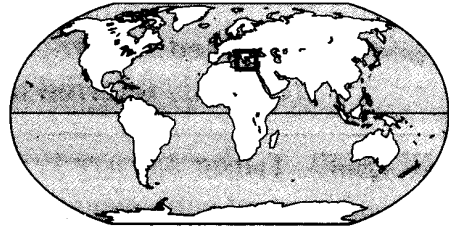


**GLOBAL HISTORY I
HOMEWORK ASSIGNMENTS
DUE FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2008**

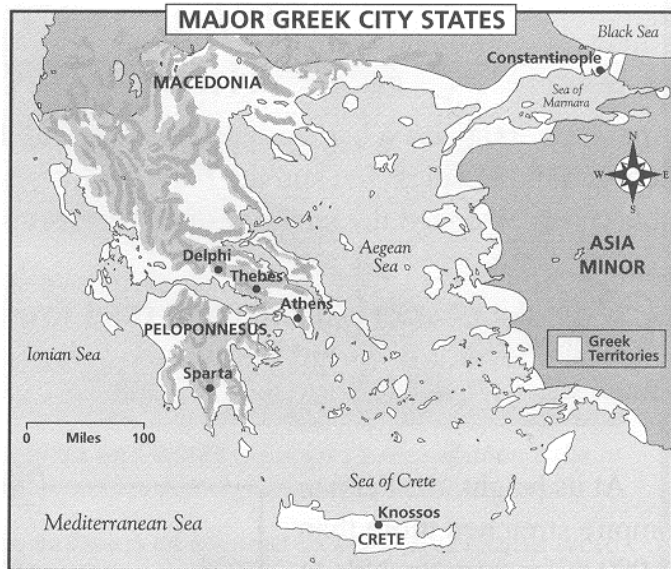
I. Reading – The Greeks

The ancient Greeks have had an enduring impact on Western civilization. They developed the first known system of democratic government. Their belief in human reason and their spirit of free inquiry led to important advances in mathematics, science, art, literature, and philosophy.



THE IMPACT OF GEOGRAPHY

Ancient Greece consisted of a large mountainous peninsula, the islands of the Aegean Sea, and the coast of present-day Turkey. Because of its hilly terrain, parts of Greece, like Athens, came to depend on trade. Greeks produced wine, olive oil, and pottery which they traded with other peoples of the Mediterranean. Through these contacts the Greeks became exposed to important ideas such as the Phoenician alphabet and Egyptian geometry. The Greeks benefited from the achievements of the ancient civilizations of the Middle East.



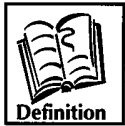
THE RISE OF CITY-STATES

Mountains caused Greek centers of population to be cut off from one another. As a result, separate **city-states** developed. Each city acted as a separate country. Although divided, Greeks shared a common culture based on language, religious beliefs, and customs. Two of the most important city-states were Sparta and Athens.

- ◆ **Totalitarian Sparta.** Spartans were a war-like people. They forced those they defeated to work as slaves on their farms. These people were called **helots**. The Spartans constantly had to use force to keep control over the helots, who outnumbered them. Because of this threat to Sparta, life was organized around military needs. Individualism and new ideas were discouraged. Strict obedience and self-discipline were emphasized.

- ◆ **Democratic Athens.** Athens developed a unique system of government. Every citizen could participate in government directly by voting on issues to be decided by the city-state. This type of government is called a **democracy**. Although Athens was a democracy, only a minority of Athenians were actually citizens. Women, foreigners, and slaves were not considered citizens and could not participate in government.

In the 5th century B.C., the Greek city-states cooperated in a war against the Persians, who had set out to conquer them. After defeating the Persians, the Greeks enjoyed a “**Golden Age**”



A Golden Age refers to a period in the history of a culture when people enjoy prosperity and make significant achievements in the arts and other fields.

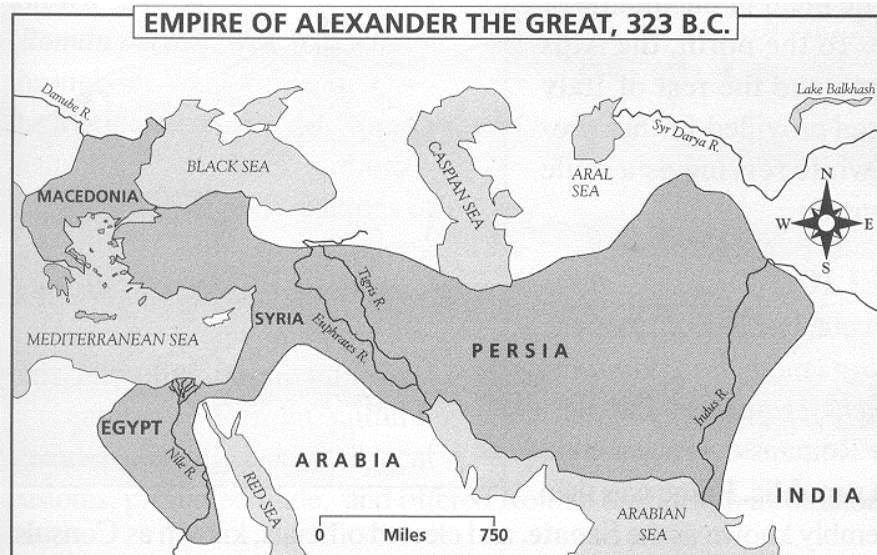
Art, literature, and philosophy especially flourished in Athens during these years. The popular statesman, **Pericles**, championed democracy. Pericles used revenues collected from other city-states to help rebuild Athens. The Parthenon and other magnificent marble temples were constructed. But a rivalry soon developed between Athens and Sparta, which led to the **Peloponnesian War**. After thirty years, Sparta finally emerged as the victor.



