The Legacies of Ancient Greece
What is a legacy?

Traditions, skills and knowledge of a culture that get passed on to people in the future

A gift from the past

Martin Luther King’s legacy is Civil Rights
The Legacies of Ancient Greece

- architecture
- theater
- epics
- scientific method
- Socratic Method
- philosophy
- classification
- Hippocratic Oath
- marathon
- Greek mythology
- tragedy
- comedy
- democracy
- trial by jury
- Olympics

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Democracy

A government where the people have the right to make decisions about leaders and laws.

Greek word meaning “power of the people”

Athens developed the first democracy.

The U.S. government is based on Athenian democracy.
Democracy in Athens

- Athens had the first democratic constitution. (A set of rules for how the government should run.)
- All men over 20 years old could participate in the Assembly. (The lawmaking group)
- Each year 500 names of citizens were drawn to be on the Council of Five Hundred who ran the daily business of Athens.
When a **group of citizens** decides if a person is innocent or guilty of a crime

Serving on a jury was a citizen’s duty.

About 500 jurors for a trial

Jurors were paid for service.
Epics

Long poems written about gods, heroes, and history of a culture

Homer most famous author of Greek epics.

Wrote the *Iliad* about the Trojan War

The *Odyssey* about a Trojan War hero, Odysseus

In the 17th - 19th Centuries, a “Classical Education” included the Study of Latin and Greek. Students learned Greek by translating the *Iliad* and *Odyssey*; therefore, students grew up reading the stories of Greek Heroes.
Greek Mythology

Myths are stories about gods & goddesses that were used to explain events in nature.

12 Major Gods & Goddesses of Mt. Olympus

- Zeus
- Poseidon
- Hades
- Hermes
- Hera
- Apollo
- Artemis
- Hephaestus
- Athena
- Demeter
- Aphrodite
- Ares
Theater

Grew out of festivals dedicated to Dionysus and developed into stories that were acted out.

Plays were performed at festivals and became competitions.

Only male actors but women could watch.

Actors wore masks to show gender, age & mood.

Theater was carved into a hillside.
Tragedy & Comedy

Types of plays first developed by the Greeks

Tragedy: Plays about suffering

Aeschylus

Comedy: Plays with a happy ending that poke fun at certain types of people

Aristophanes
Olympic Games

Festival held in Olympia to honor Zeus

Every four years - began 776 B.C.

Called a truce from war

Only men: Women couldn’t watch

Olympians swore not to cheat.

Won an olive wreath

Winners were heroes.
Olympic Games

- Foot races
- Javelin
- Discus
- Wrestling
- Warrior's Race
- Boxing
- Pentathlon
- Messengers & Trumpeters
Marathon

Footrace that is 26 miles

Greeks defeated the Persians at Marathon.

Pheidippides ran to Athens (about 26 miles) to announce the victory.

He reached Athens, cried out Nike! ("victory"), and fell over dead.
The **art** and **science** of building

Greeks well known for using three styles of **columns** in their buildings.
Architecture

The design of many buildings today has been influenced by the classical style of the Greeks.

Why would many U.S. government buildings have been built using Greek architecture?
Philosophy

Love of wisdom; trying to figure things out through learning and reasoning

Socrates → Socratic Method
Plato → Political Science
Aristotle → Science & Logic
Socratic Method

Teaching through step-by-step **questions** that are designed to lead the student to the truth

Socrates was a Greek philosopher who wanted people to question and think for themselves.

Athenians were afraid and threatened by his ideas, so he was tried and put to death.
Classification of Living Things

A system of grouping plants and animals that have similar characteristics

Developed by Aristotle

Helps scientists to handle a lot of info.

Still used today
Scientific Method

Process used by scientists to study something

1. Collect Info
2. Form Hypothesis
3. Test Hypothesis
Hippocratic Oath

A list of rules about practicing medicine that doctors today still promise to follow

Hippocrates was the “Father of Scientific Medicine”

- Honor their teachers
- Do their best for the sick
- Never give poisons
- Keep the secrets of patients

Believed that disease came from natural causes not evil spirits

Above all, do no harm!
Now that you are aware of them, you will see the legacies of the ancient Greeks cropping up all over the place!