feeding bottle says 'Drink, don't drop'.



This model shows a man writing on a wax tablet with a stylus. He uses the flat end to smooth out any mistakes.

People in Ancient Greece wrote with materials like this.



A wooden writing tablet

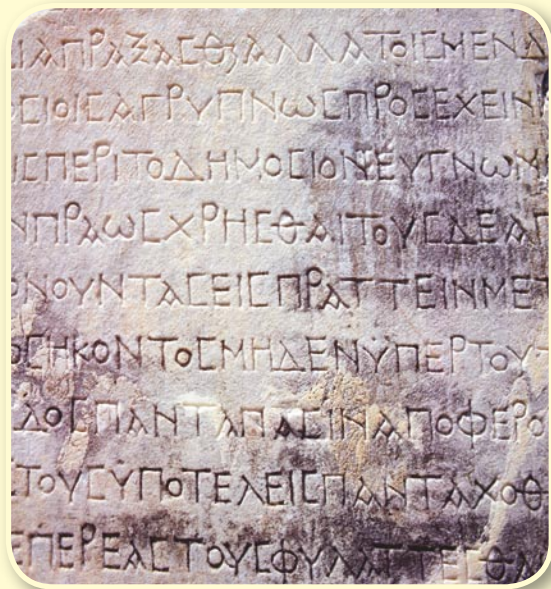
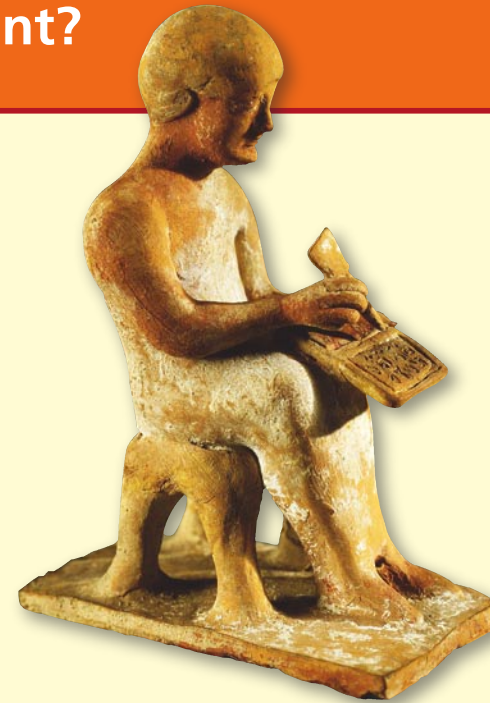
Three inkpots

A letter written on papyrus

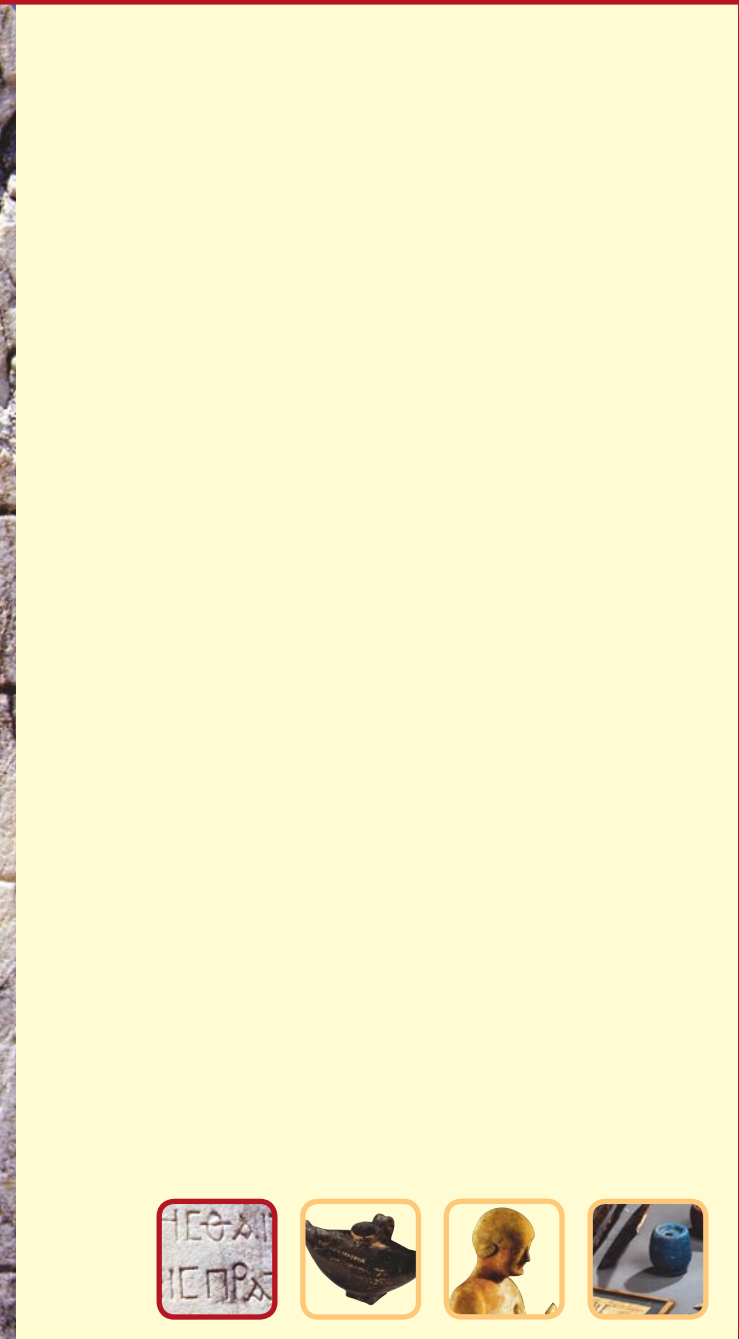
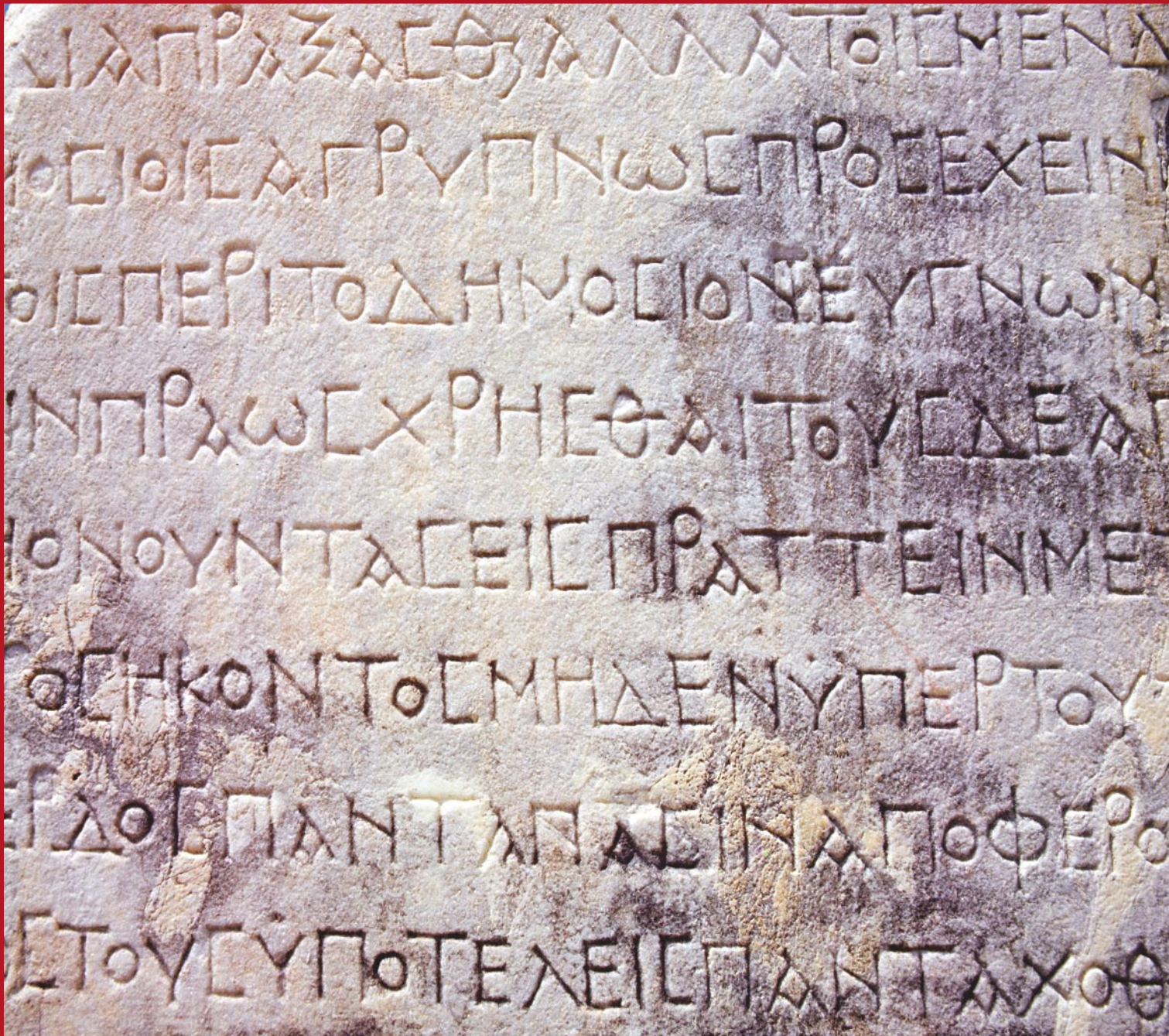
Two styluses

Two pens

Why is the Ancient Greek language important?



09 Ancient Greek stone inscription



10 Baby's feeding bottle



11 Writing on a wax tablet with a stylus



12 Ancient Greek writing implements



More info

The Greeks used a form of writing during their earlier history in Minoan and Mycenaean times, but they developed a new method around 750 BC using an alphabet. Originally, the Greeks borrowed the idea from the Phoenicians, but added some of their own letter signs. This new writing meant that ideas, laws and information could all be recorded. Also, stories and poetry, such as the works of Homer, which had been learnt by heart and passed down by memory for hundreds of years, could be written down for the first time. Every time we read and write today, we are using a method that is more than 2500 years old.



Topic Qs

Q1 Did the Ancient Greeks invent their alphabet?

Q2 Where does our word 'alphabet' come from?

Q3 Why is Ancient Greek writing important to us today?

[Answers](#)

Topic Answers

Q1 Did the Ancient Greeks invent their alphabet?

A1 No. They borrowed many of their ideas from the writing used by the Phoenicians.

Q2 Where does our word 'alphabet' come from?

A2 From the names of the first two Greek letters, *alpha* and *beta*.

Q3 Why is Ancient Greek writing important to us today?

A3 Because the letters we write with are based on the Ancient Greek alphabet.

AS 6: The Greek alphabet

Upper case	Lower case	Letter name	Sound
Α	α	alpha	a
Β	β	beta	b
Γ	γ	gamma	g
Δ	δ	delta	d
Ε	ε	epsilon	e
Ζ	ζ	zeta	z
Η	η	eta	e or ay
Θ	θ	theta	th
Ι	ι	iota	i
Κ	κ	kappa	k
Λ	λ	lambda	l
Μ	μ	mu	m

Upper case	Lower case	Letter name	Sound
Ν	ν	nu	n
Ξ	ξ	xi	x or ks
Ο	ο	omicron	o
Π	π	pi	p
Ρ	ρ	rho	r
Σ	σ ς	sigma	s
Τ	τ	tau	t
Υ	υ	upsilon	u or oo
Φ	φ	phi	f or ph
Χ	χ	chi	ch
Ψ	ψ	psi	ps
Ω	ω	omega	oh

Missing letters	Use these instead
c	κ
j	ι
q	κ
v	φ
w	ου
h	use ^ε with the letter: ξ is pronounced 'ha'

What does this word say?

ΓΡΕΕΚΕ



AS 7: Words from Ancient Greece

What words can you think of that have their origins in Greek?

Children's names
Philip, Helen, Jason

Brand names
Ajax, Nike

Prefix/suffix	Meaning	English words
anti	against	
arch	old	
deca	ten	
graphy	to write	
logy	study of	
micr	small	
octo	eight	
pente	five	
peri	around	
phot	light	



What was life like for women in Ancient Greece?

Wealthy Athenian women stayed at home and had little contact with the outside world. They looked after the household and had slaves to do the work.

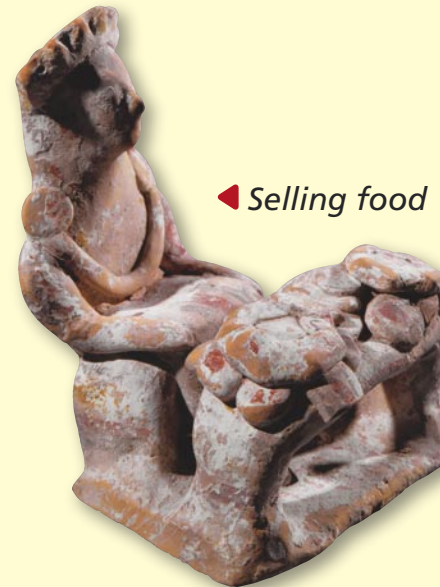


◀ *The seated woman is telling her servant what to do.*

Spinning and weaving were important tasks for women. This finely dressed woman is spinning woollen thread.



Poorer women worked in a wide range of jobs. The models below show women making bread and selling food.