Alexander the Great

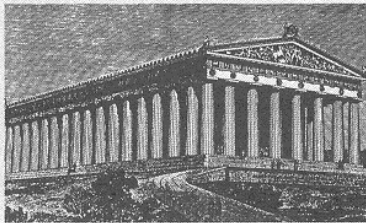
ALEXANDER THE GREAT

In 338 B.C., the king of Macedonia (*an area north of Greece*) brought all the Greek city-states under his control. His son, Alexander the Great, went on to conquer most of the Mediterranean world — including Persia and Egypt. He founded new cities, some of which were named after him. Alexander even extended his conquests to the Indus River valley. Although his empire collapsed shortly after his early death, his conquests helped to spread Greek culture throughout the ancient world.



His followers created separate kingdoms in Egypt, Persia, and the other areas Alexander had conquered. Greek immigrants, traditions, and use of the Greek language spread. An important new culture emerged. Known as **Hellenistic Culture**, it was a blend of Greek, Persian, Egyptian, and Indian influences.

The roots of Western civilization can be traced in part to the contributions of the Greeks. Greek culture was characterized by a questioning spirit and a focus on human achievement.

Democracy. Athens developed the first known democratic government — a system in which citizens take part in governing.	Science and Mathematics. Key advances were made by Pythagoras, Euclid, and Archimedes — mathematicians who are still studied today.	Literature and History. The Greeks developed the first known dramas and historical writings.
ANCIENT GREEK ACHIEVEMENTS		
Art and Architecture. The Greek ideal of beauty was based on harmony and proportion. In architecture, the Greeks built temples with beautiful columns, such as the Parthenon in Athens.		Philosophy. Greeks believed in the dignity of the individual. Through the use of reason, they believed humans could understand how the world worked. The greatest Greek philosophers were Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle.

II. The Greeks – Questions

Use the reading, maps, illustrations, and charts in the previous reading to answer the following questions on a separate sheet of loose-leaf paper.

1. Why did Athens become dependent on trade?
2. Why did separate city-states develop? (Hint – answers to #1 and 2 are related)
3. What were helots?
4. How were new ideas treated in Sparta? What was emphasized in Spartan culture?
5. What style of government did Athens have?
6. Who was not considered a citizen in Athens?
7. What is a “Golden Age?”
8. What was the Peloponnesian War and who emerged as the victor?
9. Why was Alexander the Great considered great?
10. What is Hellenistic Culture?



III. The Founding of Rome

About the year 753 B.C. a little town called Rome sprang up on the Tiber River in Italy. In time, it would grow to become the center of the largest empire of ancient times.

The earliest inhabitants of Rome were the Latins. They were a simple, industrious people who built a society based chiefly on farming and cattle raising. Sometime in the early 7th century B.C., however, invaders from Asia Minor seized control of Rome and held it for about one hundred years. These invaders were the Etruscans, who had settled in northern Italy. Then, in the year 509 B.C., the Latins overthrew a particularly harsh Etruscan king and established a republic.

A republic is a form of government in which citizens elect representatives to govern them. In Rome, the people elected two consuls to head the government. These consuls were similar to modern presidents or prime ministers in their duties.

Like Athens, Rome was not a complete democracy. Real power lay in the hands of the patricians, or wealthy landowners. The plebeians, the lower class, at first had few rights. They were not represented in the Senate, which made the laws and ruled the country. In time, however, the plebeians won the right to elect their own representatives, called tribunes. Eventually, the distinction between patrician and plebeian disappeared.

As Rome grew stronger, it conquered neighboring cities and made itself master of Italy. Then it embarked upon a period of conquest that first brought it control of Carthage, a powerful city in north Africa, and then later the lands of the entire Mediterranean world. Soon the Romans found that a republican form of government was inadequate for controlling such a vast area with so many people. In 45 B.C., Julius Caesar ended the republic and became dictator. A short time later, the Roman Empire was born when Octavian, Caesar's grandnephew, was crowned emperor.

Determine whether the statements below are true or false. Write T or F in each blank.

1. ____ The city of Rome was founded by the Etruscans.
2. ____ The Latins were a seafaring people who depended on trade for a living.
3. ____ Two consuls headed the government of republican Rome.
4. ____ The plebeians were the Roman upper class.
5. ____ Tribunes were representatives of the plebeians.
6. ____ Julius Caesar was the first emperor of the Roman Empire.
7. Why do you think the Romans elected two consuls instead of just one?

8. The members of freshmen classes at America's military academies are called *plebes*. Why do you think this is so?

