

Famous Greeks

Ancient Greece produced an extraordinary number of talented and influential people whose ideas continue to shape our world today.

Alexander the Great, born in 356 BC, was a brilliant military commander who created a vast empire, spreading Greek language and culture across Egypt, Persia, and as far east as India. Socrates was a philosopher in Athens who believed the best way to gain wisdom was through questioning and open discussion, an approach still used in schools today. His pupil Plato recorded Socrates' ideas and founded the Academy in Athens, widely considered one of the earliest universities.

Aristotle, taught by Plato, studied an enormous range of subjects including science, politics, poetry, and philosophy, and tutored the young Alexander the Great. Hippocrates transformed medicine by insisting that diseases had natural causes and could be treated through observation and reason rather than prayer or superstition.

Homer, who may have lived around 800 BC, composed the Iliad and the Odyssey, two epic poems that explored themes of heroism, loyalty, and the relationship between humans and gods. Archimedes was a brilliant mathematician and inventor who discovered important principles about levers and water displacement that engineers still use today.



Questions

1. In what year was Alexander the Great born?
2. How did Alexander the Great spread Greek influence?
3. What method did Socrates believe was the best way to gain wisdom?
4. What did Plato found in Athens?
5. Name three subjects that Aristotle studied.
6. Who did Aristotle tutor when he was young?
7. How did Hippocrates say diseases should be treated?
8. Approximately when did Homer live?
9. What important principles did Archimedes discover?
10. Socrates' method of questioning is still used in schools today. Why do you think asking questions might be a good way to learn?

