

RESOURCES

TIMELINE OF ANCIENT GREECE

All dates are B.C.

ca. 8300–6000	Franchthi Cave in Greece: earliest deliberate burials on Greek mainland; presence of Melian obsidian points to seafaring
ca. 4900	Evidence for copper metallurgy in northern Greece
ca. 3000–1100	Minoan maritime civilization; Great Palace period at Knossos ca. 1800–1600
ca. 1900–1450	Linear A (a pre-Hellenic Minoan language) is used on Crete.
ca. 1600–1100	Mycenaean civilization in Greece; Lion Gate built at Mycenae ca. 1400.
ca. 1550	Great shaft graves at Mycenae
ca. 1500–1450	Volcanic eruption on Thera
ca. 1450–1200	Linear B (an early form of Greek) is used on mainland Greece.
ca. 1200	Fall of Homeric Troy



ca. 2800–2700 B.C.



ca. 750–700 B.C.

8th century

Earliest evidence for the use of the Greek alphabet

776

First Olympic Games

ca. 775–750

First colonies established by Greeks overseas as far as the coast of France and Spain. Marseilles founded ca. 600.



ca. 590–580 B.C.

ca. 750

Homer composes the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*.

ca. 610




Sappho flourishes on the island of Lesbos in the Aegean Sea.

594–593

Athenian archon Solon (ca. 638–ca. 559) replaces severe Draconian code, and lays basis for democracy in Athens. Serfdom abolished and property owners govern.



ca. 550 B.C.

556	Panathenaic festival established at Athens.	
ca. 525	Red-figure pottery technique introduced in Athens.	ca. 540 B.C.
525/4-456	Aeschylus, the Athenian tragedian, author of <i>Prometheus Bound</i> and <i>Prometheus Unbound</i> and the <i>Oresteia</i> , lives.	
518-438	Pindar, the Greek lyric poet, lives.	ca. 530 B.C.
508-507	Kleisthenes' reforms transform Athens into a full democracy. Government is by all freeborn men, rather than only by landed aristocrats.	
5th century	Greek physiologist Alkmaeon performs the first recorded dissection of a human body for research purposes. He identifies the brain as the center of thought and feeling.	ca. 530 B.C.



ca. 515 B.C.

ca. 496-406

Sophokles, the Athenian tragedian, author of *Antigone*, *Oedipus Rex*, and *Oedipus at Colonus*, lives.

490-479

Persian Wars (490: Battle of Marathon; 480: Persians sack the akropolis of Athens; 479: Greek victory over Persians at naval battle of Salamis and land battle at Plataea)






ca. 490 B.C.

ca. 485-ca. 406

Euripides, the Athenian tragedian, author of *Medea*, *Hippolytos*, *Trojan Women*, *Bacchae*, and *Iphigenia in Aulis*, lives.



ca. 465-460 B.C.

<p>ca. 480-ca. 420</p>	<p>Herodotos, the first Greek historian, lives.</p>	
<p>ca. 460-ca. 429</p>	<p>Under the Athenian statesman, Perikles (ca. 495-ca. 429), Athens becomes the most prominent political, economic, and cultural center in Greece.</p>	
<p>ca. 455-ca. 400 447-432</p>	<p>Thucydides, the Greek historian, lives. Parthenon built as part of Perikles' reconstruction of the Athenian akropolis.</p>	
	<p>ca. 460-450 B.C.</p>	<p>5th century</p>
		<p>ca. 450-440 B.C.</p>



ca. 450-425 B.C.



ca. 430 B.C.



Late 5th century

431-404

Peloponnesian War; Athens' eventual defeat by Sparta and her allies ends its dominance in Greece.

ca. 429-ca. 347

Plato, the Athenian philosopher, lives.

