

Ancient Greek Legacy

Ancient Greece, which reached its peak around 500–300 BC, is considered the cradle of Western civilisation. Its thinkers, artists, scientists and politicians produced ideas so powerful that they continue to shape politics, education, science and culture across the globe.

Greek philosophers transformed the way humans think. Socrates pioneered a method of questioning and debate to uncover truth. Plato explored ideas about justice and the ideal society, while Aristotle applied systematic logic to subjects ranging from biology to politics. Their combined influence underpins much of Western philosophy and science to this day.

Athens introduced democracy to the world. Although limited to free male citizens, this revolutionary concept — that ordinary people should participate in governance — gradually evolved into the democratic systems that govern most countries today, including the United Kingdom.

In mathematics, Pythagoras and Euclid made discoveries still taught in classrooms worldwide. In medicine, Hippocrates insisted on careful observation and rejected supernatural explanations for illness, earning him the title "Father of Medicine."

Greek literature and theatre explored timeless human themes. Homer's epic poems, the Iliad and the Odyssey, are still read today, and the theatrical forms of tragedy and comedy that the Greeks created remain central to storytelling.

The Olympic Games, architectural marvels like the Parthenon, and the Greek alphabet, which forms the root of many modern languages, are further testaments to an extraordinary civilisation whose legacy is genuinely all around us.

Questions

1. During which period did Ancient Greece reach its peak?
2. What method did Socrates use to uncover truth?
3. What subjects did Aristotle apply his logical thinking to?
4. What was revolutionary about Athenian democracy?
5. Why was Athenian democracy still limited in its fairness?
6. Name two Greek mathematicians mentioned in the text.
7. Why is Hippocrates called the "Father of Medicine"?
8. Name the two epic poems written by Homer.
9. Give two examples from the text of Greek achievements in the arts or architecture.
10. The text describes Ancient Greece as "the cradle of Western civilisation." Using what you have read, explain in your own words why you think this phrase is used.



Text D Quiz



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