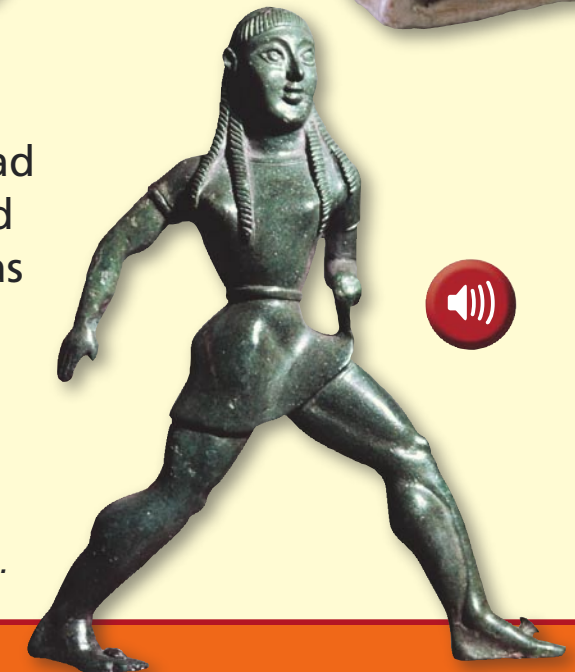
◀ *Selling food*



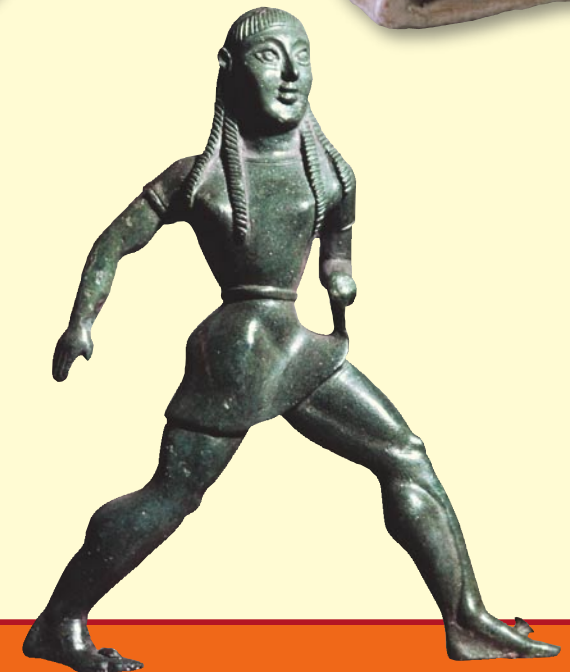
▶ *Making bread*

In Sparta, women had greater freedom and were treated more as equals to men. Girls took part in sports alongside boys.

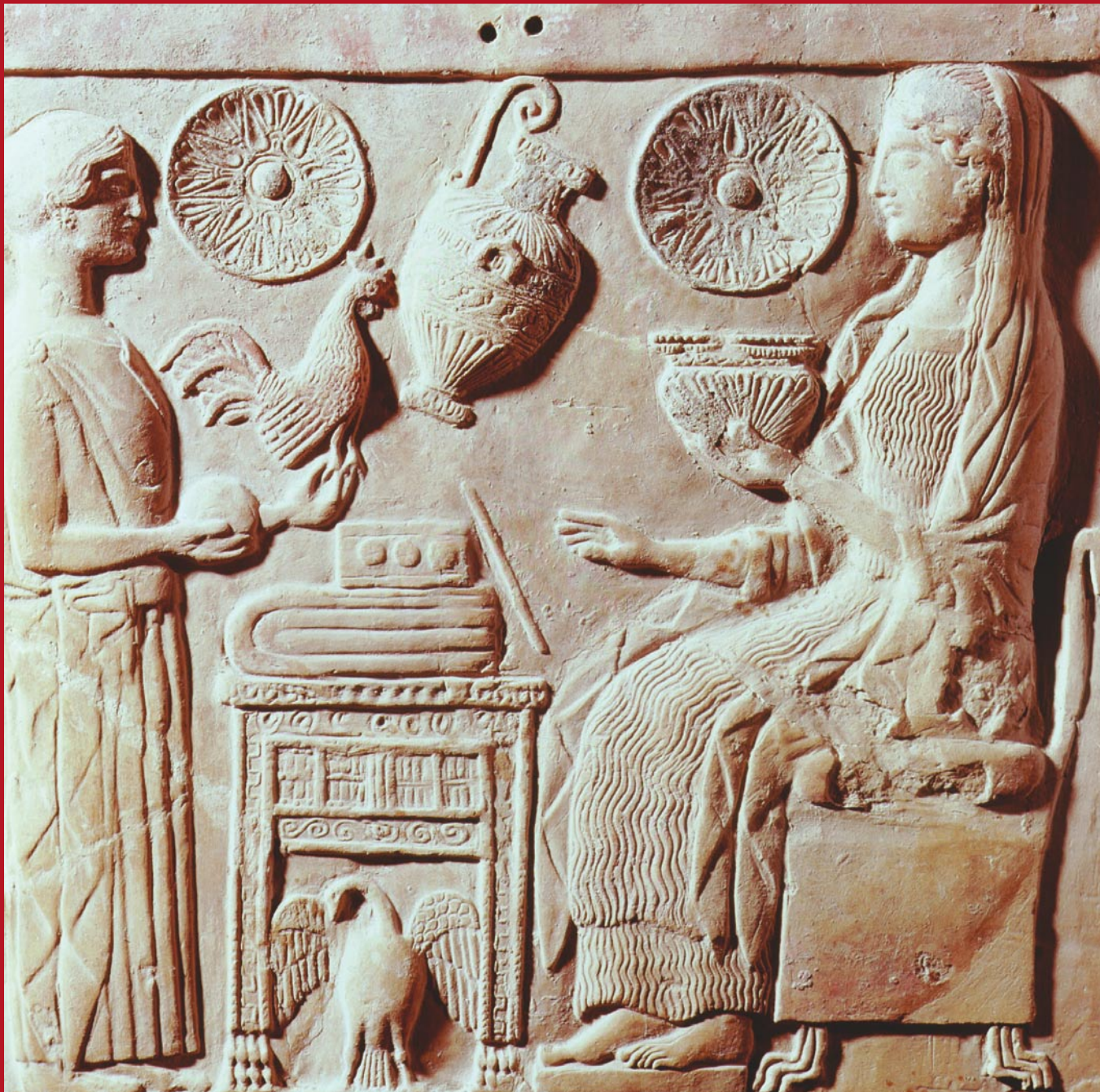
▶ *This Spartan girl is running in a race.*



What was life like for women in Ancient Greece?



13 Rich woman and servant



14 Woman spinning woollen thread



15 Clay figure of a woman making bread



16 Clay figure of a woman selling food



17 Model of Spartan girl running



More info

Wealthy women in ancient Athens led very secluded lives within the home. They had few rights: they could not own property and they could not vote, so they were unable to take part in any democratic decisions. Religious festivals were some of the few occasions where Athenian women could leave the house and take part in public events. Women could serve as priestesses, where they played an important role in the religious life of the city. Poor women did many jobs and some were also servants or slaves.

Spartan women enjoyed much more freedom. They were free to go out and could own their own land. Spartan girls ran races and kept fit with sports and exercises. This training was to make sure they produced strong, healthy sons who would grow up to be great soldiers.



Topic Qs

- Q1** Did wealthy Athenian women go out to work?
- Q2** Why did the Spartans think sports and athletics were important for women?
- Q3** Would you rather have been a woman in Sparta or in Athens?

[Answers](#)

Topic answers

Q1 Did wealthy Athenian women go out to work?

A1 No. They stayed at home.

Q2 Why did the Spartans think sports and athletics were important for women?

A2 They believed that these activities would enable women to produce strong, healthy sons, who would grow up to be great Spartan soldiers.

Q3 Would you rather have been a woman in Sparta or in Athens?

AS 8: An Athenian woman's life (source 1)

Wealthy Athenian women were trained to look after the home. They had slaves to do most of the work. In this text, a husband tells his wife her duties.

It will be your job to remain indoors and to send out all those slaves who work outdoors. Then you must supervise the slaves who work inside the house. It is your job to collect all the money that comes into the house and pay out any expenses that are owed. You must look after the money carefully, so that you don't spend a whole year's budget in a month. When they bring you wool, you must make clothes for all who need them. It is your job to check that the dried corn is fit to eat. You should go around making sure that everything is in its proper place. It will be good exercise for you to knead the bread and shake out and fold the cloaks and sheets. But there is one thankless task you have to do, and that is look after any slave who falls ill.

Adapted from *How to Train a Wife*,
by Xenophon, fourth century BC

1 List all the different jobs that an Athenian wife has to do.

2 Rewrite this text as **instructions**, using numbers or bullet points.



AS 9: An Athenian woman's life (source 2)

Sometimes Greek writers wrote about women's lives from a woman's point of view. This is how Sophocles describes a woman's situation in Athens during the fifth century BC. It tells us how wealthy women were the property first of their fathers and then of their husbands.

Away from home I am nothing. Yes, I have often thought about what women are and seen that we are nothing. Young girls have the sweetest of all lives in their fathers' houses. They are safe and happy because they do not know the ways of the world. But as soon as we are old enough to marry, we are driven out of our houses and sold far away from our parents and our gods. Some are married to strangers, some to foreigners. Some go to unhappy homes, some to ones that are hostile. And from the moment we are yoked to our husbands, we are forced to praise all this and say that all is well.

1 What does the writer tell us are the **bad** things about a woman's life?

2 The writer is suggesting that many women's lives were unhappy. List the strong **nouns**, **adjectives** and **verbs** that the writer uses to put across this point of view.



Did children go to school in Ancient Greece?

Boys from wealthy homes in Athens went to school when they were about seven years old. They were accompanied by a special slave called a *paidagogus*. The boys learnt all the skills needed to become good citizens: reading, writing, arithmetic, music and athletics.



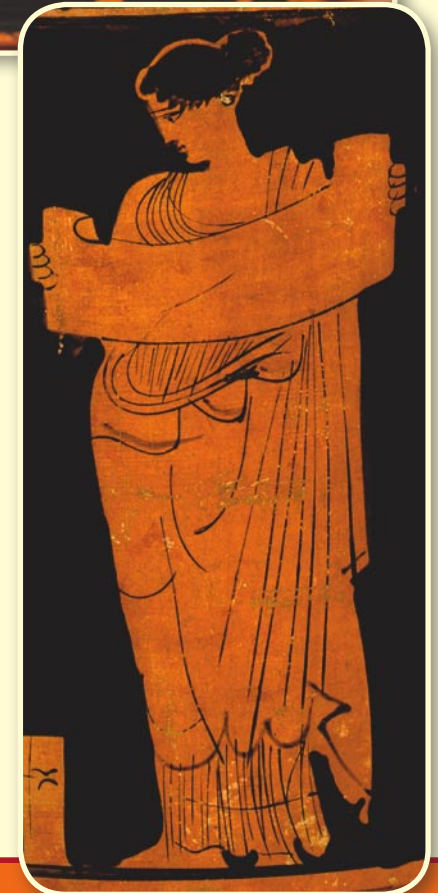
The painting on this pot shows us what lessons were like in Ancient Greece. The pupil in the centre stands in front of his teacher, who holds a wax tablet and stylus. His *paidagogus* looks on. The boy on the left is having a music lesson.



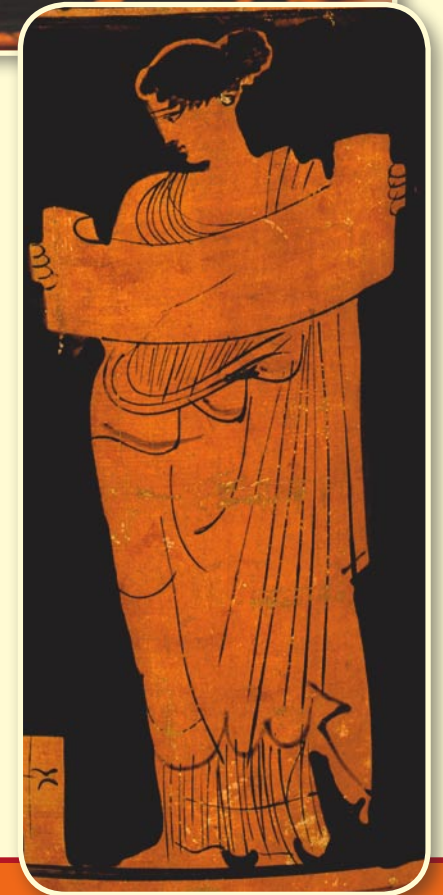
▲ Boys exercising

The Ancient Greeks believed that fitness was very important, and so all wealthy boys took part in physical education.

Girls did not go to school, but some were taught to read and write by private tutors. This girl is reading a scroll made from papyrus.



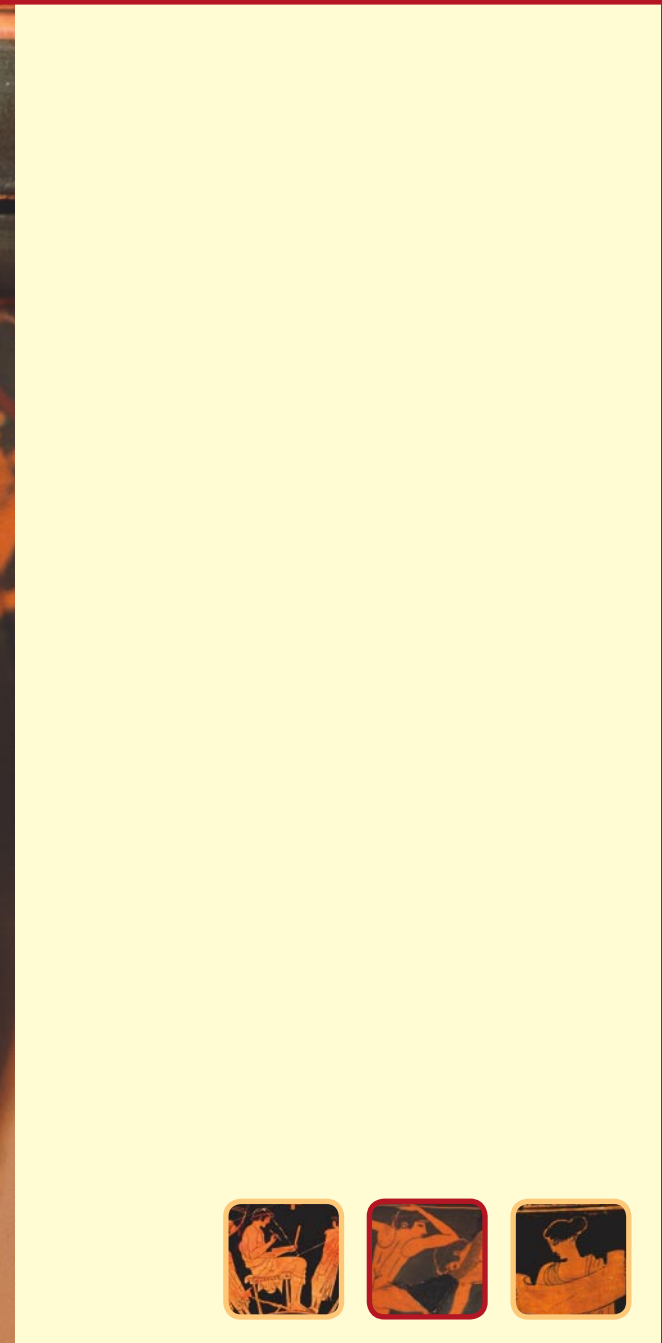
Did children go to school in Ancient Greece?



