ANCIENT GREECE Review Sheet
Test #3

GEOGRAPHY

Crete
Minoans from there
Island in Mediterranean Sea – largest
Minos was a King
Myth of Heseus took place there

Thera
Chief center of Minoan Civilization
Palace – city
Possibly the lost city of Atlantis, destroyed by a volcano,
   It left an 8 mile wide crater
Excavated by Sir Arthur Evans
Explored in 1628 (8 Mile wide hole) greatest natural explosion

Knossos
Chief center of Minoan civilization
Excavated by Sir Arthur Evans, English Archaeologist

Pelopponesus
   was an isthmus, largest peninsula in southern Greece
Corinth located on it
Legend says Pelops conquered the entire region

Sparta
Ancient Greek city-state, had no walls
   “her men are her walls” – best army in ancient Greece
Helen from there
Land and buildings not extraordinary
2/3 of people were Helots (slaves with no rights)

Corinth
Commercial cosmopolitan city, center of trade and commerce on
crossroads
on the Pelopponeseus peninsula (Isthmus)
on a crossroads trading route

**Athens**
Named for Athena – goddess of war and wisdom, their protector
Had greatest navy
Capital of Greece, place of the Parthenon, and Acropolis

**Mt. Olympus**
Mountain from which race of gods ruled the earth
On the Pelopponesian peninsula

**Delphi**
Center of prophecy
Temple of Apollo there
Divine Oracle there
“navel of the earth”
Had lots of mountains
Religious festivals held there in honor of Dionysus
Location at the oldest theater

**Macedonia**
Greek province
Homeland of Alexander the Great
Philip II was King. Princess Olympias became his queen

**Agean**
Greek Sea, east of mainland Greece and West of Asia Minor
Part of the Mediterranean
Greeks sailed through it to assault Troy, Agamemnon was their leader
Also known as the “Greek Playground”
Part of the Mediterranean called the “Greek Playground”

**Ionia**
Area and coastline of Asia Minor – includes all islands
Mountainous area with 3 fertile valleys
Overtaken by Persians but revolted with Athenian help

**Troy**
Helen ran off with Paris to Troy
At war with Sparta over Helen
Home of Priam, Hecabe, Hector, Paris and Cassandra
Greeks used the Trojan horse to infiltrate their city

Sicily
Site of critical battle fought in the Peloponnesian wars

Syracuse
Colony of Corinth

ARCHEOLOGY

Sir Arthur Evans
Archaeologist – excavated Minoan culture (including Palace)
Especially interested in Crete
Dubbed and recognized 2 scripts – Linear A and Linear B
Excavated Troy & Knossous

Phaestos Disk
Round disk – inscriptions around it
Displayed in a museum on Crete
Dated around the Minoan Bronze Age

Linear A & B (Phyllos)
Ancient scripts – writings – discovered by Sir Arthur Evans
Linear A – words unrelated to any language, Minoan or Etocretan
Linear B – deciphered in 1950’s by Michael Ventris

Mycenae
Agamemnon was king there, capital of Mycenaean civilization
Cassandra was taken there by Agamemnon
Agamemnon sailed from there to Troy to rescue Helen
Took 10 years to get back
H. Schliemann excavated it

(Lion Gate)
best known feature of the Acropolis
built in 1250 BC
archaeological site southwest of Athens
Heinrich Schliemann
German archaeologist – excavated Mycenae & Troy
Found 14 tombs of royal skeletons
Interested in places mentioned by Homer
Died of an inner ear infection
Made his fortune in America
Found one of the worlds richest archeological finds on Troy

The Agora
center of Athenian life, marketplace of Athens
political marketplace (more then just politics)
resembled Forum of Rome

The Acropolis
Literally means “highest city”
A rocky hill in the center of Athens
Parthenon was built on it

The Parthenon
Built for Athena
Means “Temple of the Virgin” in Greek
Was built during Pericles reign
Located on the Acropolis

The Areopagus
“hill of acres”, north west of Acropolis
Chief homicide court of Athens
Judicial body of aristocrats
Apostle Paul delivered famous speech there