399

Trial and death of Sokrates, the Athenian philosopher (born ca. 470)

384-322

Life of Aristotle, the Macedonian philosopher who trained in Athens under Plato and was tutor to Alexander the Great

ca. 360–330	Praxiteles, the Athenian sculptor, is active.
ca. 340–310	Lysippos, the Sikyonian sculptor, is active.
ca. 360–ca.330	Theater of Epidauros is built.
338	Defeat of Greek states by Philip II of Macedon
334–323	Alexander the Great, ruler of Greece, Asia, and Egypt, conquers the Persian Empire of western Asia and Egypt, and continues into central Asia as far as the Indus River valley.
323	Death of Alexander the Great



ca. 425–400 B.C.



ca. 340–320 B.C.



ca. 320 B.C.

THE GREEK ALPHABET

Form ¹	NAME	TRANSLITERATED ²	SOUND ³	GREEK EXAMPLE
Α α	alpha	A a	drama	δρᾶ-μᾶ
Β β	beta	B b	bible	βι-βλί-ον
Γ γ	gamma	G g, ng	ganglion	γάγ-γλι-ον
Δ δ	delta	D d	decalog	δέ-κα
Ε ε	epsilon	E e	epic	ἔ-πος
Ζ ζ	zeta ⁴	Z z	adze	ζῶ-νη
Η η	eta	E e	they	ἦ-δη
Θ θ	theta	Th th	atheist	θε-ός
Ι ι	iota	I i	intrigue	ἐ-πί-πύ-πτω
Κ κ	kappa	K k, C c	crisis	κρί-σις
Λ λ	lambda	L l	logic	λό-γος
Μ μ	mu	M m	meter	μέ-τρον
Ν ν	nu	N n	anti	άν-τί
Ξ ξ	xi	X x	axiom	ἀ-ξι-ω-μα
Ο ο	omicron	O o	obey	ἀ-πό
Π π	pi	P p	poet	ποι-η-τής
Ρ ρ	rho	Rh rh, r	catarrh	κα-τάρ-ρο-ος
Σ σ, ς	sigma	S s	spore	σπό-ρος
Τ τ	tau	T t	tone	το-νή
Υ υ	upsilon	Y y, u	abyss	ἄ-βύ-σ-σος, Κῦ-ρος
Φ φ	phi	Ph ph	Philip	Φίλ-ιπ-πος
Χ χ	chi	Ch ch	character	χα-ρα-κτήρ
Ψ ψ	psi	Ps ps	apse	ἀ-ψίς
Ω ω	omega	O o	ocean	ὠ-κε-α-νός

¹ For centuries only capital letters were used by the Greeks. Although the small letters that later came into use are less like the Latin-English, we can easily trace their development from the capitals. The difference between the two types is no greater than that between capitals and small letters in English.

² The words used as illustrations represent as faithfully as is possible in English the best usage of modern scholars. ³ Compare English *zeal*.

From: H. L. Crosby and J. N. Schaeffer, *An Introduction to Greek* (Boston; Rockleigh, N.J.; Atlanta; Belmont, Calif.; and Dallas: Allyn and Bacon, Inc., 1928)

BIBLIOGRAPHY: SELECTED SOURCES FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

General

Biers, William R. *The Archaeology of Greece: An Introduction*. 2d ed. Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 1996.

A survey of Greek art and architecture from the Minoan period to the Hellenistic age; each chapter includes general summaries of the history of each period.

Boardman, John. *Greek Art*. 4th ed. London: Thames and Hudson, 1996.

Greek art and architecture from the Geometric period to the Hellenistic age; focuses on stylistic developments, but also notes the function of art in Greek society. A chronological chart shows the relative progress of political and artistic developments.

_____, Jasper Griffin, and Oswyn Murray, eds. *The Oxford History of the Classical World*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1986.

Comprehensive history of the Greek and Roman civilizations, from the Archaic period onward, with chapters on history, Homer, mythology, poetry, philosophy, drama, Greek historians, life and society, religion, and art and architecture. Includes tables of events pairing historical and cultural events.