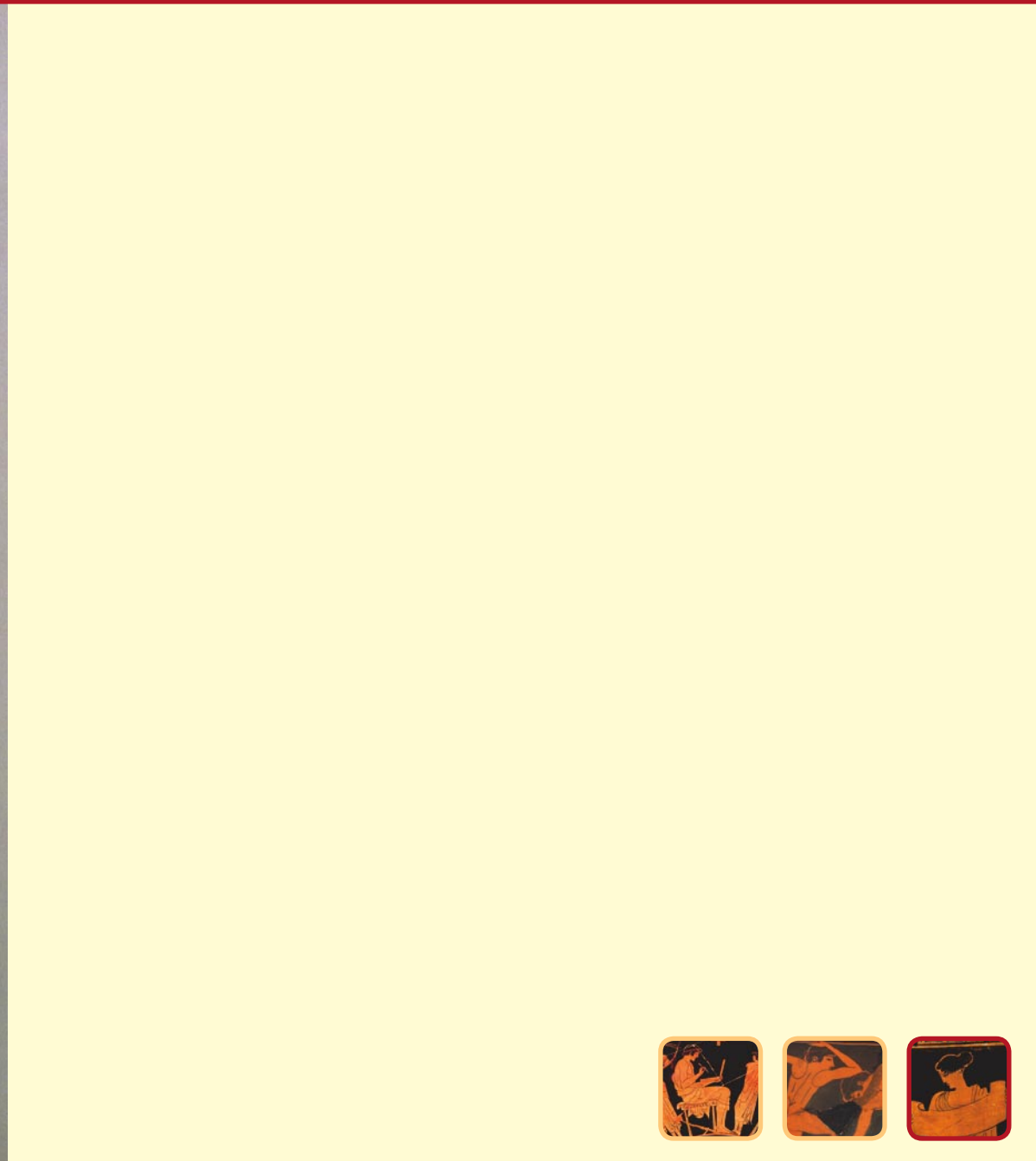
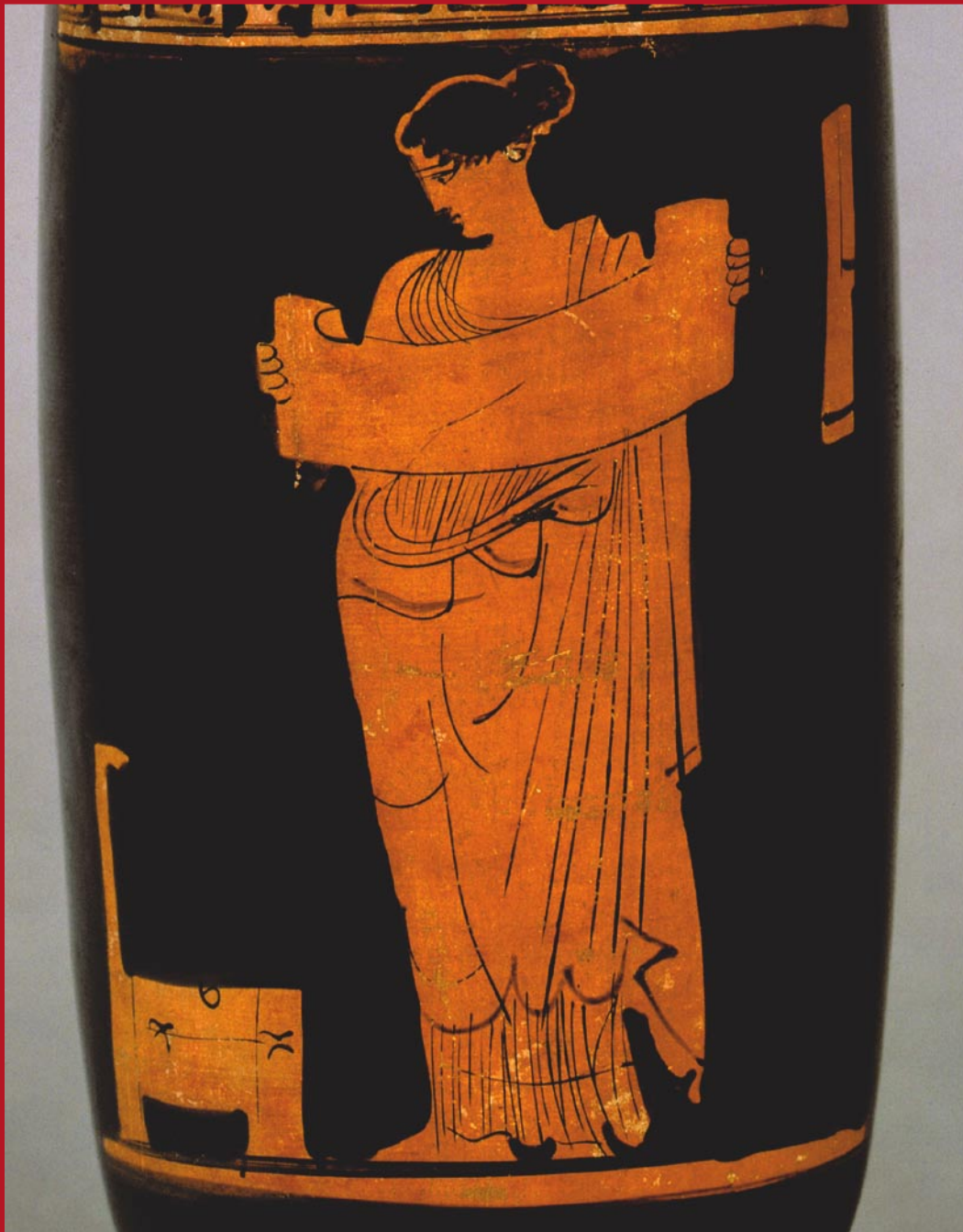
18 Boys at school



19 Boys taking part in physical education



20 Girl reading a scroll



More info

In Athens, education was important for preparing boys to be good citizens. Many families, not just wealthy ones, sent their sons to learn to read and write, although only rich homes could afford the cost of other lessons. Boys were expected to learn many stories and very long poems, such as the works of Homer, by heart.

Wealthy girls had very little education. They were taught domestic skills by their mothers at home, such as spinning, weaving and how to run a household.

Boys in Sparta also learned to read and write, but most of their education was focused on learning military skills. Boys were taken away from their homes at the age of seven and sent to live in barracks, where they were given a very strict training. Spartan girls too were expected to be tough. They learnt to read and write, and also trained and competed against each other in athletic events, including wrestling.



Topic Qs

- Q1** What subjects did wealthy Athenian boys study?
- Q2** Did girls go to school in ancient Athens?
- Q3** Why do you think athletics was an important part of a boy's education in Athens?

[Answers](#)

Topic answers

Q1 What subjects did wealthy Athenian boys study?

A1 They learnt reading, writing, arithmetic, music and athletics.

Q2 Did girls go to school in ancient Athens?

A2 No. They stayed at home and learnt domestic skills, such as spinning, weaving and how to look after the home.

Q3 Why do you think athletics was an important part of a boy's education in Athens?

A3 It was important for boys to be fit and strong so that they would be good soldiers when they grew up.

AS 10: Going to school in ancient Athens

Talos, the son of a wealthy Athenian family, describes going to school.

When I was seven years old, my father sent me to school. We have to pay for all my lessons. First I go to the letter-master's school. We learn to read and write the Greek alphabet and to recite the works of our great poets from memory. I like the stories of Homer best, especially those about the Trojan War. We also learn to do arithmetic. The pupils all sit in one big room. We sit on stools, facing the master, and write with our wax tablets on our knees. If any boys don't learn their lessons, the teacher beats them.

Because I come from a wealthy family, my father can afford to send me to two other schools as well. I go to the music-master, where I learn to sing and play the pipes and lyre. I also have lessons in sports and athletics. It is important to keep my body fit and healthy so I can be a good soldier when I grow up.

When I'm eighteen I will leave school. Then I will have to go to a special training camp for two years to learn the skills of a soldier. Athens is often at war, and all good citizens must be prepared to fight.

How old was Talos when he started school?

How many schools does he go to?

What subjects does he learn?

Why is physical education so important?

When does Talos leave school?

What does he do next?

Did all ancient Greek children go to school like Talos?



AS 11: Comparing schools then and now

Use the table below to compare your school with schools in ancient Athens.

	Schools in ancient Athens	Schools today
Pupils		
Age for starting school		
Teachers		
Subjects		
Classroom		
Equipment		
Punishment		
Age for leaving school		
Purpose of education		



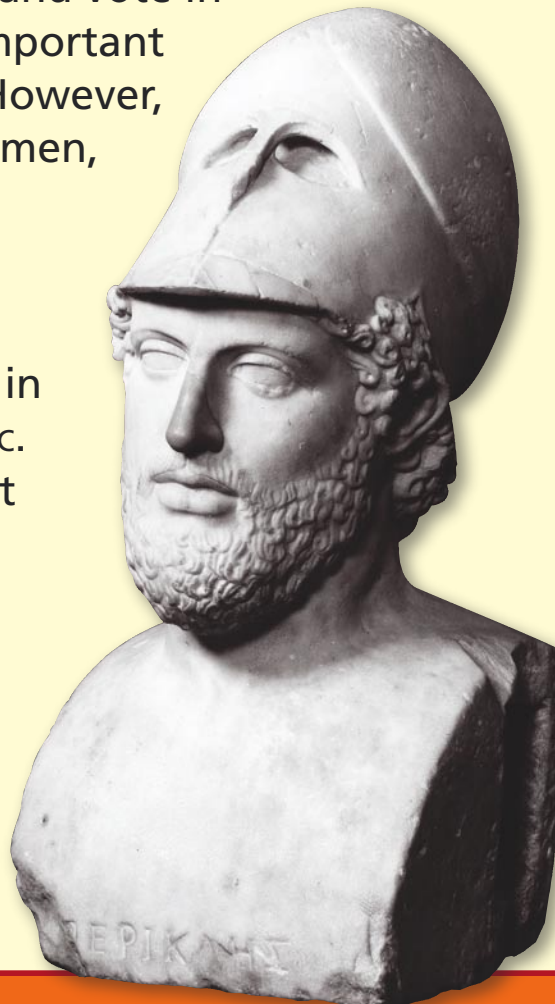
How was ancient Athens governed?

Athens was the first state to be ruled by a system called democracy. The word 'democracy' comes from the Greek words *demos* and *kratos*, and means 'rule by the people'. All citizens had the right to speak and vote in the Assembly, where important decisions were made. However, this did not include women, foreigners or slaves.

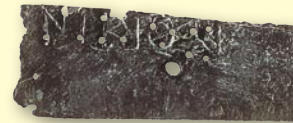
Pericles was the leader in Athens from 463–429 BC. He played an important part in developing democracy.



▶ This bust of Pericles shows him wearing his general's helmet.



Citizens also served as jurors in the courts of law. The artefacts shown below are all evidence for Greek justice.



▲ Jurors were given these identity cards.



▲ These bronze discs were used for voting. The solid end means 'not guilty', while the hollow end means 'guilty'.



◀ This water clock was used to time speeches.

▶ People's names have been scratched on these broken pieces of pottery, called ostraca. This is how Athenians voted to make unpopular leaders leave the city.



How was ancient Athens governed?



21 Bust of Pericles



22 Jurors' identity cards



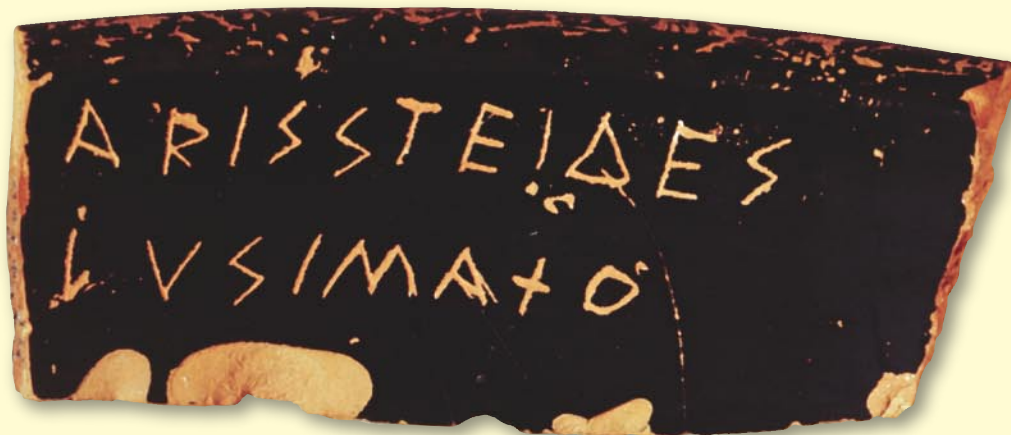
23 Bronze discs used for voting



24 Water clock used to time speeches



25 Ostraca (broken pieces of pottery scratched with people's names)



More info

Athens is often called the 'birthplace of democracy', and our present system of government is based on these same ideas. However, when Athenians talked about 'rule by the people', they did not mean everyone. Only free men, whose parents were Athenians, were citizens, and only citizens could go to the Assembly and vote. This meant that large numbers of the population, including women, slaves and foreigners, could not take part in any decision-making.