HISTORY

Minoans
From Crete, Minos was king
A pre Hellenic Bronze Age civilization
Lively pleasure loving people, loved bright colors
Mercantile people
Pre- Greek People

Mycenaean’s (main-land)
Early Greek people, fought in the Trojan war
King Agamemnon and Queen Clytemnestra
Captured create and over came Minoan Civilization

The Trojan War
Mycenaean’s fought in it, King Agamemnon was their leader
Was between Sparta and Troy after the kidnapping of Helen by Paris
Described by Homer in *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*
Site excavated by Schliemann
Eris, goddess of strife, started the war

Dorians
Ancient Hellenistic tribe
Invaded Greece 1500 BC
Invasion started “Dark Ages” for Greece
Originated in the N.E. regions of Greece

Homer
Blind Greek poet and Rhapsode, name means “hostage”
Wrote *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*
Favorite writer of Alexander the Great
Wrote about the Trojan War

Hesiod
Greek poet and Rhapsode – lived around 700 BC
8th century BC author of *Works and Days* – revolves around 2 truths
*Works* lays out 5 stages of man
Also wrote *Theogony*

The Dark Ages
Period from Dorian invasion to rise of city-states (9th century BC)
Collapse of Greek civilization
Iron replaced bronze as metal of choice

The polis
“city state”
Greek word described government officials who are voted in or out of
Of office
Each city composed of several tribes,
each with own gods, festivals and customs
Solon
Famous Athenian lawmaker and poet
Was first a foreign trader
Introduced trial by jury

Herodotus
Ancient Greek author, historian
Historian of the Persian Wars, “Father of History”
Wrote Histories of Herodotus – a new form of literature

The Persian Wars (490-479)
Documented by Herodotus
Between Persians and Greeks, Greeks won
Salamis was decisive naval battle
300 Spartans gave their lives to protect Greece at Thermopolae

Marathon
4 days of state-mate
First battle in the Persian wars, between Persia and Greece,
Persians won, but loss of life was greater
6,400 Persians died, and 192 Greek soldiers were killed
Was a plain
After the battle a messenger ran 26 miles to tell the results
Afterwards he died
Our modern “marathon race” named for this
1,400 persians killed

Miltiades
Ruler of Athens, died 524 BC
Died childless,
His step-nephew became Vassal of Darius

Thermopolae
50-60 ft. Pass which 300 Spartans died defending
During the Persian Wars
Greek commander – Leonidas
Persian commander – Xerxes
Greeks were defeated but Persian loss of life more devastating
10,000 Persians killed
Leonidas
King of Sparta
Greek commander at Battle of Thermopolae
His 300 Spartans held off Persians until they all died
Leonidas fought Persian Commander Xerxes,

(300 Spartans)
Heroic warriors at the Battle of Thermopolae
Died defending the pass
Happened during the Persian Wars
Leonidas their leader

Salamis
Naval battle, last battle in the Persian Wars
Decisive victory for Greece
700 Persian Ships Sunk

Themistocles
525-460 BC
Greek commander in the naval battle at Salamis
Leader in Athenian democracy during the Persian Wars

Plataea
City in southeast Boeotia, south of Thebes
Location of the Battle of Plataea, 479 BC
Captured by Thebes in the Peloponnesian War
Spartans executed males, enslaved women and destroyed city

Delian League
Greek defensive alliance of city-states, 5th century
Formed to defend against Persian attacks
Athens led the League
First action – captured Elion, Persian fortification
Based its treasury on the sacred island of Delos

Pericles
‘Golden tongued’ leader of the Athenian “Golden Age”
Preached inspiring funerary oration
Had Parthenon built
Established first true democracy
Ruled for 32 years, died of the plague (460-429)

The “Golden Age”
  Utopia – time of Athenian culture, prosperity, and peace (479-431)
  Led by Pericles ‘Golden tongued” leader
  Humans died peacefully but not old
  The time died when Prometheus gave men the secret of fire