Cartledge, Paul, ed. *The Cambridge Illustrated History of Ancient Greece*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998.

Chapters cover geography, social structure, politics, gender roles, drama, art, philosophy, science, mythology, and religion. Contains a glossary and a who's who index.

Hornblower, Simon, and Anthony Spawforth, eds. *The Oxford Classical Dictionary*. 3d ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996.

Comprehensive resource on the Greek and Roman civilizations, including brief but detailed entries on historical individuals, mythological beings, geographical locations, objects, and events.

Levi, Peter. *Atlas of the Greek World*. New York: Facts on File Publications, 1984.

Chronicles the history and achievements of ancient Greek civilization, from the Minoan period to the Roman conquest; organized geographically, with many maps.

March, Jenny. *Cassell Dictionary of Classical Mythology*. London: Cassell, 1998.

Dictionary of Greek and Roman mythology with quotations from ancient authors; includes references to classical texts and genealogies of the gods.

Osborne, Robin. *Archaic and Classical Greek Art*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998.

A description of pottery, sculpture, and other arts of the Archaic and Classical periods and their social, political, and religious significance; a timeline charts the history of politics, culture, and the visual arts; many color photographs.

Pedley, John G. *Greek Art and Archaeology*. 2d ed. New York: Abrams, 1998.

Survey of Greek art and architecture, from the Bronze Age to the Hellenistic period, blending a detailed stylistic analysis of individual objects and sites with a more general discussion of political and social history; includes a glossary of artistic terms.

Pollitt, J. J. *The Art of Ancient Greece: Sources and Documents*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1990.

Quotations from primary sources in translation on artists, art, and architecture in Greek antiquity; focuses on the Archaic to Hellenistic periods, but includes reflections on the Bronze and Dark Ages.

Richter, Gisela Marie Augusta. *A Handbook of Greek Art*. 9th ed. New York: Da Capo Press, 1987.

Another survey of Greek art by a former curator in the Department of Greek and Roman Art at The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Robertson, Martin. *A Shorter History of Greek Art*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1981.

Useful and succinct survey, abridged from the author's more comprehensive volume, *A History of Greek Art*, published in 1975.

Rolley, Claude. *Greek Bronzes*. London: Sotheby's Publications, 1986.

Comprehensive history of Greek bronze sculpture to the Hellenistic period.

Sacks, David. *Encyclopedia of the Ancient Greek World*. New York: Facts on File Publications, 1995.

General information on many subjects such as politics, mythology, geography, social practices, and art.

Woodford, Susan. *An Introduction to Greek Art*. Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 1986.

Uses a small number of works to illustrate themes in vase painting and sculpture of the Archaic and Classical periods.

Ancient Greek Life and Culture

Atchity, Kenneth J., ed. *The Classical Greek Reader*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996.

Ancient Greek literature and thought presented in a modern, accessible manner.

Barnstone, Willis, trans. *Greek Lyric Poetry*. New York: Schocken Books, 1972. Collection of the lyric poetry of Greece from the eighth through sixth centuries B.C., in a smooth English translation

Fantham, Elaine, et al. *Women in the Classical World*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1994.

Explores the role of women in the ancient Greek and Roman worlds. Chapters focus on various periods and places, such as Archaic Greece, Classical Athens, and Sparta; contains side-by-side chronologies of Greek and Roman history.

Homer. *The Iliad*. Translated by Robert Fagles. New York: Penguin Books, 1990. *The Odyssey*. Translated by Robert Fagles. New York: Penguin Books, 1996.

These smooth and poetic translations, considered not literal by some, are eminently readable.

Mind and Body: Athletic Contests in Ancient Greece. Exh. cat. Athens: National Archaeological Museum, 1989.

Includes a series of essays on various athletic games and specific events in ancient Greece.

Vermeule, Emily. *Aspects of Death in Early Greek Art and Poetry*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1979.