The Athenians also had a way of dealing with important people who became unpopular. It was called *ostracism*. The names of unpopular individuals were scratched on a piece of broken pottery, called an *ostrakon*. The names were then counted. If at least six thousand citizens had written the same name, that person had to leave Athens for up to ten years.



Topic Qs

- Q1** What does the word 'democracy' mean?
- Q2** Could all adults vote in ancient Athens?
- Q3** What was an *ostrakon*, and what word that we use today does it give us?

[Answers](#)

Topic answers

Q1 What does the word 'democracy' mean?

A1 It comes from the Greek words *demos* and *kratos*, and means 'rule by the people'.

Q2 Could all adults vote in ancient Athens?


A2 No. Women, slaves and foreigners were not allowed to vote.

Q3 What was an *ostrakon*, and what word that we use today does it give us?

A3 An *ostrakon* (plural, *ostraca*) was a broken piece of pottery. It gives us the verb 'to ostracise', which today means 'to have nothing to do with someone'.

AS 12: Democracy in ancient Athens

Find out about Athenian democracy in the E Big Book. Then read each statement below and put a **tick** in the **correct box** to show whether it is **true** or **false**.

	True	False
The word 'democracy' comes from the English language.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Everyone could vote in ancient Athens.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Women often went to the Assembly.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
People in court could speak for as long as they wanted.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Pericles decided if wrong-doers were guilty or not guilty.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<i>Ostraca</i> were Ancient Greek coins.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
There was no way to get rid of unpopular leaders.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



AS 13: Pericles speaks about democracy in Athens

*Our system of government does not copy those of our neighbours. Instead, we are an example to them. Our system is called a democracy because power is in the hands of the whole people, rather than the few. **Everyone is equal before the law.** Important positions are not just given to the wealthy, but to any man with talent, no matter how poor he is. And just as our political life is free and open, so is our everyday life. We do not get angry with our neighbour for doing what he likes. We are open and friendly in our private lives, but we always keep to the law. **We obey those we give authority to,** and respect all the laws, especially those which protect the weak.*

*Here, each citizen is interested not only in his own business, but in the affairs of the state as well. We are very different from other states, because we believe a man who takes no part in politics is useless. **We all decide or debate carefully important decisions.** The worst thing is to rush into action before all issues have been properly discussed.*

- 1 List from the text **three** reasons why Pericles thinks that the Athenian system of government is better than others.
- 2 Look carefully at each of the **three** extracts in **bold type**.
 - Explain in your own words what Pericles means by these statements.
 - Discuss whether these statements are true for our system of government today.



What made Ancient Greek fighters so powerful?

The Ancient Greeks were often at war, and all adult males had to be prepared to fight. Hoplites were the most important soldiers in the Greek army.



▲ These hoplites are preparing for battle.

Hoplites wore armour like this for protection.



▲ Bronze helmet



▲ Cuirass



▲ Greaves

Hoplites fought in a tightly packed formation, using their shields to protect each other. The picture shows them marching to the sound of a pipe player, who helped them keep in step.



The Greeks also fought at sea. The most powerful warship was the *trireme*, which was rowed by 170 oarsmen, sitting in three levels. Look for the bronze ram at the prow to smash into enemy ships.



▼ This modern reconstruction shows us what a trireme looked like.



What made Ancient Greek fighters so powerful?



26 Greek hoplites putting on armour



27 Bronze helmet



28 Cuirass (breastplate)



29 Greaves (leg plates)



30 Greek hoplites marching to the sound of a pipe



31 Greek pot showing a *trireme*



32 Modern reconstruction of a Greek *trireme*



More info

The hoplite fought with a shield, a spear (his main weapon) and a sword. His armour and weapons were very heavy, which made it difficult to move fast. They were also very expensive, so only men from wealthy families could be hoplites. Other men might fight in battle as archers, stone-slingers or javelin-throwers. Spartan men spent all their time training for war. Spartan hoplites were the most feared fighters in all Greece.

In the fifth century BC, Greece fought two wars with the Persian Empire. In 490 BC, the heavily outnumbered Greeks defeated a huge Persian army at the Battle of Marathon. Ten years later, in 480 BC, the Persians invaded again. They defeated the Greeks at the Battle of Thermopylae, where three hundred Spartans held them back for nearly three days, and went on to burn Athens to the ground. They were finally defeated in the great sea battle at Salamis, when two hundred Greek *triremes* overcame eight hundred Persian ships.



Topic Qs

Q1 What weapons did the hoplite carry?

Q2 How did the hoplites protect themselves in battle?

Q3 In which two battles did the Greeks defeat the Persians?

[Answers](#)

Topic answers

Q1 What weapons did the hoplite carry?

A1 A spear (his main weapon) and a sword.

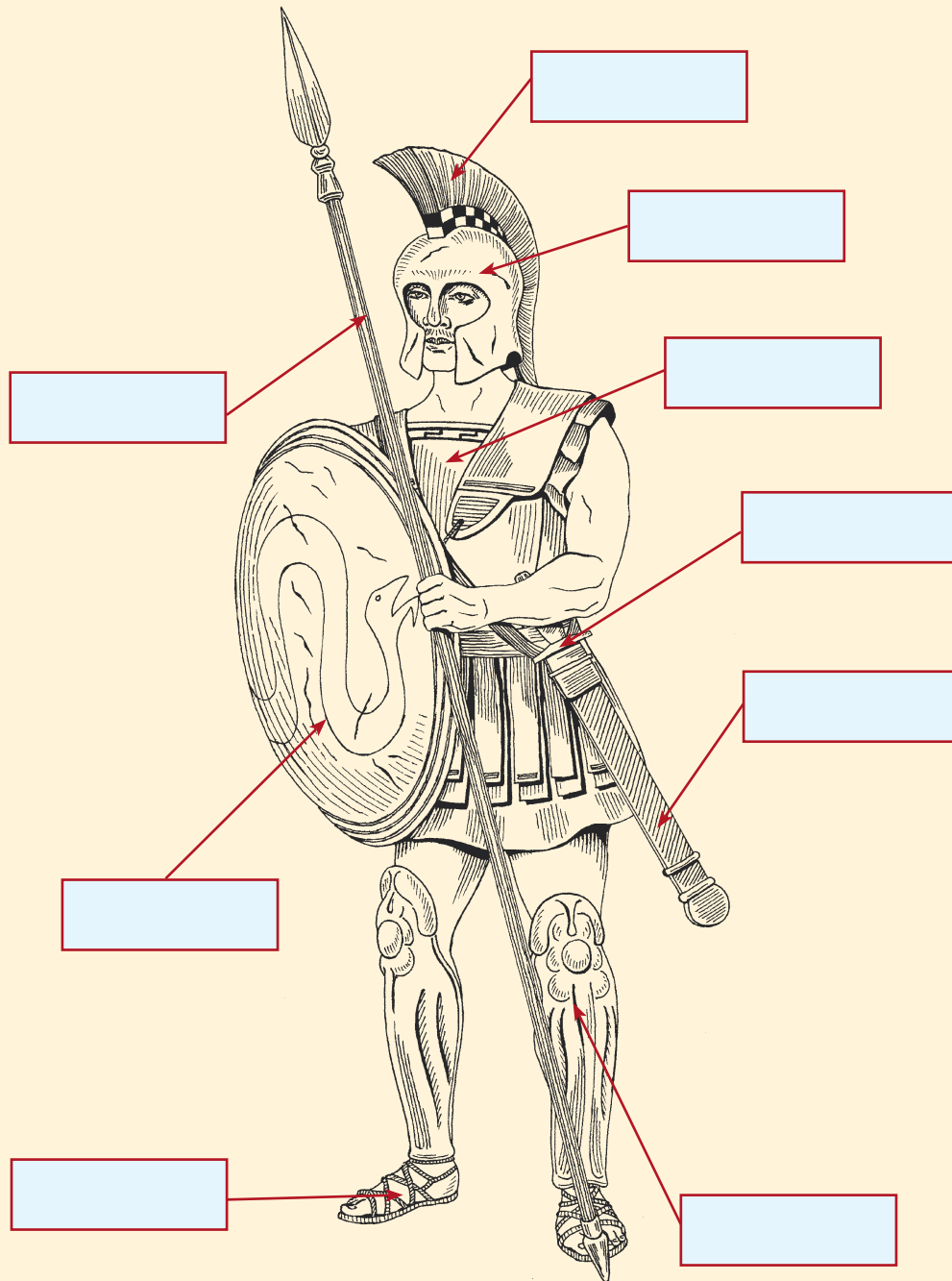
Q2 How did the hoplites protect themselves in battle?

A2 They wore helmets and body armour. They also carried shields, which they held close together to protect each other.

Q3 In which two battles did the Greeks defeat the Persians?

A3 At Marathon (490 BC) and Salamis (480 BC).

AS 14: The Greek hoplite



1 Add these labels to the drawing of a Greek hoplite:

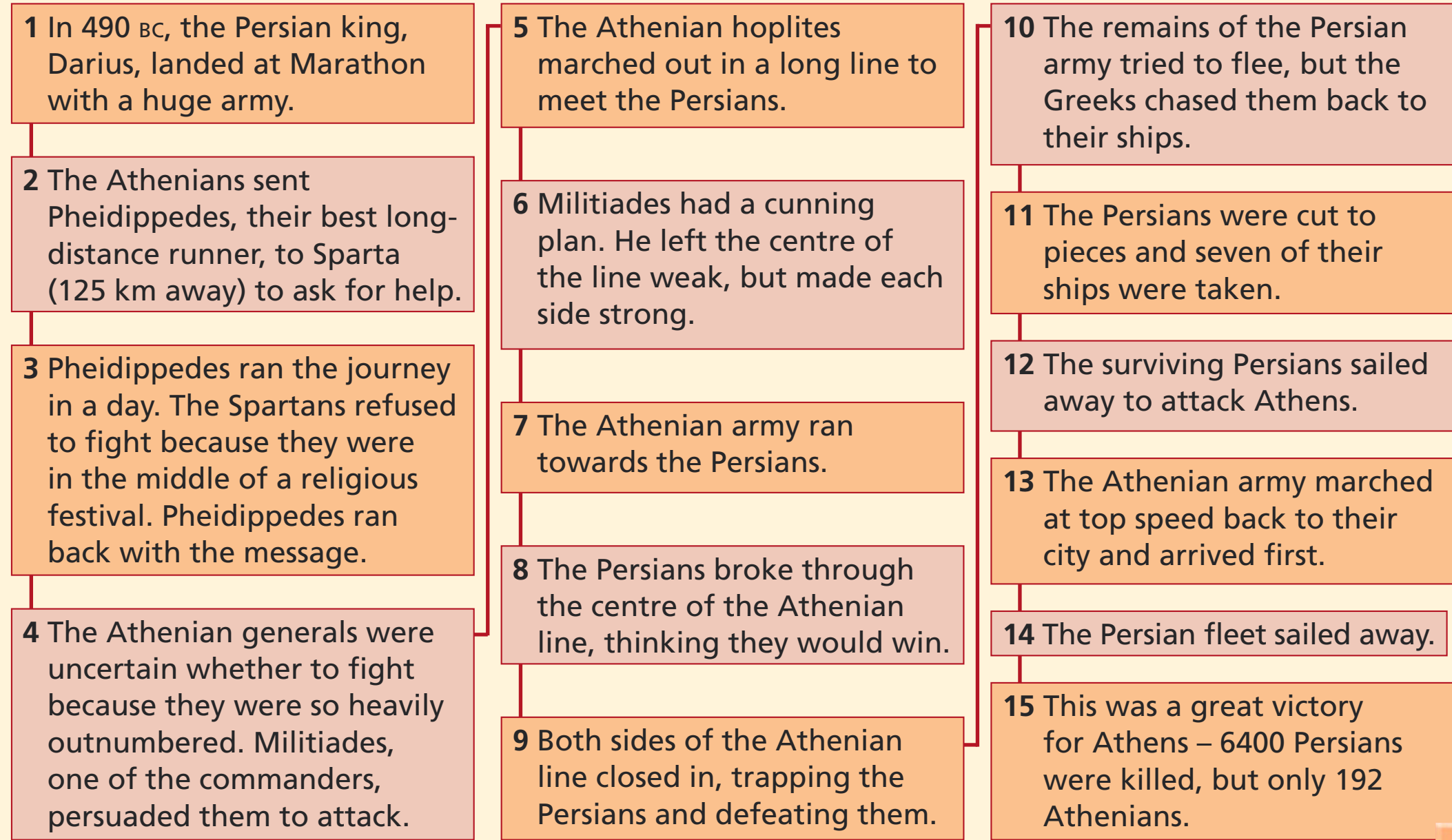
spear scabbard cuirass greaves
sword helmet shield plume sandals.

2 Find out more about the hoplite's arms and armour. Think about function, materials, size and weight. Use the information to write one or more extended captions for the picture.



AS 15: The main events at the Battle of Marathon

How were the Athenians successful at the Battle of Marathon?



Who did the Ancient Greeks worship?

The Ancient Greeks believed in many different gods, and that each god had a special job to do in the world. They built beautiful temples to their gods. The most famous is the Parthenon in Athens, which was dedicated to the goddess Athene.