Peloponnesian League
  City-states broke off from Delian League to form this (after Persian war)
  Sparta, Corinth and Aegina members

helots
  slaves with no rights, Peloponnesian Greeks
  made up 2/3 of the people of Sparta
  lived in masters households but owned by the state
  in war time: they were light infantry or rowers of ships

Thucydides
  Historian from Athens, documented Peloponnesian Wars
  Wrote about the plague of Athens
  Was an Athenian general

Peloponnesian Wars
  Began in 431 – 404 BC lasted 27 years with 6 yr. truce in middle
  Documented by Thucydides
  Athens surrendered to Sparta

Alcibiades
  Remegade Athenian general
  Sacrilege against Hermes caused him to flee Athens for Sparta
  He seduced the queen of Sparta
  Fled Sparta for Persia, ended up back in Athens

Philip of Macedon
  King of Macedonia
  Father of Alexander the Great
  Married Princess Olympias
When younger – was a hostage in Thebes

Alexander the Great – first great strategist
Father was Philip of Macedon
Macedonia his homeland (a Greek province)
Favorite teacher – Aristotle
Favorite stories – Homer’s *Iliad* and *The Odyssey*
Horse name – Bruephalus
Conquered the Persians, King Darius their leader
Was never defeated
Alexandria – his capital in Egypt
Favorite hero – Achilles (from the *Iliad*).

RELIGION

Gaia
Greek and Roman goddess
Means “land” and “earth”
Claim her as “mother earth” – the term we use now

Ouranos
Greek name of the sky
Personified as son and husband of Gaia
Roman equivalent was Coelus

Chronos
Personification of time
Pictured as elderly, gray haired man with long beard
Now we call him “Father Time”
Planet Saturn was called Khronos by the Greeks

Titans
Gods – mythical race of giants
Ruled the earth and heavens until gods defeated them in
Cosmic battle
Prometheus was a Titan

Zeus
God of sky and thunder
Brother of Poseidon
King of all Olympian gods
Thrower of thunderbolts
Birthed Athena, fully armored, from his head

Prometheus
Titan, god of fire
Stole fire from Zeus (his father) and gave it to man
Punished by being chained to a rock and having his liver
    chewed out everyday by an eagle
freed by Heracles

Atlas
Son of Lopitus
Brother of Prometheus
Led Titans in war against gods of Mr. Olympus
Tricked by Heracles

Heracles
Greek demi-god hero
Called Hercules in Roman mythology
His “12 labors” included freeing Prometheus
Son of Zeus
Tricked Atlas

Pandora
Created by gods to have insatiable curiosity
Created to bring judgment on mankind
Opened box that contained “all the evils” that plague men
She also released “hope” the last thing in the box

The Olympics
Takes place every 4 years – sporting event
First recorded in 776 BC
Only young men competed – usually naked

Hera
Wife and sister of Zeus
Majestic and solemn
Holds pomegranate - emblem of fertile blood
“great goddess”
**Poseidon**
- God of sea, Roman name is Neptune
- Brother of Zeus
- God of earthquakes and horses
- Was said to have won Persian war by churning the seas

**Ares**
- God of war
- Always mistrusted by both gods and humans
- A “Hymn to Ares” has appeared in manuscripts
- Son of Zeus

**Athena**
- Goddess of war and wisdom
- Protector of Athens
- Carries an owl on her shoulder
- Born, fully armored, from Zeus’ head

**The Panathenaea**
- Set of games held every 4 years in Athens
- Part of large religious festival
- First one in 566 BC
- Included poetic and musical competitions

**Aphrodite**
- Goddess of love and beauty
- Had a “magic girdle” which could make someone fall in love with her

**Hephaistos**
- Roman equivalent is Vulcan
- God of blacksmiths, craftsmen, artisans and sculptors
- Brother of Ares. Son of Zeus and Hera
- Worshipped in manufacturing and industrial centers

**Apollo**
- Son of Zeus, twin brother of Artemis
- Had dominion over plague, light and healing
Defender of herds and flocks  
Leader of muses  