Uses archaeological evidence and ancient literature to illustrate early Greek beliefs and practices relating to death.

Greece from the Dark Ages to the Archaic Period

Boardman, John. *Athenian Black Figure Vases*. London: Thames and Hudson, 1998.

Detailed coverage of Athenian black-figure vase painting, with a chronological chart illustrating when various artists worked.

_____. *Athenian Red Figure Vases: The Archaic Period*. London: Thames and Hudson, 1991.

Detailed history of red-figure vase painting of the Archaic period.

_____. *Early Greek Vase Painting*. London: Thames and Hudson, 1998.

History of the evolution of Greek vase painting from the Dark Ages through the Archaic period. A chronological chart illustrates the development of the different styles.

_____. *Greek Sculpture: The Archaic Period*. London: Thames and Hudson, 1985.

Covers freestanding and architectural sculpture of the Archaic period.

Osborne, Robin. *Greece in the Making, 1200–479 B.C.* New York: Routledge, 1996.

Detailed history of Greece from the Dark Ages through the Archaic period; emphasizes the use of archaeology and ancient literature to understand a period without recorded history.

Classical Greece

Ashmole, Bernard. *Architect and Sculptor in Classical Greece*. New York: New York University Press, 1972.

Focuses on the interaction between sculpture and architecture, with special reference to the Temple of Zeus at Olympia.

Boardman, John. *Athenian Red Figure Vases: The Classical Period*. London: Thames and Hudson, 1989.

History of red-figure vase painting of the Classical period.

———. *Greek Sculpture: The Classical Period*. London: Thames and Hudson, 1985.

Detailed, comprehensive history of freestanding and architectural sculpture of the early and high Classical periods; each chapter includes a historical overview.

———. *Greek Sculpture: The Late Classical Period*. London: Thames and Hudson, 1995.

Examines freestanding and architectural sculpture of the fourth century to the start of the Hellenistic period (323 B.C.).

———, and David Finn. *The Parthenon and Its Sculpture*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1985.

Covers the Parthenon's architecture, sculptural program, and probable function in Classical Athenian society; contains dramatic black-and-white photographs by David Finn.

Buitron-Oliver, Diana. *The Greek Miracle: Classical Sculpture from the Dawn of Democracy, the Fifth Century B.C.* Exh. cat. Washington D.C.: National Gallery of Art, 1992.

Color photographs of fifth-century sculptural works from various museum collections accompanied by brief descriptions of the style and possible original use of each piece.

Connolly, Peter, and Hazel Dodge. *The Ancient City: Life in Classical Athens and Rome*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1998.

Comprehensive study of the everyday lives of people during the times these two cities flourished. Excellent illustrations, maps, diagrams, and reconstructed views.

Coulton, J. J. *Ancient Greek Architects at Work*. Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 1977.

Engaging presentation of Greek architecture as a series of problems and solutions; describes specific buildings as well as broader developments.

Pollitt, J. J. *Art and Experience in Classical Greece*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1972.

History of the stylistic development of art and architecture during the Classical period; analyzes specific works of art in relation to life and culture during the fifth century B.C.

What Life Was Like at the Dawn of Democracy: Classical Athens, 525–322 BC. Alexandria, Va.: Time-Life Books, 1997.

Uses true accounts of incidents in the lives of Athenians to illustrate everyday life in Classical Greece; contains essays on mythology and athletics, as well as a glossary of people and terms.

Metropolitan Museum of Art Publications

Greek Art of the Aegean Islands. Exh. cat. New York, 1979.

Photographs and brief stylistic descriptions of Aegean artworks from the Neolithic to the Classical period.

Mertens, Joan R. "Greek Bronzes in The Metropolitan Museum of Art." *The Metropolitan Museum of Art Bulletin* 53, no. 2 (Fall 1985).

Photographs and brief descriptions of works in the Museum's collection, with an introduction outlining the history of Greek bronze statuary.

