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Why Do Historians Consider Ancient Greece to be the “Cradle of Western Civilization”? 
Architecture
The Parthenon
The US Supreme Court
Politics
Representative Democracy
Art
Medicine
The Hippocratic Oath

“"I will apply measures for the benefit of the sick according to my ability and judgment; I will keep them from harm and injustice.

"I will neither give a deadly drug to anybody who asked for it, nor will I make a suggestion to this effect. [ . . . ] In purity and holiness I will guard my life and my art.

"Whatever houses I may visit, I will come for the benefit of the sick, remaining free of all intentional injustice . . .

"What I may see or hear in the course of the treatment or even outside of the treatment in regard to the life of men, which on no account one must spread abroad, I will keep to myself . . .”

Hippocrates, the “Father of Medicine”
Language
Alphabet

Α Β Γ Δ Ε Ζ
Alpha (al-fah) Beta (bay-tah) Gamma (gam-ah) Delta (del-ta) Epsilon (ep-si-lon) Zeta (zay-tah)

Η Θ Ι Κ Λ Μ
Eta (ay-tah) Theta (thay-tah) Iota (eye-o-tah) Kappa (kap-pah) Lambda (lamb-dah) Mu (mew)

Ν Ξ Ο Π Ρ Σ
Nu (new) Xi (zie) Omicron (om-e-cron) Pi (pie) Rho (roe) Sigma (sig-mah)

Τ Υ Φ Χ Ψ Ω
Tau (taw) Upsilon (up-si-lon) Phi (fie) Chi (kie) Psi (sigh) Omega (oh-may-gah)
Theatre at Epidaurus
The Greek Word
(Entertainment)

**Tragedies:** A type of Greek play that often ended in disaster; the main character is often a *Tragic Hero*, a person who has a fatal flaw/characteristic that leads to his downfall; many times the fatal flaw/characteristic is *Hubris*, or extreme arrogance that is eventually punished by the gods.

**Comedies:** Plays that were sometimes funny (in a hahahahahaha sort of way), but often had a political or critical message designed to poke fun at society.

**Rhetoric:** The art of speaking; using spoken words, not only as a way to communicate ideas, but as a form of art.
“These are the researches of Herodotus of Halicarnassus, which he publishes, in the hope of thereby preserving from decay the remembrance of what men have done, and of preventing the great and wonderful actions of the Greeks and the Barbarians from losing their due meed of glory; and withal to put on record what were their grounds of feuds. [ . . . ] Such is the account which the Persians give of these matters. They trace to the attack upon Troy their ancient enmity towards the Greeks. The Phoenicians, however, as regards Io, vary from the Persian statements.”

--- Herodotus, *The History of Herodotus* c. 440 BCE
“Thucydides, an Athenian, wrote the history of the war between the Peloponnesians and the Athenians, beginning at the moment that it broke out, and believing that it would be a great war and more worthy of relation than any that had preceded it . . . The preparations of both the combatants were in every department in the last state of perfection; and he could see the rest of the Hellenic race taking sides in the quarrel . . . Indeed this was the greatest movement yet known in history, not only of the Hellenes, but of a large part of the barbarian world . . . Yet the evidences which an inquiry carried as far back as was practicable leads me to trust, all point to the conclusion that there was nothing on a great scale, either in war or in other matters.”

-- Thucydides, *The History of the Peloponnesian War*
Philosophy
Socrates

• Lived in Athens during the time of the Peloponnesian Wars;
• Disliked a group of people called the **Sophists**;
• Used logic and reason to understand the world around him;
• Asked questions that forced people to defend their beliefs and their positions;
• Was accused of “corrupting the youth and of atheism” and was put on trial.
The Suicide of Socrates
Plato

• Wrote down the teachings of Socrates and recorded Socrates’ trial in his *Apology*;
• Also believed in reason;
• Believed that democracy could lead to *mob-rule*, as seen in the trial and execution of Socrates;
• Believed that society should be divided in three classes: the workers, who provide the necessary materials; the warriors who defend society; and the philosophers who govern society with justice and fairness.
Aristotle

• One of Plato’s students;
• Also believed that democracy would lead to mob-rule;
• Believed that the best kind of government was one led by a single, virtuous ruler who would lead by example;
• Believed in the power and importance of education and opened a school called the **Lyceum** that would teach students science, math, logic, ethics and other disciplines.