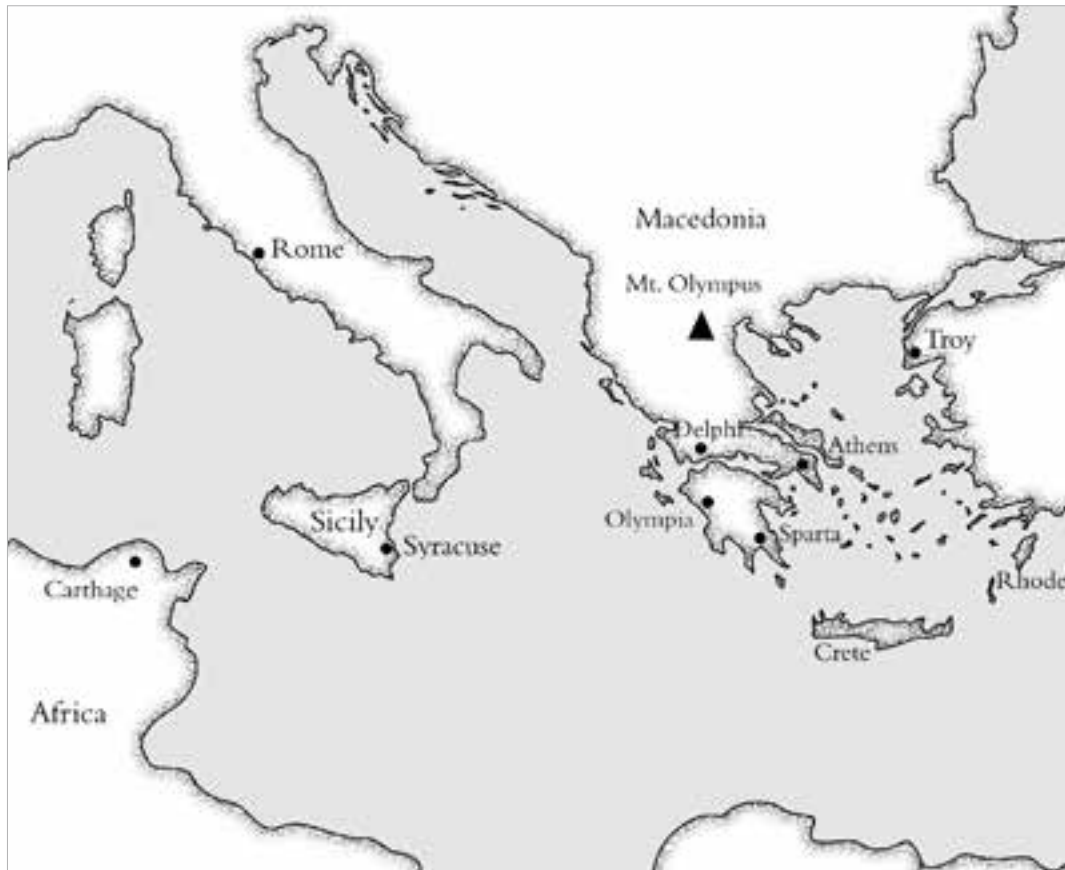




The Ancient Greeks were a European people who lived before the birth of Jesus Christ. Their own special way of life is called Greek civilisation. At the heart of Greek civilisation was the idea of the city. Greece was divided up¹ between several cities. Each city-state, or “polis”, consisted of² a city and the land around it that provided³ food for its people.



Have fun with the Greek crossword! (Solution: see the answer page)

- A** This city-state was famous for soldiers and fighting
- B** A small Greek island
- C** A famous mountain in Greece
- D** A small city-state beginning with D
- E** The largest city-state in Greece

				A ▶		1				
					B ▶	2				
					C ▶	3				
D ▶						4				
E ▶						5				

is the Greek word for - .

