

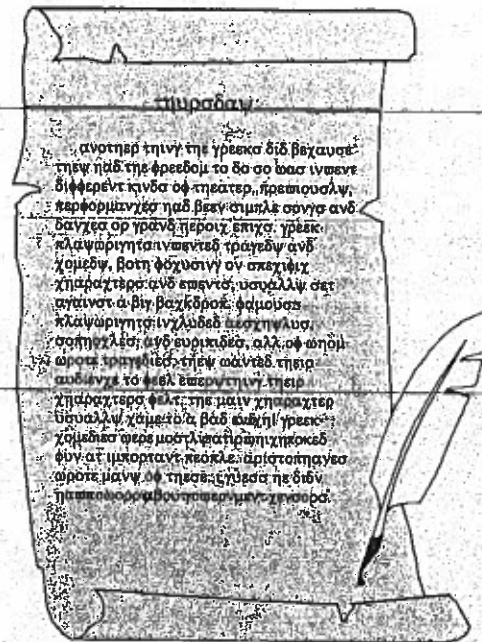
31. A Week in Ancient Greece by David White

MONDAY: ¹Today, we began learning about ancient Greek culture. ²The Greeks valued individual freedom and the exchange of ideas, which led to a stable and representative government, the development of a great philosophical tradition, inventions, and artistic marvels. ³They also fought many wars, but in those times who didn't?

TUESDAY: ⁴The Greek exchange of ideas had its basis in democracy, which began in Athens about 600 B.C. ⁵Every male citizen could serve in the assembly and vote on laws and policies. ⁶Women couldn't vote. ⁷My Aunt Joan wouldn't like that. ⁸Unlike Americans, who elect their leaders, the Greeks chose their officials by lot. ⁹In other words, they drew a number from a pot and the people who got the right numbers got to serve in government—for one year!

WEDNESDAY: ¹⁰Today's topic was philosophy, which featured truths and ideas applied logically to the world around us. ¹¹Philosophers like Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle had spirited debates about what things really were and whether all like things were the same. ¹²Again, we saw the importance of the exchange of ideas: without the freedom to argue these points, the Greeks wouldn't have made their famous theories. ¹³Socrates was free to question others about how well they thought they knew something. ¹⁴Aristotle gave us a logical proof called the syllogism: Mr. van Noord gives all his students tests; I am one of his students; therefore, Mr. van Noord will give me a test. ¹⁵Speaking of tests, I should study tonight. ¹⁶Good thing I'm writing all these things down!

THURSDAY: ¹⁷Another thing the Greeks did because they had the freedom to do so was invent different kinds of theater. ¹⁸Previously, performances had been simple songs and dances



or grand heroic epics. ¹⁹Greek playwrights invented tragedy and comedy, both focusing on specific characters and events, usually set against a big backdrop. ²⁰Famous playwrights included Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides, all of whom wrote tragedies. ²¹They wanted their audience to feel everything their characters felt. ²²The main character usually came to a bad end—ouch! ²³Greek comedies were mostly satire, which poked fun at important people. ²⁴Aristophanes wrote many of these. ²⁵I guess he didn't have to worry about government censors!

FRIDAY: ²⁶Greek people believed that strongly developed individual talent would bring a city-state its greatest glory, even more so than conquest. ²⁷Mr. van Noord also gave us a preview of next week: we'll study Greek math and science and then pottery, sculpture, and architecture. ²⁸Ancient Greece must have been a fascinating place to live. ²⁹All those ideas floating around might have been too much for me, though—I like physical exercise. ³⁰I'm glad they also gave us the Olympics.

DIRECTIONS: Choose or write the best answer to each of the following questions using the evidence presented in the passage. When required, list specific sentence numbers or paragraph letters from the story to support your answer.

- 1. Which phrase best describes what most influenced ancient Greek society in the story?
 - A. cultural masterpieces
 - B. philosophical arguments
 - C. the birth of democracy
 - D. the exchange of ideas

List the numbers of the 2 sentences that best support your answer. _____

- 2. *Antigone* is a famous Greek play about a woman who speaks out against the government and is sentenced to death because of it. Which of these people probably wrote *Antigone*?
 - A. Aristotle
 - B. Aristophanes
 - C. Socrates
 - D. Sophocles

List the numbers of the 2 sentences that best support your answer. _____

- 3. In general, the Greeks placed the highest value on
 - A. individual enlightenment.
 - B. cultural enrichment.
 - C. collective achievement.
 - D. democratic government.

List the numbers of the 2 sentences that best support your answer. _____

- 4. How could an ancient Greek stay in government for more than one year?

Give the number of the sentence that best supports your answer. _____

- 5. Which of these sentences from the passage contains BOTH a fact and an opinion?
 - A. Every male citizen could serve in the assembly and vote on laws and policies.
 - B. Ancient Greece must have been a fascinating place to live.
 - C. I'm glad they also gave us the Olympics.
 - D. They also fought many wars, but in those times who didn't?

- 6. Explain the difference between Greek comedy and Greek tragedy.

List the numbers of the 3 sentences that best support your answer. _____

- 7. Which of these sets of statements is a syllogism?
 - A. All mice have families. Stuart is a mouse. Therefore, Stuart has a sister.
 - B. All mice wear shoes. Stuart is a mouse. Therefore, Stuart wears shoes.
 - C. All dogs run. Simon runs. Therefore, Simon is a dog.
 - D. All dogs have tails. Simon is a dog. Therefore, Simon eats dog food.