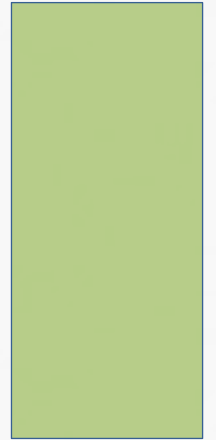


UNIT 4 VOCABULARY

CLASSICAL GREECE & ROME



POLIS

- Primary political unit of Ancient Greece
- Other name = City-State
- Each Polis had its own government.
 - Some were democracies, some monarchies, some oligarchies (rule by a few powerful people)
- Usually only controlled a small territory and a small number of people (10,000 or less)

MONARCHY

- Comes from Greek words:
 - Monos = one
 - Arkhein = rule
- State ruled by a king
- Rule is hereditary (stays in the king's family)
- Some rulers claim that god gave them the power to rule (divine right)
- Practiced in Mycenae by 2000 BC

ARISTOCRACY

- Comes from Greek words:
 - Aristos = best
 - Kratos = power
- State ruled by nobility (upper class people)
- Rule is hereditary and based on family ties, social rank, wealth
- Ruler's power comes from social status and wealth
- Practiced in Athens prior to 549 BC

OLIGARCHY

- Comes from Greek words:
 - Oligos = few
 - Arkhein = rule
- State ruled by a small group of citizens
- Rule is based on wealth or ability
- Ruling group controls military
- Practiced in Sparta by 500 BC

DEMOCRACY

- Comes from Greek words:
 - Demos = people
 - Kratos = power
- State ruled by its citizens
- Rule is based on citizenship
- Majority rule decides vote
- Practiced in Athens by about 500 BC

GEOGRAPHY OF ANCIENT GREECE

- Mediterranean Sea – The large sea separating Europe from Africa, cut off from the Atlantic Ocean by the Strait of Gibraltar
- Aegean Sea – Small sea between mainland Greece and modern day Turkey
- Peloponnesus – the southernmost peninsula of Greece
- Crete – the large island in the Mediterranean Sea south of mainland Greece

MINOANS

- Early Greek society that formed on the island of Crete
- Had a lot of contact and trade with Mycenaeans
- Capital city = Knossos
- Early Minoan writing would be the start of the Greek language.

MYCENAEANS

- Earliest Greek society to settle on the Greek mainland
- Around 2,000 BCE
- Built fortified cities
- Monarchy = ruled by a King

HOMER

- Poet who wrote during the “dark age” of Greece after the fall of Mycenae
- Famous works:
 - The Iliad – the story of the Greek war against Troy
 - The Odyssey – the story of King Odysseus’ voyage home from the Trojan War

ACROPOLIS

- The center of most Greek cities
- Meaning = top of the city
- The land within the acropolis held many of the city's temples, markets, and government buildings.
- Center of the acropolis of Athens was the Parthenon (a temple to the goddess Athena)

AGORA

- An open area in Athens that served as a market and as the meeting place for Athenian citizens to discuss political matters

CLASSES IN SPARTAN SOCIETY

- Equal = a male who had completed the military training and been accepted into a unit
- Women = Spartan women had more freedom and responsibility than most ancient women
- Helots = the lowest class made up of the people Sparta had conquered – these people were tied to the land and forced to farm it for Sparta.

PERSIAN WAR

- War between the Greek city-states led by Athens and Sparta and the expanding Persian Empire led by King Darius and King Xerxes.
- Greeks defeat the Persians and defend their land.
- War resulted in competition between Athens and Sparta for control over smaller Greek city-states.

PELOPONNESIAN WAR

- War between:
 - Athens and her allies (Delian League)
 - Sparta and her allies (Peloponnesian League)
- Very long and costly war (33 years)
- Sparta defeats Athens, and Athenians are forced to begin rebuilding their shattered city.