¹ geteilt, ² bestehen aus, ³ bereitstellen

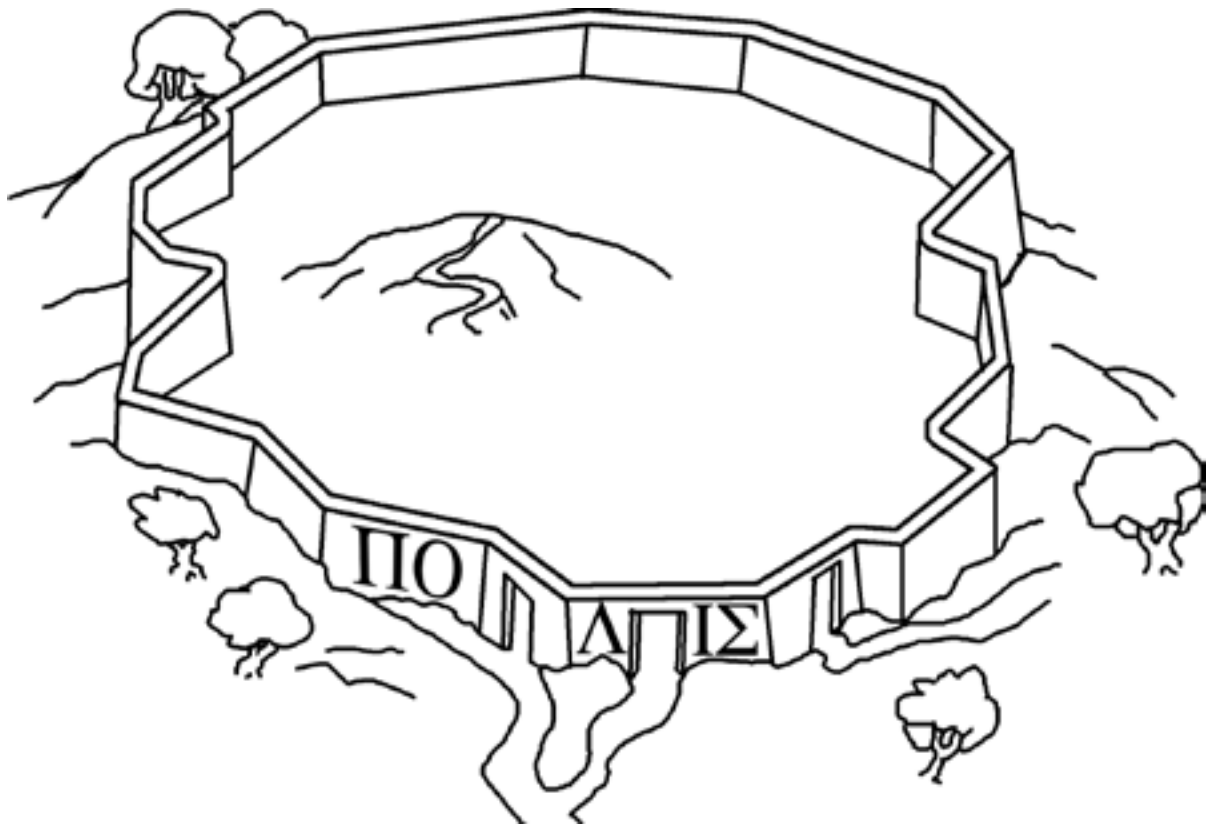


THE GREEKS – COLONISATION AND “POLIS”

In planning a city-state, the Greeks first built a fort on a high, flat hill (“acropolis”). Homes and other buildings eventually¹ formed around it. The streets were laid out² in rows³ and crossed at right angles⁴. There was a wall around the entire⁵ city.



Plan your own city, with a fort, a temple and streets!



What is written on the city wall? (See page 14 for the Greek alphabet!)

This is the Greek word for -

Can you find any GREEK words which we use today which come from the word on the wall?

(Solution: see the answer page)

The Greek city-states traded⁶ with each other and with other countries. Some of the city-states like Athens and Sparta became very rich.

The Greeks had a powerful navy and founded⁷ many colonies in other countries.

Sometimes the city-states fought each other. Sometimes they fought together against other countries. In 500 BC they started to fight against Persia.

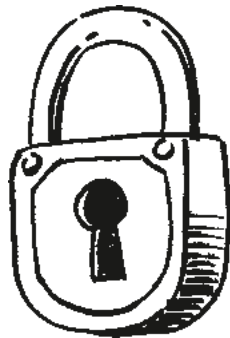
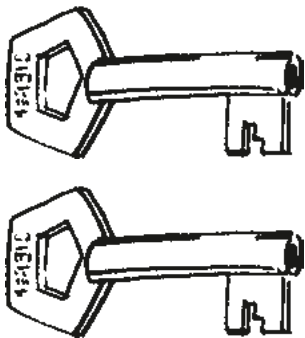
Alexander the Great ruled all of Greece but when he died his empire was split up⁸. The Romans took control of Greece in 146 BC.

¹ allmählich, ² hier: anlegen, ³ Reihen, ⁴ Winkel, ⁵ ganz, ⁶ handeln, ⁷ gründen, ⁸ aufteilen



ATHENS

The city of Athens was one of the first city-states and was named after Pallas Athene, the goddess of wisdom¹. From 600 – 400 BC the city was the heart of the Greek world. Athens was a democracy, which means “rule by the people”. Only free men over 20 years old who had been born in Athens could vote² on how things were run. Slaves could not vote. These free men (citizens) met in the market-place of Athens to vote. The majority³ elected⁴ a Council of Wise Men for two years at the most. The people made laws⁵ and decided⁶ if their city-state should go to war or have peace.