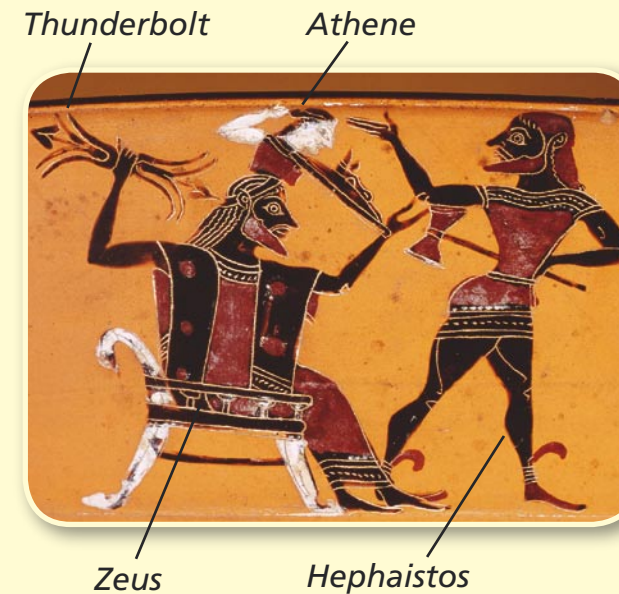


Inside the Parthenon stood a magnificent statue of Athene. It measured about 10 metres tall and was covered in gold, ivory and precious stones. Athene was the goddess of wisdom, war and crafts, and the patron goddess of Athens.

► This reconstruction shows us what the statue of Athene may have looked like. In her hand she holds Nike, the winged goddess of victory.



Zeus was the king of the gods and ruler of the wind, rain, thunder and lightning. His favourite weapon was the thunderbolt.



A myth tells that Athene was born from the head of her father, Zeus. She was born fully grown, with her weapons and armour.



▼ Bulls are being led to sacrifice.

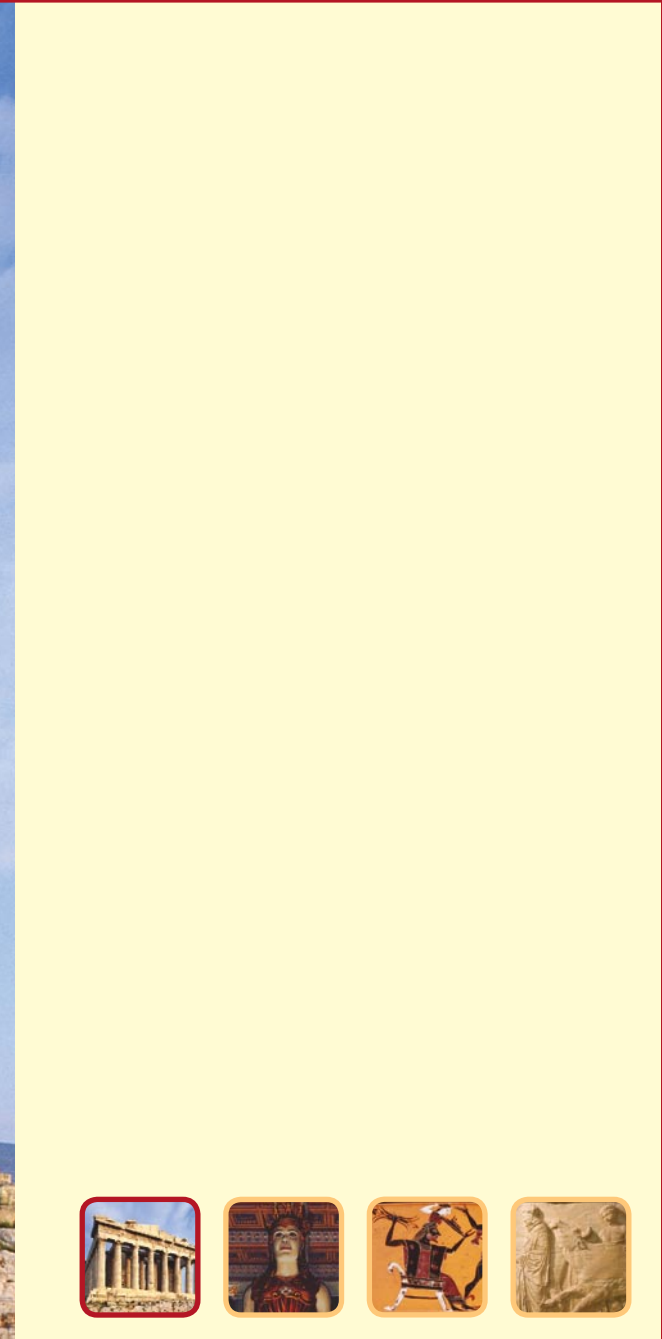
Every year, the Greeks held festivals in honour of their gods. Animals were sacrificed as a special offering to please the gods.



Who did the Ancient Greeks worship?



33 The Parthenon, Athens



34 Reconstruction of the statue of Athene



35 The birth of Athene



36 Stone carving showing bulls being led to sacrifice



More info

The Greeks believed that their main gods lived on Mount Olympus. They looked and acted like human beings but had supernatural powers. The Greeks thought that the gods could make their lives go well or badly, so it was important to keep them happy, with prayers, offerings and sacrifices. The Greeks did not have a special holy book, such as the Bible or the Koran, but told many myths about their gods.

The Parthenon was rebuilt in the fifth century BC, after the wars with Persia. Around the top of the temple was a marble frieze, showing a procession. This included 192 mounted soldiers, which may represent the Greeks killed at the Battle of Marathon. During the nineteenth century, many of the sculptures from the Parthenon were brought to England by Lord Elgin and are now on display in the British Museum. Some people believe it is wrong to keep Greek treasures in this country and are campaigning for the Elgin Marbles to be returned to Athens.



Topic Qs

- Q1** What is the Parthenon?
- Q2** Where did the Greek gods live?
- Q3** Do you think the Elgin Marbles should be returned to Greece or kept in the British Museum?

[Answers](#)

Topic answers

Q1 What is the Parthenon?

A1 The Parthenon is a temple in Athens built by the Ancient Greeks to the goddess Athene.

Q2 Where did the Greek gods live?

A2 The Ancient Greeks believed their gods lived on Mount Olympus. You can find Mount Olympus on the map of Ancient Greece.

Q3 Do you think the Elgin Marbles should be returned to Greece or kept in the British Museum?

AS 16: Greek gods and goddesses

Find out what each of these Greek gods or goddesses was responsible for, and his or her special symbol.

Name of god	Responsibility	Symbol
Aphrodite		
Apollo		
Artemis		
Athene		
Demeter		
Hera		
Hermes		
Poseidon		
Zeus		

Which god or goddess would a Greek pray to if he was:

- going on a journey by land?
- about to fight in a battle?
- in a storm at sea?
- looking for a wife?



AS 17: A Greek myth: the story of Arachne and Athene

Use the outline below to write your own playscript of this Ancient Greek myth.

CHARACTERS: Arachne, Athene, Arachne's father, chorus of villagers

SETTINGS: A village in Ancient Greece;
Mount Olympus

Arachne boasts that she is the best weaver in all of Greece, better even than the goddess Athene. Arachne's father warns her she will make the gods angry.

Arachne doesn't care. She challenges Athene to a weaving competition.

On Mount Olympus, Athene hears Arachne and decides to teach her a lesson.

Athene disguises herself as an old woman and visits Arachne. She tells her to take back her challenge. Arachne refuses.

Athene changes into her real self. Even then, Arachne is not afraid. They begin the weaving contest.

After several days the cloths are finished. Arachne's weaving is as good as the goddess's. In a jealous rage, Athene tears Arachne's cloth into pieces.

Arachne is afraid the goddess will kill her. Her father pleads with Athene to save his daughter's life.

Instead, Athene changes Arachne into a spider, where she can spin and weave beautiful webs forever.



Did the Ancient Greeks go to the theatre?



Drama was a very important part of life in Ancient Greece. Every year people flocked to see plays performed in honour of the gods. This picture shows the ruins of the theatre at Epidauros, which could hold around fourteen thousand people. The shape of the theatre meant that everyone could see and hear the performance.



All actors were men. They wore masks so their faces could be seen at the back of the theatre. The expression on a mask told the audience what sort of part an actor was playing.

◀ *These two actors are wearing comedy masks.*

▶ *These modern actors are dressed as a Greek chorus.*



A group of actors, called the chorus, sang and danced during the play. They also spoke to the audience and commented on the action.

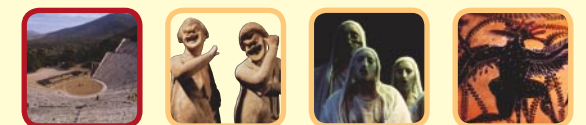


◀ *In one play, the chorus took the part of birds.*

Did the Ancient Greeks go to the theatre?



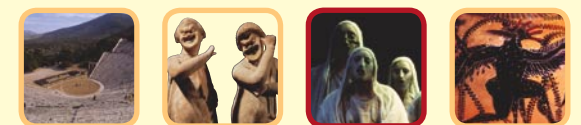
37 Ruins of a Greek theatre at Epidaurus



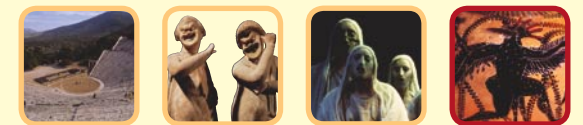
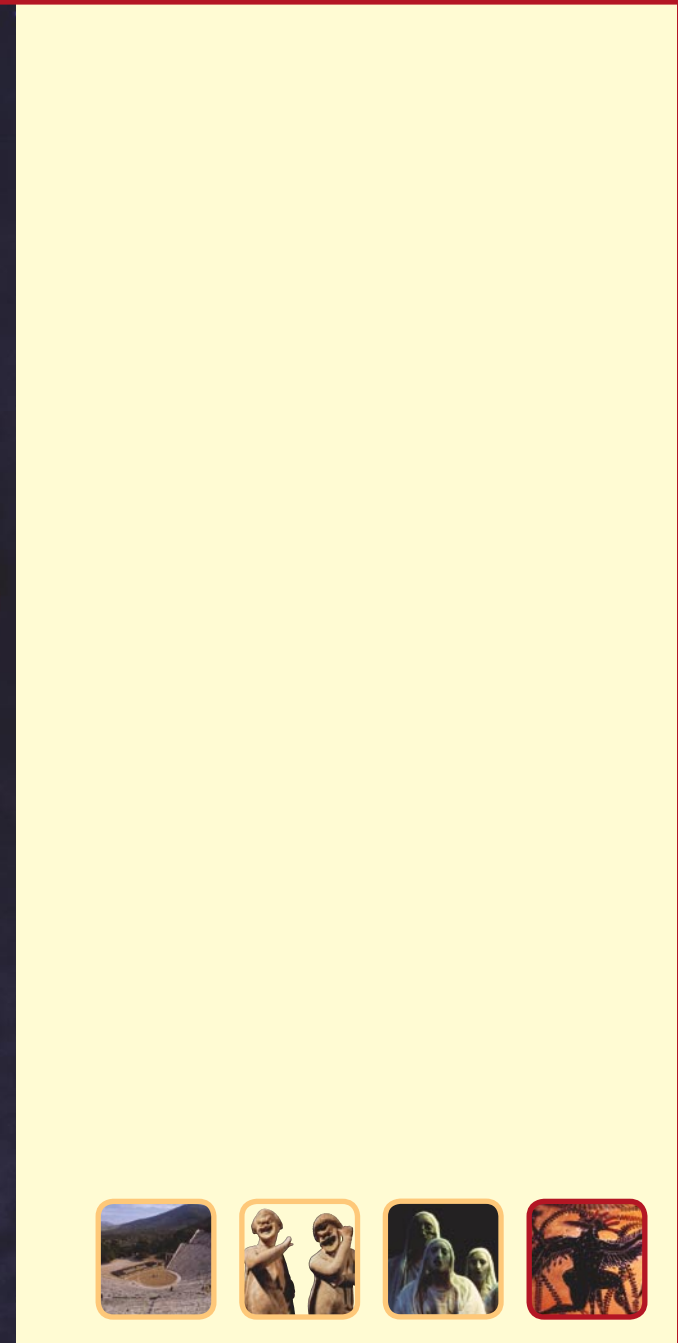
38 Clay figures of actors wearing comedy masks



39 Modern actors dressed as a Greek chorus



40 Chorus of actors dressed as birds



More info

No one can be really certain when drama (from the Greek word meaning 'to do, to act') began in Ancient Greece. The first performances were songs and dances to honour the gods. During the fifth century BC, plays developed as an important part of religious festivals. There were two sorts of plays: tragedies (serious stories) and comedies (stories that made fun of the gods, heroes and important people). All plays were very popular and people spent days watching them. The theatres were packed: their size tells us that even fairly poor people must have been part of the audience. Some historians believe that women were allowed to attend.

Among the most famous Greek playwrights were Sophocles, Euripedes, Aeschylus and Aristophanes. Although many of their plays were lost, a small number have survived and are still performed all over the world today.



Topic Qs

- Q1** Why did actors wear masks?
- Q2** What is the difference between a tragedy and a comedy?
- Q3** What was the role of the chorus in a Greek play?

[Answers](#)

Topic answers

Q1 Why did actors wear masks?

A1 Masks helped actors to be seen by people at the back of the theatre. They also gave the audience clues to the type of character an actor was playing.

Q2 What is the difference between a tragedy and a comedy?