Artemis  
Daughter of Zeus, twin sister of Apollo  
Virgin moon goddess  
Seen with crescent moon above her head and with  
bows and arrows  

Demeter  
"mother goddess"  
Goddess of agriculture  
Preserved marriage and sacred law  
Portrayed in a chariot  

Persephone  
Daughter of Demeter  
Queen of the underworld  
Kidnapped by hades  
Ate pomegranate seeds in the underworld so she was  
forced to stay there  
Released 6 months of the year  

Hades  
God of the dead  
An Olympian who spent most of his time underworld  
Got Persephone by trickery  

Medusa  
One of 3 Gordon sisters,  
Could turn people into stone  
Hair of living venemos snakes  
Raped by Poseidon in Athena’s temple  

Dionysus  
Drunken god of wine and frivolity
Also known as Baccus  
Drama festivals given in honor and worship of him  
Lover of peace  

Pan  
Greek god of shepherds  
Hind quarters, legs and horns of a goat  
Son of Zeus  
Name means “all-herdsman”  

Tieresias  

Cassandra  
Daughter of Priam, King of Troy  
Prophetess who was always right  
Condemned by Apollo to never be believed  
Taken as a sex slave by King Agamemnon  

FATE  
Things that will happen in the future, cannot be avoided  
They cannot be changed by anyone – even the gods  

Phthia  
Divine oracle at Delphi  
Chewed leaves to create hallucinations  

Styx  
Holy or sacred river, separated land of living from the dead  
Achilles mother dipped him in this to make him invulnerable  
Missed his heal  
Dead crossed this river to get to the Netherworld  
Coins were placed on eyes and mouth of dead as payment to  
Charon who ferried the dead across the river  

Charon  
Ferried the dead in a boat across the Styx, the sacred river to the  
Netherworld  
The river separates the land of living from the land of dead  
Captain of the boat
Coins were placed on the eyes and mouth of the dead

**Erebos**
Primordial god, metaphor for Hades
Personification of darkness
Son of Chaos alone (no mother)
Brother of Nyx

**Tartaros**
Ancient Hell, in Hades, both a diety and a place
A place of punishment where torture fits the crime
Lowest region of the underworld
Zeus banished Titans to there

**dike**
Greek word refers to Zeus’ universal order & balance

**hubris**
exaggerated pride and self confidence
results in retribution
reckless disregard for personal space of other people

**hamartia**
tragic mistake or flaw
translated as “sin”
refers to mistakes made by a Greek hero

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**CULTURE**

**Theogony**
Written by Hesiod, also wrote *Works and Days*
Means “birth of the gods”

**The Iliad**
Written by blind Greek poet – Homer
Tells story of the siege of Illium
About the Trojan War
The Odyssey
Written by blind Greek poet – Homer
Poem/story about Trojan War
Over 11,300 lines – 24 chapters
One of Alexander the Great’s favorite stories
Achilles, Odysseus and Hector were main characters

tragedy
famous authors: Euripides, Sophocles, Aechylus
have about 33 still today
dramas, “goat song” – gave a goat as a prize
chorus sings as part of the play

orchestra
chorus, part of tragedy plays

the dithyramb
ancient Greek hymn sung to Dionysus
sung by chorus of up to 50 men, used at festivals
first composed in 7th century Athens

Thespis
First actor in Athens theatre, first on stage
A singer of dithyrambs
First to be called a “hypocrite”, invented acting
Invented a new style called tragedy

(“hypocrites”)
Means pretending to be something you are not
Greek name for actors, first called this in Athens theatre
First actor to be called a “hypocrite” was thespis

Sophocles
Greek playwright, dramatist, priest and politician
One of 3 great writers of Greek tragedy
Famous for Theban plays:
Antigone, Oedipus the King, Oedipus at Colonus
Led battle against Peloponnesian Island of Samos
Euripides
One of 3 great tragedian writers
Damas showed concern for women and children
Wrote over 90 plays, 18 left today

Aeschylus
One of 3 great writers of Greek tragedy
Wrote The Suppliants and The Persians
3 plays left today