demos

kratia

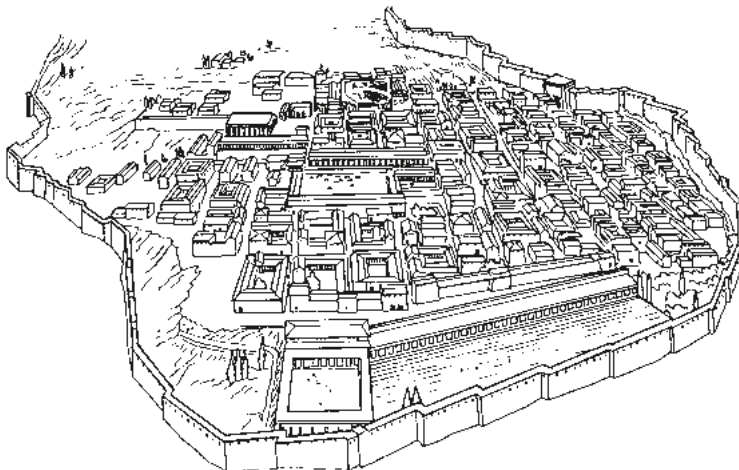
+

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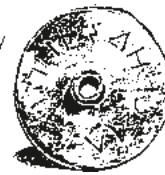
democracy

people

power



not guilty



guilty

Did you know?

These discs were used in the law courts⁷. They said if a person was guilty⁸ or not guilty.



Fill in the gaps! (Solution: see the answer page)

The city-state of Athens was a .

Athens was named after the goddess of .

The word “democracy” means .

The citizens voted in the .

Greek city-states were surrounded⁹ by a .

¹ Weisheit, ² wählen, ³ Mehrheit, ⁴ wählen, ⁵ Gesetze, ⁶ beschließen, ⁷ Gericht, ⁸ schuldig, ⁹ umgeben



WARS



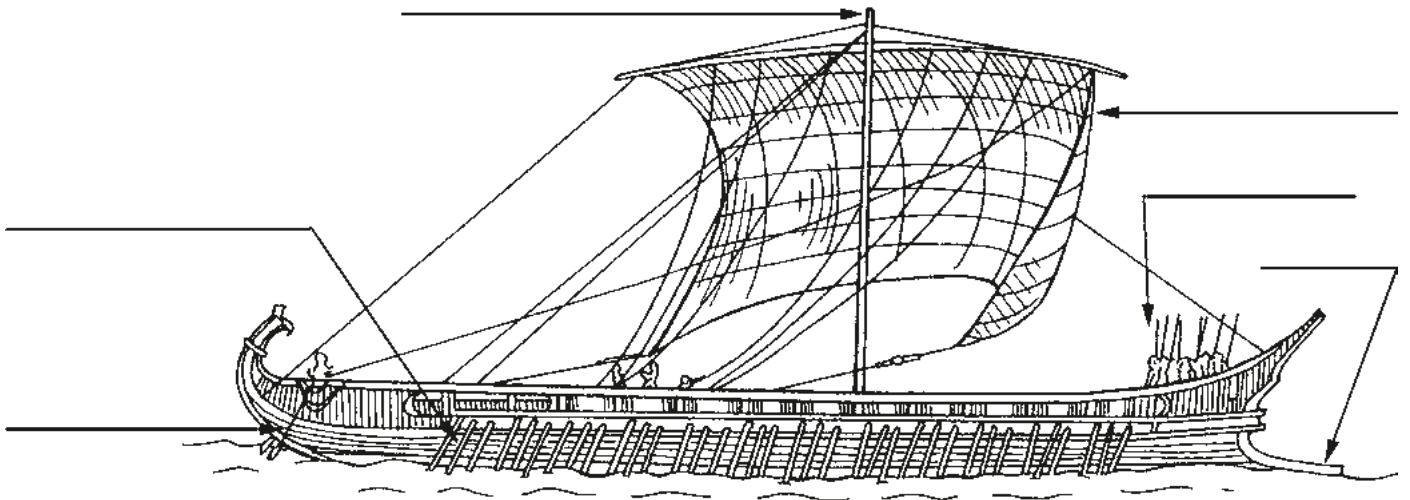
In the two Persian Wars (490 BC and 480-479 BC), Athens played a major role in defeating¹ Persia. After this, Athens became an empire². The sixty years after these wars were the most brilliant in the history of Athens, which became the creative centre of Greece.

The Peloponnesian War (431-404 BC) destroyed³ the Athenian empire.



Below is a picture of a Greek warship.

Label the following! *oars*⁴ – *mast* – *sail* – *soldiers* – *ram*⁵ – *steering oar*⁶



Athens lost against Sparta and never really came to power again. But Athens was still the intellectual centre of Greece and was rebuilt⁷ at the time of Pericles. As the city-state grew larger, a crisis arose between the small farmers and the aristocrats.

Because of this, economic and social reforms were introduced by Solon in 594 BC. From 509 till 507 BC Cleisthenes made reforms that made Athens the first democracy.

¹ besiegen, ² (Kaiser)Reich, ³ zerstören, ⁴ Ruder, ⁵ Rammbock, ⁶ Steuerruder, ⁷ wieder aufbauen