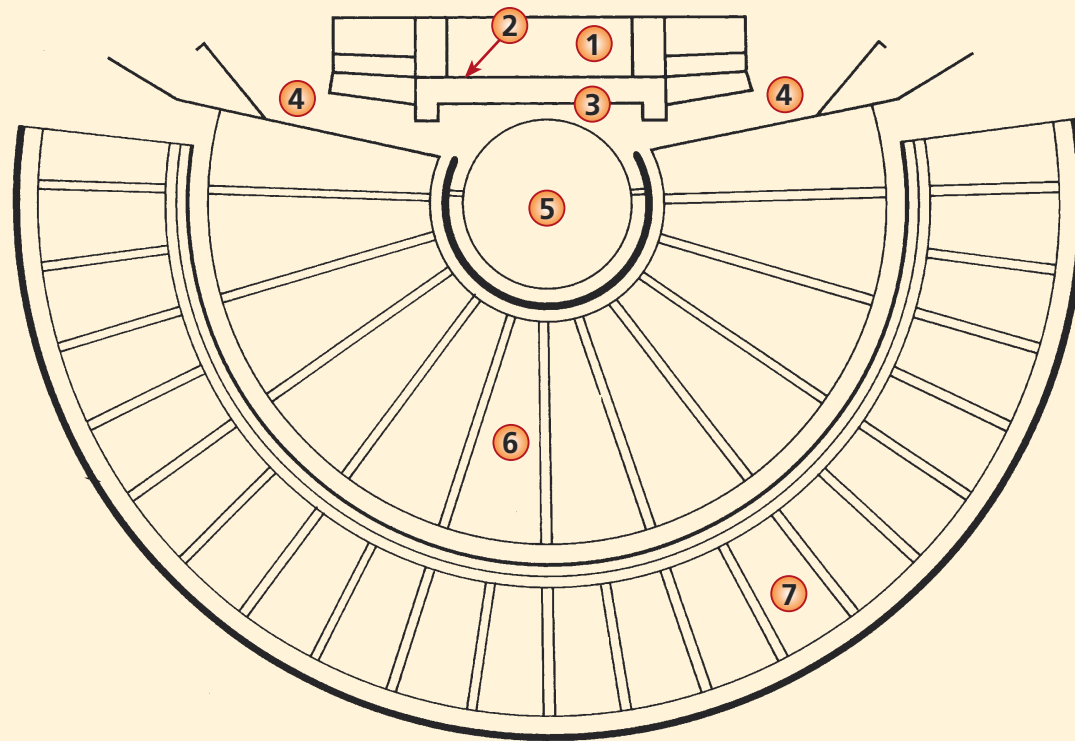
A2 A tragedy deals with serious issues, while a comedy makes people laugh.

Q3 What was the role of the chorus in a Greek play?

A3 The chorus was a group of actors who spoke, danced and sang together. They made comments to the audience about what was happening in the play.

AS 18: The plan of a Greek theatre

Fill in the missing numbers from the plan.



Greek name	What happened here	Number
<i>skeneos</i>	wooden building where the actors changed	
	painted wall	
<i>theatron</i>	where important people sat	
	where ordinary people sat	
<i>logeion</i>	the stage where the main actors performed	
<i>parados</i>	passageway where the chorus entered	
<i>orchestra</i>	where the chorus performed	



AS 19: The 'Chorus of Birds' by Aristophanes, 414 BC



*How lucky we are, we birds,
 How blessed in our feathers, in our wings.
 We need no winter cloaks to cosset us,
 No blazing summer sun
 Ever scorches us, stifles us.
 We sit in the shade,
 In leafy woods, in lush green grass,
 While cicadas, drunk on sunshine,
 Giggle and shriek.
 In the high hills we winter, snug
 In dark caves.
 In spring we banquet on berries,
 White myrtle, **the Graces'** feast.*



Glossary

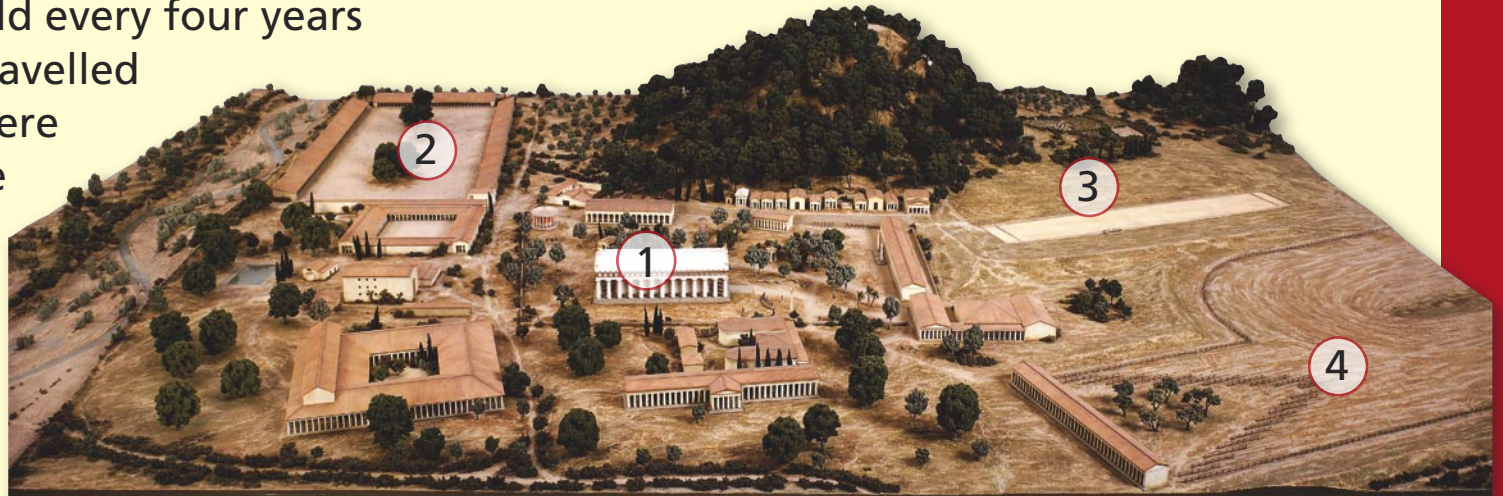
- cicadas* small jumping insects
- the Graces* three beautiful goddess sisters



What happened at the ancient Olympic Games?

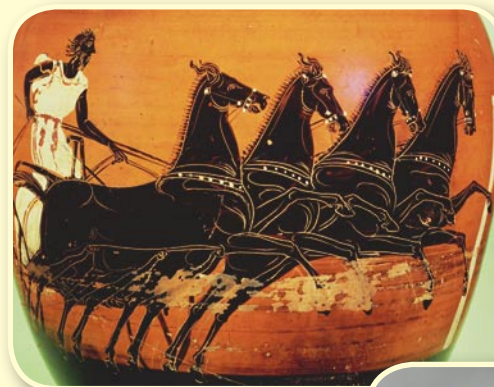
The ancient Olympic Games were held every four years in honour of the god Zeus. People travelled from all over Greece to Olympia, where the festival was held. Only men were allowed to take part.

► This model shows how Olympia may have looked around 100 BC. Find: 1) the temple of Zeus; 2) the gymnasium (where the athletes trained); 3) the stadium (for running races); 4) the hippodrome (for horse races).



Pictures on Greek pottery record the events that took place. Training for these sports helped to make better soldiers. Winners received red ribbons and were crowned with olive wreaths on the final day.

◀ Boxing



▲ Chariot racing

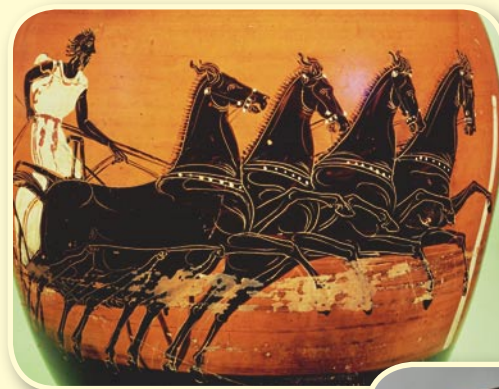
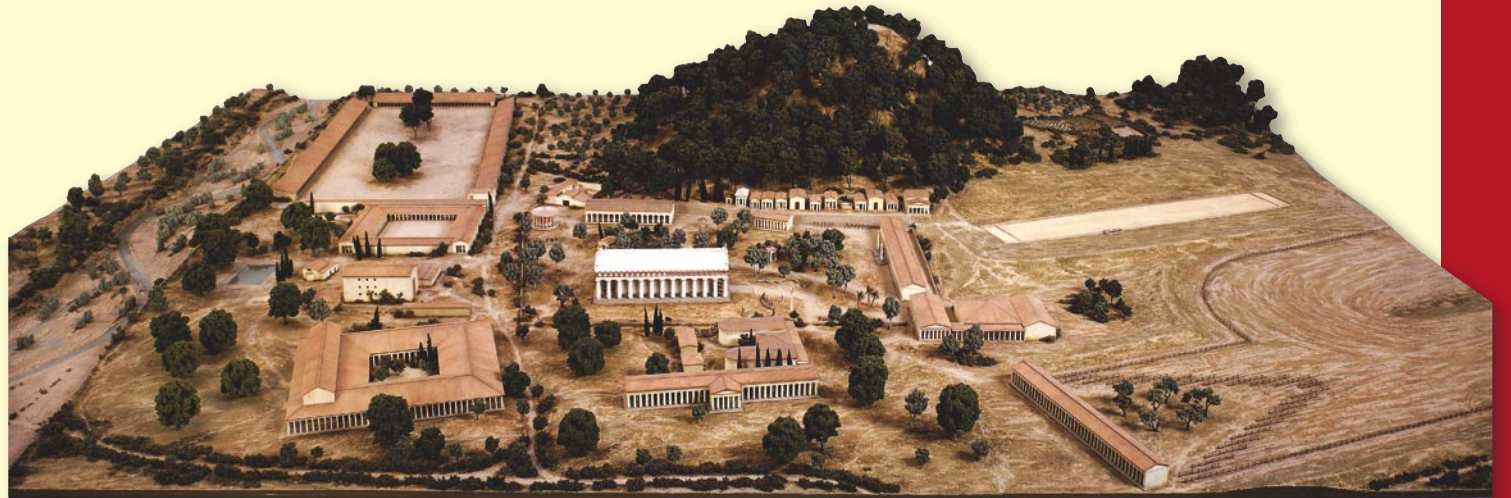


▲ Running



◀ Wrestling

What happened at the ancient Olympic Games?