Aristophanes
Wrote comedies, 13 left today
Awarded civic crown for The Frogs, won an award for it
Appears in the Symposium

philosophy
means “love of wisdom”
Socrates, Plato, Aristotle studied philosophy
Thales is “Father of Philosophy”
Involves development of ideas at an abstract level,
Analyze existence, morality, knowledge, truth and being

metaphysics
branch of philosophy concerned with the study of
“first principles” and “being”

cosmology
study of the universe in its totality

epistemology
deals with nature, origins and scope of knowledge
most debated of all philosophical discourses
justified True Belief

Thales
Father of science and philosophy
One of 7 sages of Greece
Believed basic substance of life was water
Lived on the Island of Miletus (Ionia)
Atomism
All objects are composed of small indestructible pieces
Cannot be cut into smaller pieces
We know about atoms – the concept goes far back

Epicuris
Philosopher
Founder of Epicureanism
"eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die" his philosophy

Sophism
Term for techniques taught by a highly respected philosopher

Socrates
"intellectual midwife" – philosopher,
Teacher of Plato, written about in Plato’s Symposium
Walked barefoot through Athens, stinging everyone’s ideas like a
“Gadfly”, in an effort to get them to “know thyself”
Left no works – all knowledge of Socrates comes from the works
Of his students.
Left Athens 2 times to go to war.
Sentenced to death – died by drinking poison (hemlock)

“intellectual midwifery”
Philosophers who deliver ideas and knowledge like midwives
Deliver babies
Socrates known as the “intellectual midwife”

Plato
Philosopher of Idealism
Established his academy of students at Athens
Student of Socrates
Teacher of Aristotle

Idealism
An approach to philosophical inquiry
Relates to direct knowledge of ideas or images
Plato was its philosopher
Idle of the Cave

"Realm of the Forms"

The symposium
Means a drinking party
Place for men to debate, boast or party
Held in a place only for men

Aristotle
Ancient Greek philosopher of realism
Student of Plato
Favorite and famous teacher of Alexander the Great
Wrote many books about physics, poetry and biology
Established “The Academy” in Athens

Realism
A concern for fact or reality and rejection of the impractical
There is an external world that exists independent of
Our perception of it
Aristotle a philosopher of realism

“Essence & Accidents”

“potentiality and actuality”
LEGEN DARY CHARACTERS

Theseus and the Minotaur
Theseus – a legendary King of Athens, killed the Minotaur
   With bare hands
Theseus forgot to put up the victory flag to showed he had
   Succeeded in doing that
Result – his father threw himself into the Aegean Sea and the
   Sea was named after him

Jason and Medea
Tragedy written by Euripedes
Jealousy and revenge the theme
Medea was betrayed by her husband, Jason

Perseus and Andromeda
Perseus, ruler of men, set Andromeda free
   Then married her, had 6 sons
Athena placed Andromeda among the constellations

Menelaos and Helen
King of Sparta, brother of Agamemnon
   Married to Helen, had 2 children

Agamemnon and Clytemnestra
King of Sparta and his Queen
   She waited 10 years for him to return from Troy
   She remained faithful during that time
He didn’t – he returned with Cassandra
Clytemnestra killed Cassandra

Oedipus and Jocasta
Oedipus, son of Jocasta
He married her
She killed herself when she found out he was her son
Oedipus gouged his eyes out
**Priam and Hecuba**
King of Troy during Trojan War with Sparta
Hecuba was one of his wives
Had 20 children

**Hector and Andromache**
Hector – great prince of Troy
Noblest defender of the city
Husband of Andromache

**Paris (Alexandros)**
Son of Priam and Hecuba
Oracle said he would be downfall of Troy
Fell in love with Helen, kidnapped her, took her to Troy

**Achilles and Polyxena**
Trojan princess, youngest daughter of Priam
Achilles – hero of Trojan War and center character of *Iliad*

**Odysseus and Penelope**
Odysseus a character in *the Odyssey*
“man of wrath”
Took 20 years for him to return home from the Trojan War