SOCRATES

- Greek philosopher who said, “the unexamined life is not worth living.”
- He believed that Athenians should be willing to question themselves and their society. He valued the idea of forcing people to think.
- He was put on trial for “corrupting the youth of Athens” and “neglecting the city’s gods.”
 - Found guilty and forced to drink hemlock (a poison)

PLATO

- Student of Socrates
- Author of “The Republic”
 - A book about a society with a perfect society where people fell into their social classes naturally and were ruled by a king who was the smartest man of that society.
- Started a school called “The Academy”
 - Most important student = Aristotle

ARISTOTLE

- Student of Plato
- Questioned things until he began to understand how they started. His process for investigating the origin of things was similar to the scientific method.
- Most famous student = Alexander the Great

ALEXANDER THE GREAT

- King of Macedonia from 336 – 323 BC
- Continued his father's plan to conquer the Persian Empire (His father had conquered Greece already)
- Alexander's conquests stretched from Egypt to India
- The ideas of Hellenistic Culture spread with Alexander

HELLENISTIC CULTURE

- Alexander spread Greek culture as he expanded his empire.
- The blending of Greek culture with Egyptian, Persian, and Indian influences became known as Hellenistic Culture.

EUCLID

- Mathematician from Alexandria
- Wrote the book “Elements”
 - A book of geometric propositions and proofs
- His work is still used as the basis for geometry

GREEK RELIGION

- Polytheistic
- Zeus = Father of the gods
 - 12 primary gods = 12 Olympians
- Greek gods were known to act in very human ways. They would choose favorites, be violent or vindictive, and even father children with human women.

ROME

- Legend says it was founded in 753 by twin brothers Romulus and Remus
- Located on 7 hills set on the banks of the Tiber River in the center of Italy
- Became the most powerful state in the ancient world.
- Politics shifted from Republic to Empire

REPUBLIC

- A nation where political power is held by the people
- The people elect representatives (like senators) periodically who vote for them on laws etc...
- Republics are usually led by an elected leader (similar to a president)

EMPIRE

- A large area or a group of states that are ruled over by one central political authority.
- Most empires share these characteristics:
 - Unified system of government
 - Military expansion
 - Diverse and expanding population

PATRICIAN

- Upper class of Roman citizens
- Wealthy families who had long ties to Rome and owned large amounts of land
- Could serve as Consuls and serve in the Senate

PLEBEIAN

- Lower class of Roman citizens
- Middle and lower class families
- Farmers and merchants
- Owned small amounts of land if any
- Could not serve as Consuls

EQUESTRIANS

- Citizens who were not Patricians but were wealthy enough to equip themselves as cavalry soldiers. (horse, armor, weapons)
- Still not able to serve in the Senate

SENATE

- An elected body of politicians who served as Rome's legislature (congress)
- Mixture of legislative and administrative duties
 - Made laws
 - Made treaties and declared wars
 - Appointed dictators in time of national emergency
- Mostly Patrician, but Plebeians were eventually allowed to join

CONSUL

- The highest elected position in Republican Roman politics (similar to an elected king)
- Two consuls served at a time
 - One year term
 - Nobody could serve more than 1 term every 10 years
 - One would lead the army, the other would run the government
 - If one consul disagreed with a decision made by the other, it would be overturned

TRIBUNES OF THE PLEBS

- Leader of the Plebeians
- Plebeian representative in government
- Had the power to veto any action of a government official that was seen as being harmful to the Plebs

LEGION

- The primary division of the Roman army
- Made up of 5,000 heavy infantry soldiers split into smaller cohorts
- The bravery and discipline of the Legions made Rome's army the most efficient fighting force of its time.

TRIUMVIRATE

- A group of three rulers that shared control of the government of the Roman Empire
 - Julius Caesar – military leader who would eventually use his popularity to become Emperor
 - Crassus – a wealthy Roman who helped fund the triumvirate
 - Pompey – a general who would support and then compete with Caesar for power

PAX ROMANA

- Latin term meaning “Roman Peace”
- 200+ year period of peace lasting from 27 BC to 180 AD during which the Roman Empire was at the height of its power
 - Controlled 3,000,000 square miles
 - Numbered 80,000,000 people

DIASPORA

- The Jews were kicked out of their holy lands (modern day Israel) after Rome destroyed the Temple in 70 AD
- Their time of exile would last 1800 years

MERCENARY

- A person who fights wars for money
- Pros:
 - A nation's citizens would not be the ones dying in war
- Cons:
 - Expensive
 - Mercenaries were not loyal and could not be counted on to fight to the death if necessary

AQUEDUCT

- A raised channel built by Romans to take water from its source to the centers of population.
- Without this technology the population of the city of Rome could not have been nearly as large as it was.