41 Model of Olympia



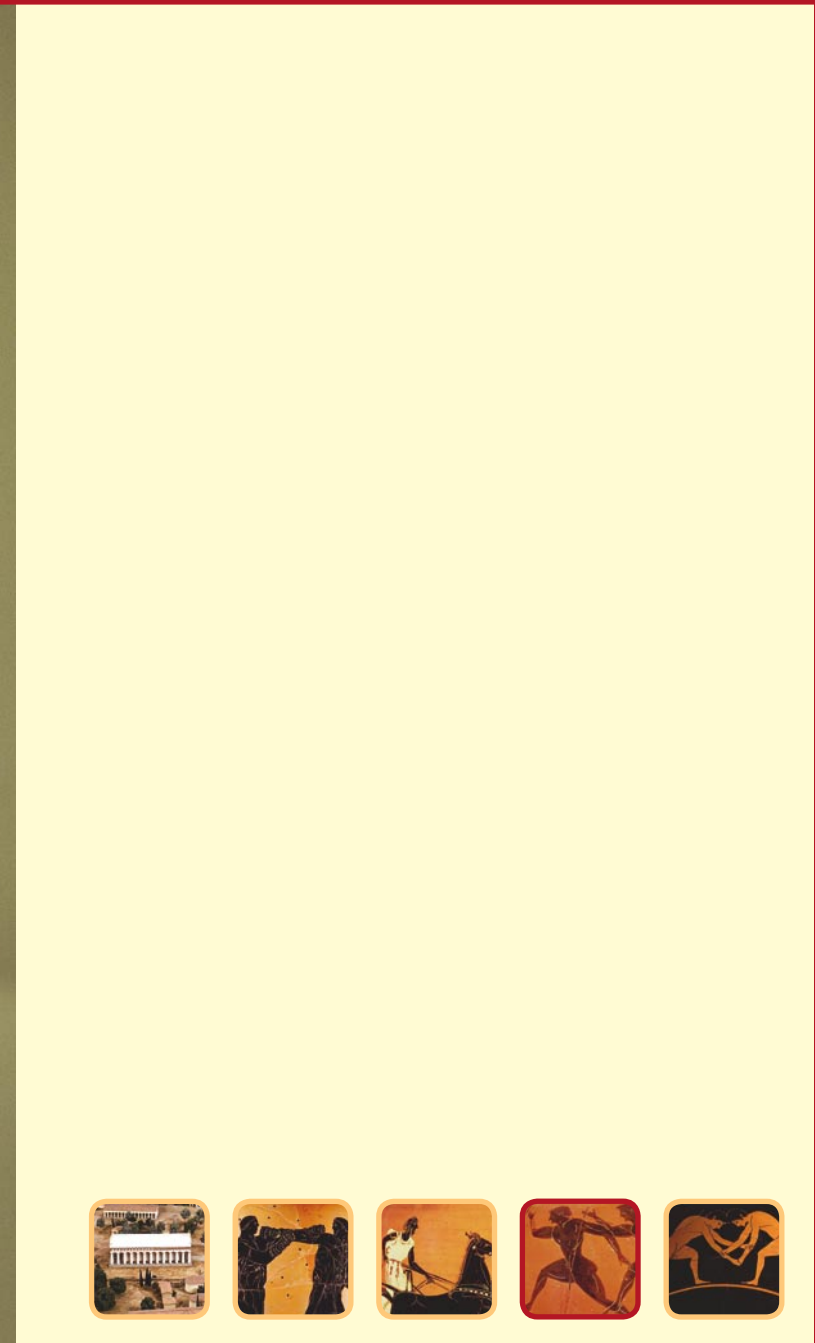
42 Boxing



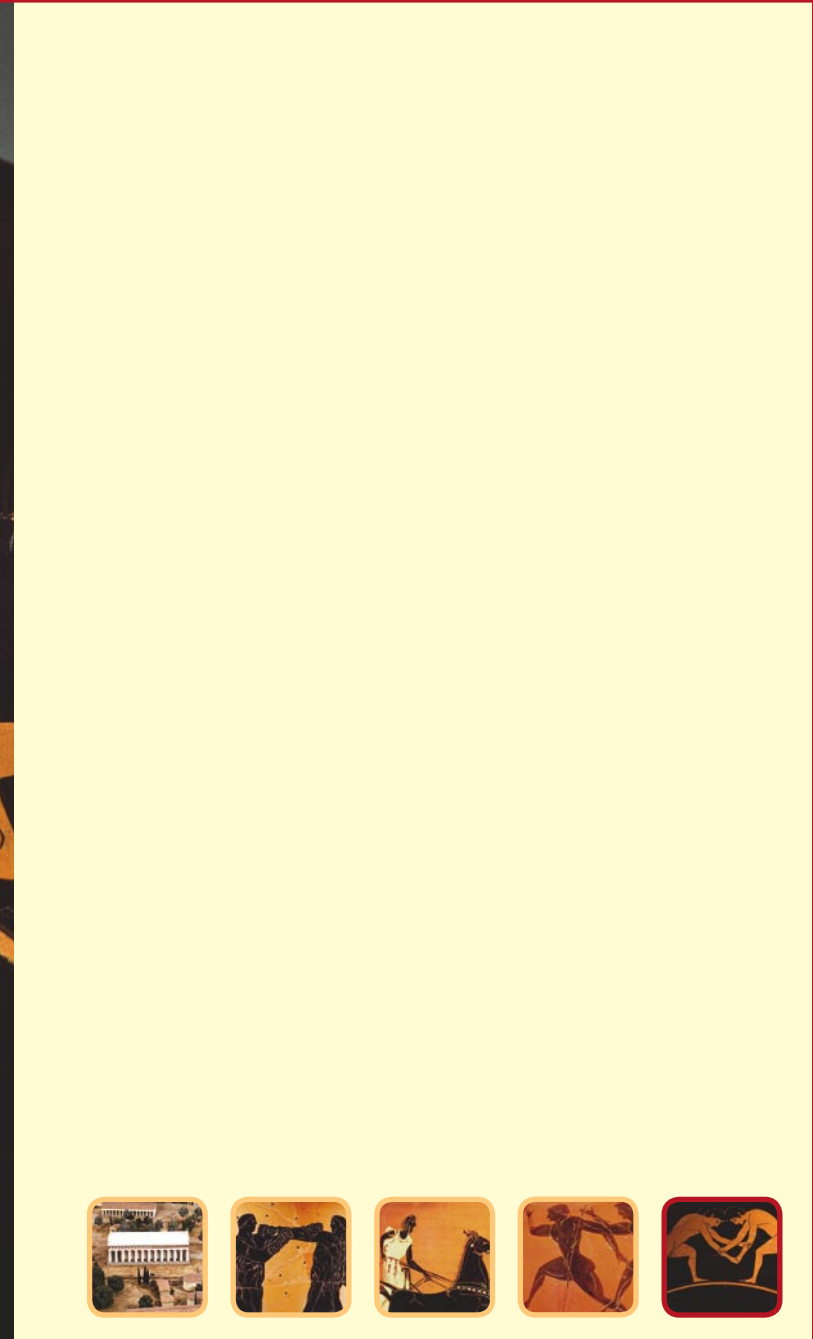
43 Chariot racing



44 Running



45 Wrestling



More info

The ancient Olympic Games were a very important religious festival. Even in times of war, a special truce was declared so that all competitors and visitors could travel safely to Olympia. The building at the centre of Olympia was the temple of Zeus. This housed the magnificent gold-and-ivory statue of the god, which stood over 13 metres high. For the athletes, winning was everything: taking part and doing your best counted for nothing if you lost your event.

Women were not allowed to take part, and only unmarried women could watch. Women had their own games at Olympia, in honour of the goddess Hera, the wife of Zeus. These were also celebrated every four years, but the only event was a short running race.

The ancient Olympics lasted for a thousand years, from 776 BC to AD 395. The Olympic idea was revived in more recent times by a French nobleman, Baron Pierre de Coubertin, who established the first modern Olympic Games in Athens in 1896.



Topic Qs

- Q1** Where were the ancient Olympic Games held?
- Q2** Did women compete with men in the ancient Olympic Games?
- Q3** Can you find three Greek words from the site of Olympia that we still use today?

[Answers](#)

Topic answers

- Q1** Where were the ancient Olympic Games held?
- A1** They were held at Olympia. You can find Olympia on the map of Ancient Greece.
- Q2** Did women compete with men in the ancient Olympic Games?
- A2** No. Women were not allowed to take part.
- Q3** Can you find three Greek words from the site of Olympia that we still use today?
- A3** 'Gymnasium', 'stadium' and 'hippodrome' are Greek words that we use in sport today.

AS 20: Events at the ancient Olympic Games

Timetable of sporting events	
Day 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oaths to Zeus • Boys' running, wrestling, boxing • Prayers and sacrifices
Day 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competitors' procession • Chariot races • Horse races • Pentathlon (discus, javelin, jumping, running, wrestling)
Day 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sacrifice of one hundred oxen to Zeus • Running races
Day 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wrestling • Boxing • Pankration • Race-in-armor
Day 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of prizes • Feasting and celebrations

Find out all you can about one of the events. Use the headings below to organise your research.

- Name of event
- Where in Olympia was this held?
 - What equipment was used?
 - Were there any rules?
 - How did the event take place?
 - What prizes were awarded?
 - Do we know about any famous competitors?
 - What is the same/different about this event today?



AS 21: A chariot race at the ancient Olympic Games

All the chariots are lining up for the race. The trumpet sounds, and they're off!

All the chariots are in one dense mass, and the drivers are using their whips unmercifully as they try to pull ahead. You can hear the horses panting and see their steaming breath.

Orestes is racing very close to the turning posts. He almost grazed that one with his wheel. He's about to crash! But he's pulled on the reins just in time.

Every team is still in the race. Now the Aenian's fierce horses have pulled ahead. They're in the lead as they go into the seventh round. Look out! They've crashed into the Libyan team! The other chariots can't get out of the way! They're all crashing into each other! It's chaos out there; the arena is filled with wreckage!

The Athenian charioteer is unharmed. He's slowing down and wheeling around the

edge of the damage. There's only one other team left: Orestes, who's been at the back all along, saving his horses for the finish.

Orestes has seen his chance! With a loud cry to his horses, he's giving chase to the Athenian. The two teams are level. They're side by side. First one, then the other pulls ahead. They're neck and neck!

They're at the final turn! Oh no! Orestes has struck the edge of the pillar. The axle of his chariot is smashed. Orestes has been thrown headlong from the chariot!

Orestes is tangled up in the reins. His driverless horses are raging madly along. He's being dragged along; now he's been tossed into the air. There he is, lying on the track, so mangled and covered in blood that not even his closest friends would recognise him . . .

Adapted from the play *Electra*
by Sophocles, fifth century BC

What else did the Ancient Greeks do for us?

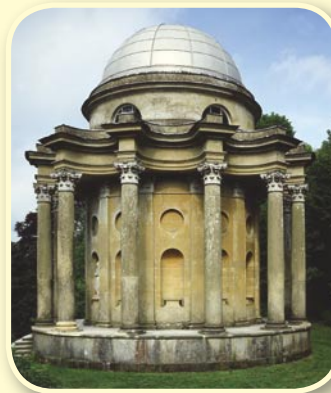
All over the world, buildings have been constructed in the style of Ancient Greece. Are there any buildings like this near you?



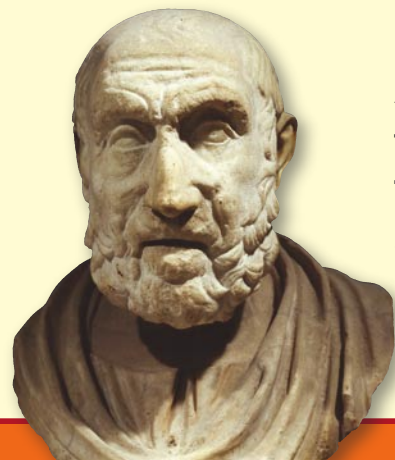
▲ *The British Museum, London*



▲ *St George's Hall, Liverpool*



▲ *Temple of Apollo, Stourhead Gardens, Wiltshire*



Ancient Greek thinkers wanted to know how the world worked. Their ideas and discoveries are still important in our lives today.

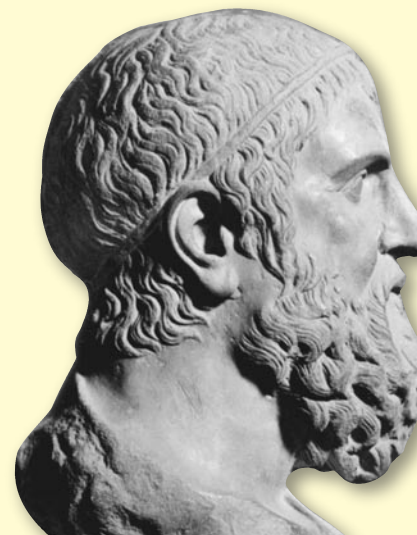
◀ *Hippocrates, c. 460–377 BC*

Hippocrates was a doctor who studied his patients carefully to discover what caused diseases. His ideas were the starting point of modern medicine.



▲ *Two sick people are being treated by doctors.*

Doctors today make a promise about how they will treat their patients. This is called the 'Hippocratic oath'.

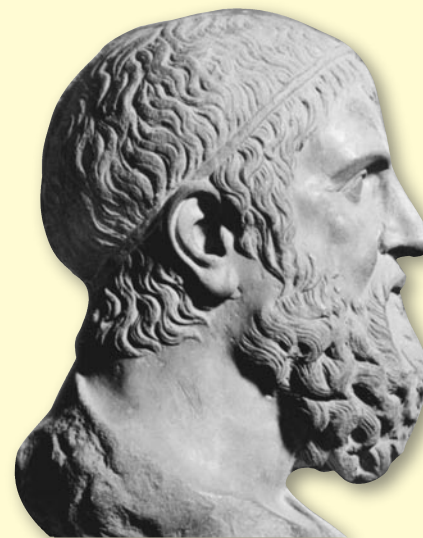
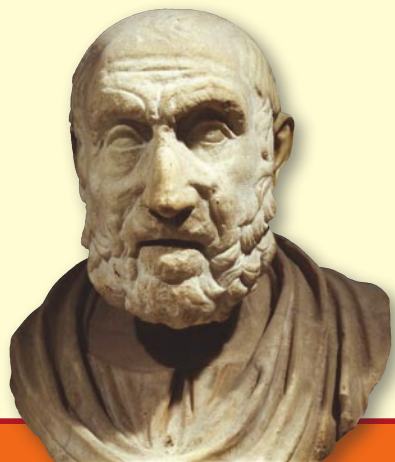
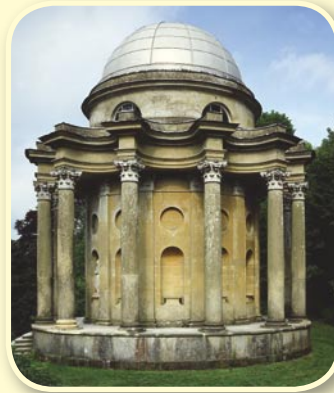


▲ *Archimedes, c. 285–212 BC*

Archimedes was a great mathematician and scientist. His most famous experiment was how to prove whether or not a king's crown was made of pure gold.

Archimedes also invented a machine for raising water. We use machines that work in this way today.

What else did the Ancient Greeks do for us?



