

Table of Contents

Ancient Greece & the Classical World	5
Map of Ancient Greece	6
Politics & Citizenship	9
Athens & Sparta	12
War	14
Religion	16
Paper Star Oracle	22
Family Life	23
Education	24
Agriculture/Commerce	26
Food & Drink	28
Currency	29
Beauty & Fashion	30
Art & Architecture	32
Entertainment	35
Theater	39
Health, Healing & Medicine	41
Literature & History	42
Science & Math	43
Philosophy	45
Alexander the Great	47
The Fall of Greece and the Rise of Rome	48

Ancient Greece & the Classical World



www.anthroarcheart.org Copyright © 1999 Philip Baird ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

The Classical World, which is focused around the Mediterranean Sea, lasted for more than 1000 years from the rise of city-states in Greece in the 8th century BC to the fall of the Roman Empire in 476 AD. Although Ancient Greece flourished only briefly, the influence of this remarkable civilization, which is often regarded as the earliest and greatest of all European civilizations, is still felt today in our governmental structure, medicine, mathematical and scientific understanding, philosophical debate, language, literature, theater, sports, art and architecture. In just 400 years (between 800 and 400 BC) the people of Greece established many of the ideas that remain at the heart of Western civilization.

The Classical World of ancient Greece grew over two earlier civilizations: the Minoans, a literate, highly skilled and wealthy people who inhabited the Mediterranean island of Crete from 6000 to 1450 BC; and the Mycenaeans, warlike and enterprising traders, craftspeople and administrators who controlled the Mediterranean from 1450 to 1100 BC. We know little about the three centuries after the fall of the Mycenaeans—the Dark Ages—but we do know that it was a chaotic period of unrest and migration. Even the ability to write was lost. Order gradually returned, and by the 8th century BC Greece began to emerge from the Dark Ages to take

its place as one of the most astonishing civilizations the world has ever known—Classical Greece. Towns sprang up, isolated from one another by rugged mountains and ruled independently by aristocratic families or military leaders. Trading posts were established abroad, as far away as the Nile Delta in Egypt. As the population expanded, the inhospitable Greek countryside could not support the agricultural needs of so many people. Over the next 300 years, many Greeks—sailors, traders, farmers, even warriors—set out to colonize distant lands with good harbors and fertile soil. These colonies (in southern Italy, Sicily and other parts of the western Mediterranean, and in the East around the shores of the Black Sea) probably served as trading stations where the Greeks could exchange their luxury items and exquisite pottery for food and raw materials. Many were strategically positioned along trade routes and rivers leading to faraway civilizations. Although the colonies were independent of their mother-cities in Greece, their people continued to live, farm, build and make pottery in the Greek style, sharing common beliefs and traditions and spreading the Greek language and culture as far as the coasts of Spain, France and North Africa.

Map of Ancient Greece



Map of Modern-Day Greece

