

Famous Greeks

Ancient Greece, flourishing roughly between 800 BC and 300 BC, was a remarkable civilisation that produced an astonishing array of thinkers, leaders, scientists, and artists whose contributions remain highly significant today.

Alexander the Great, born in Macedonia in 356 BC, was tutored by Aristotle before becoming one of history's greatest military commanders. By the age of thirty, he had conquered an enormous empire stretching from Greece to Egypt and deep into Asia, deliberately spreading Greek culture and ideas wherever he went.

Socrates, one of Athens' most celebrated philosophers, developed a method of critical thinking through structured questioning, now known as the Socratic method, which is still taught in philosophy and law courses worldwide. Plato, his devoted student, immortalised his teacher's ideas in written dialogues and established the Academy in Athens around 387 BC, which operated for over nine hundred years. Aristotle, who studied there, went on to make groundbreaking contributions to biology, ethics, logic, and political science.

Hippocrates, often called the father of medicine, established the idea that illness resulted from natural rather than supernatural causes, and introduced careful patient observation as a medical practice.

Homer's epic poems, the Iliad and the Odyssey, explored profound themes of war, identity, and fate.

The mathematician Archimedes made vital discoveries in geometry and physics, including the principle of buoyancy, which explains why objects float or sink.



Questions

1. Between approximately which dates did Ancient Greece flourish?
2. Where was Alexander the Great born, and who tutored him?
3. How old was Alexander when he had conquered his vast empire?
4. What is the Socratic method?
5. When did Plato establish the Academy, and how long did it operate?
6. Name three fields in which Aristotle made important contributions.
7. What two key ideas did Hippocrates introduce to medicine?
8. What profound themes did Homer explore in his epic poems?
9. What is the principle of buoyancy, as mentioned in the article?
10. Alexander deliberately spread Greek culture wherever he conquered. Why might a leader want to do this, and do you think it was always welcomed by the people he conquered?