46 Main entrance to the British Museum, London



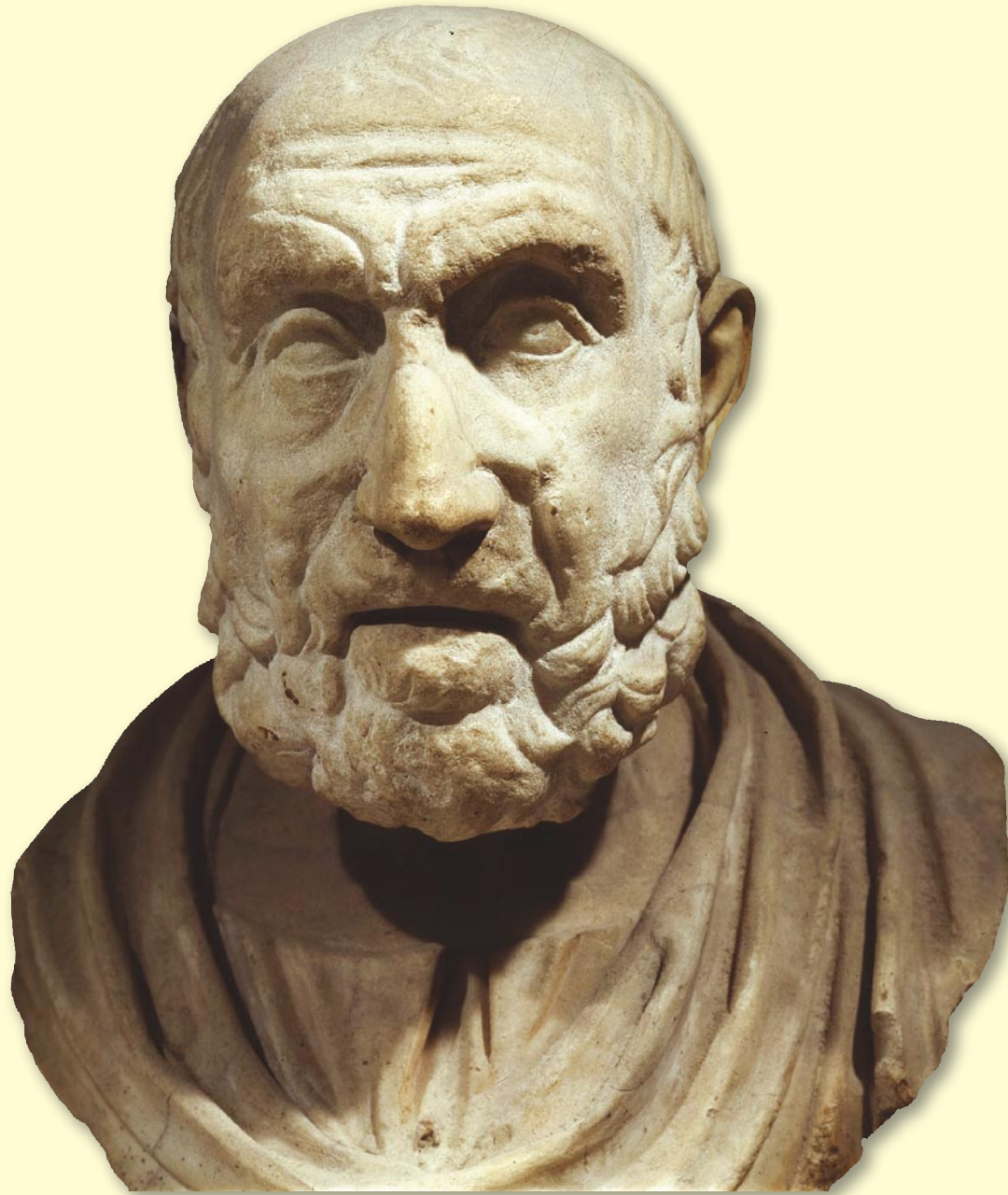
47 St George's Hall, Liverpool



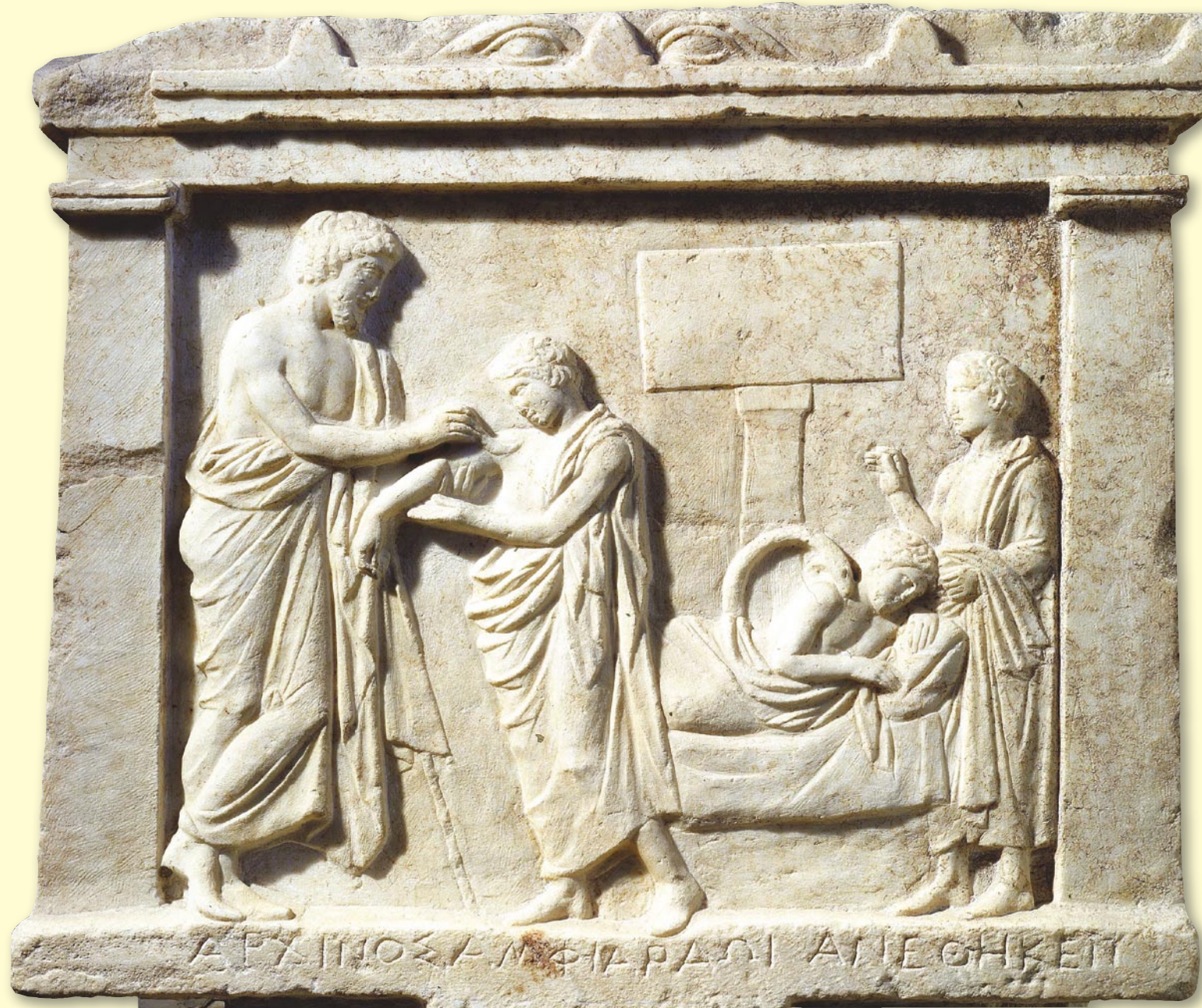
48 Temple of Apollo, Wiltshire



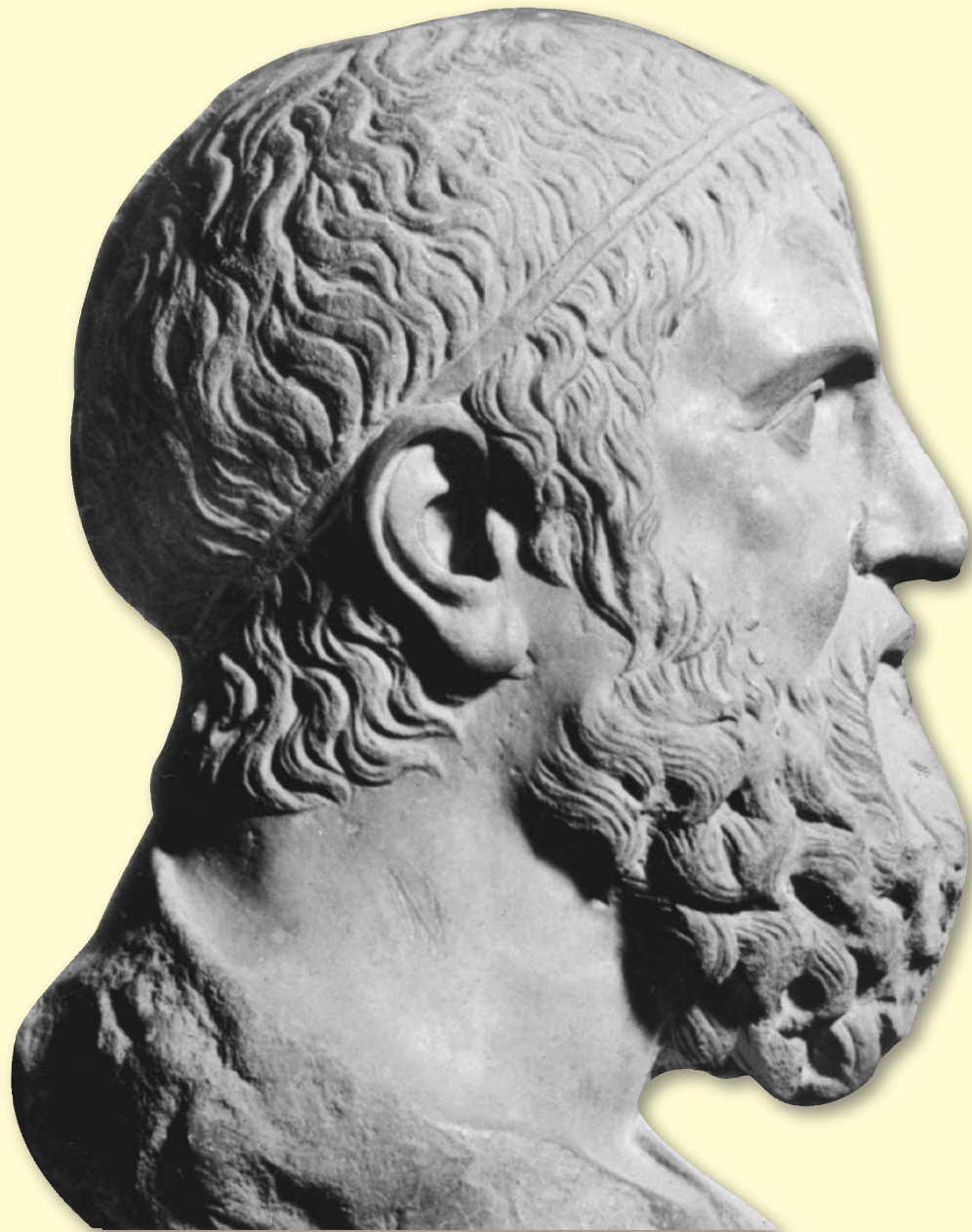
49 Bust of Hippocrates



50 Stone carving of doctor and patients



51 Bust of Archimedes



More info

During the eighteenth century, wealthy Europeans began to visit Greece as part of their 'Grand Tour'. As a result, the Greek style became very fashionable, and important public buildings, statues and memorials were built based on Greek ideas. Individuals also began to collect (or steal, depending on your point of view!) antiquities from Greece and they brought them back to this country. Many of these can be seen in museums today, such as the Elgin Marbles in the British Museum.

Some of the things you learn about in school have their origins in Ancient Greece. For example, Pythagorus, a mathematician who lived over two thousand years ago, invented a theorem that children still use in their calculations today.



Topic Qs

- Q1** The main entrance to the British Museum is modelled on which famous Greek building?
- Q2** What is the 'Hippocratic oath'?
- Q3** What is Archimedes' screw still used for?

[Answers](#)

Topic answers

Q1 The main entrance to the British Museum is modelled on which famous Greek building?

A1 The Parthenon.

Q2 What is the 'Hippocratic oath'?

A2 It is a special promise made by doctors today, based on the ideas of Hippocrates about how doctors should treat their patients.

Q3 What is Archimedes' screw still used for?

A3 It is used to raise water from a lower to a higher level.

AS 22: Eratosthenes' sieve

Eratosthenes, an Ancient Greek scientist, discovered this method for finding **prime numbers**. Prime numbers can only be divided exactly by themselves and the number one.

Instructions

You will need a 100 number square.

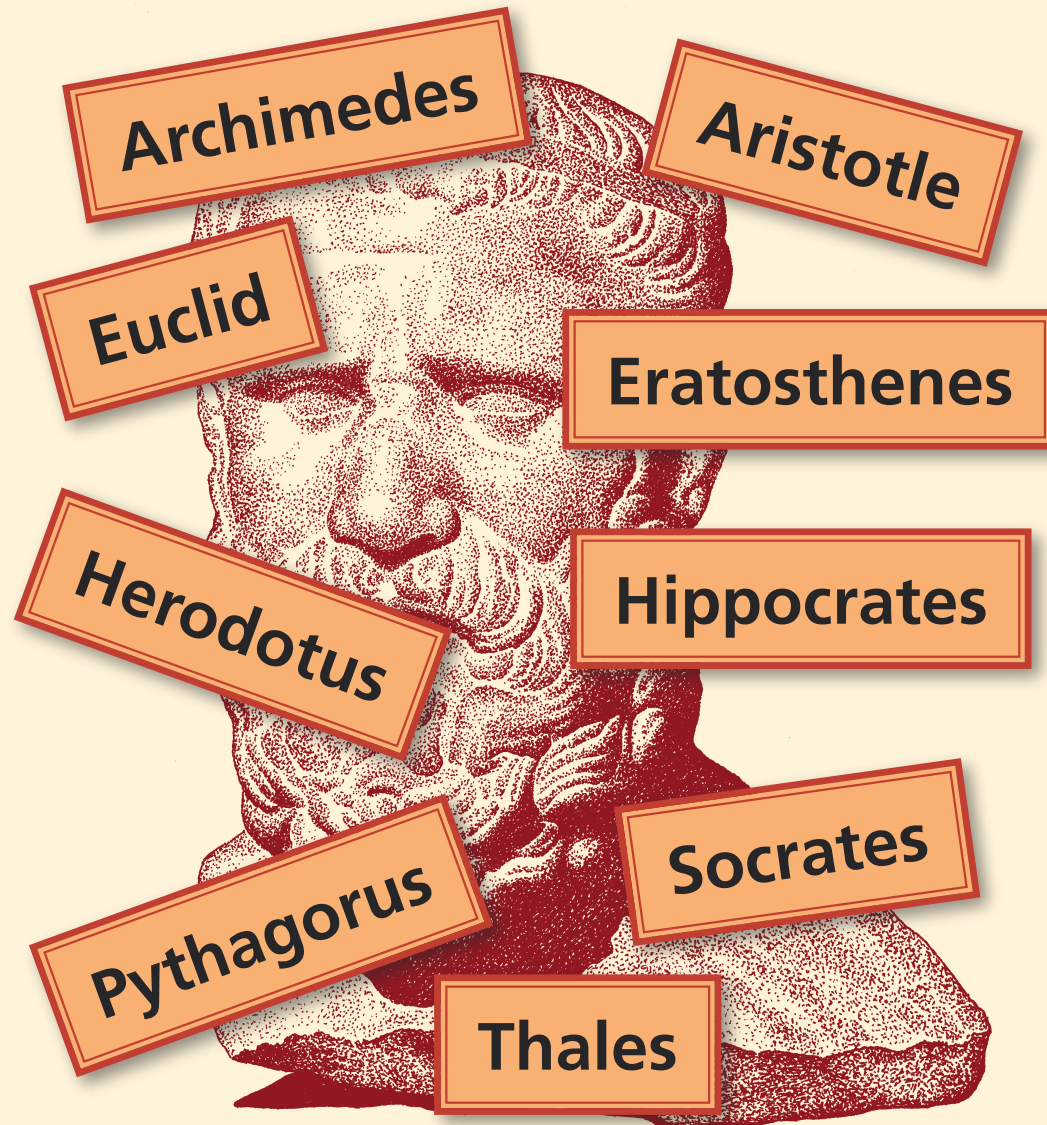
- 1 Put a ring round 2, which is the first prime number.
- 2 Cross out all the multiples of 2.
- 3 Find the next number that has not been crossed out (3). Put a ring round 3, which is the next prime number.
- 4 Cross out all the multiples of 3.
- 5 Find the next number that has not been crossed out. Put a ring round it and cross out the multiples.
- 6 Carry on with all the remaining numbers up to 100.
- 7 All the numbers with rings round them are prime numbers. Write down the prime numbers in order.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100



AS 23: Finding out about Ancient Greek thinkers

Choose one of the following Ancient Greek thinkers. Find out all you can about his life and work, and how his ideas are used today.



I have chosen to investigate:

Questions to ask

Sources of information

Keywords for Internet search



Glossary

Citizen someone who belongs to a particular town, city or country and can take part in how it is governed

Colony settlement in a new area by people from another country

Cuirass a breastplate to protect the chest and back

Festival a special celebration in honour of the gods

Greaves armour to protect the lower legs

Hoplite an armed foot soldier; from the Greek word *hoplon*, meaning a shield

Inscription words written on stone, coins, buildings, etc.

Juror someone who serves on a jury (a group of people who make decisions in a court of law)

Ostracism when an unpopular person is voted to leave Athens for up to ten years (the meaning today is rather different)

Ostrakon (*plural, ostraca*) a broken piece of pottery

Paidagogus a special slave who acted as a private tutor to wealthy Athenian boys

Papyrus a type of paper made out of reeds

Prow the front of a ship

Reconstruction something made in recent times to show what things may have looked like in the past

Sacrifice to kill an animal as an offering to a god

Scroll a book without pages, which had to be rolled and unrolled

Slave a man, woman or child who is the property of another person, and has to work for no wages

Spinning the process of turning wool into thread so that it can be woven into cloth

Stylus an object, shaped like a pointed stick, for writing on wax

Theorem a rule in mathematics

Tutor a private teacher, often in the pupil's home