The Metropolitan Museum of Art: Greece and Rome. New York, 1987.

Key pieces from the Museum's Greek and Roman collections; includes an introduction by the curator of the Greek and Roman department and brief descriptions of each work.

von Bothmer, Dietrich. "Greek Vase Painting: An Introduction."

The Metropolitan Museum of Art Bulletin 31, no. 1 (Fall 1972).

Catalogue of some of the Museum's Greek vases with brief descriptions of each piece and an introductory essay outlining the history of Greek vase painting.

Resources for Students

Aesop's Fables. New York: Dover Publications, 1994.

Highly readable version of Aesop's moral lessons presented in entertaining stories about animals and others; illustrated by Pat Stewart.

d'Aulaire, Ingri, and Edgar Parin d'Aulaire. *Book of Greek Myths*. New York: Bantam, Doubleday Dell Publishing Group, 1962.

Energetically illustrated volume that clearly brings to life the myths of the ancient Greeks.

Evslin, Bernard. *Monsters of Mythology Series*. New York: Chelsea House, 1987–.

Each of the twenty-five volumes in this series tells the story of a different monster from Greek, Norse, and Celtic mythology.

Gibson, Michael. *Gods, Men, and Monsters from the Greek Myths*. New York: Peter Bedrick Books, 1977.

Children's illustrated guide to Greek mythology.

Korres, Manolis. *From Pentelikon to the Parthenon*. Athens: Melissa, 1995.

The story of a single stone's progress from the quarry to the Athenian akropolis. A delightful description of Greek building methods, illustrated with line drawings.

Macdonald, Fiona. *A Greek Temple*. New York: Peter Bedrick Books, 1992.

Illustrated explanation of the Parthenon's construction, decoration, and social significance.

Moulton, Carroll, ed. *Ancient Greece and Rome: An Encyclopedia for Students*. 4 vols. New York: Scribners, 1998.

A broad resource, with entries on historical figures and mythological beings, historical events and places.

Phillip, Neil. *The Adventures of Odysseus*. New York: Orchard Books, 1996.

Abridged, illustrated version of the *Odyssey*.

Schomp, Virginia. *The Ancient Greeks*. New York: Benchmark Books, 1996.

Historical survey of Greek civilization with sections devoted to mythology, philosophy, science, literature, art, and architecture.

For the Visually Impaired

Bird, Susan, Ian Jenkins, and Fabio Levi. *Second Sight of the Parthenon Frieze*. London: British Museum Press, 1998.

Braille images of the Parthenon frieze.

VIDEOGRAPHY

We advise all educators to preview these videos before integrating them into lesson plans. Only you can be the judge of what materials are best for your needs. You may elect to show all or parts of a given tape.

The Greek Temple. Crystal Productions, U.S., 1986 (54 min.)

An architecture and design tour of Greek temples. Charts the architectural and decorative styles of temples in Greece and Italy. Technical language/terminology may make comprehension of this video difficult for younger viewers.

Greek Vases in the British Museum. The British Museum, Great Britain, 1995 (30 min.)

Survey of the history of ancient Greek vases and ceramics, with an emphasis on style, shape, crafting techniques, and painted motifs. Suitable for all ages.

Life, Times, and Wonders of Athens and Ancient Greece: Great Cities of the Ancient World. Questar Video, Inc., U.S., 1995 (70 min.)

Survey of ancient Greek life, culture, and civic mythology in several cities, including Athens, Corinth, and Delphi. Ideal as an overview of ancient Greek culture for students of all ages.

Myth, Man & Metal: Bronze Sculpture of Ancient Greece & Rome. Institute for Mediterranean Studies, Cincinnati, Ohio, 1996 (28 min.)

Good survey of this ancient technology; includes a number of ancient Greek bronze statues preserved today.

The Western Tradition: Tape: Vol. 5—The Rise of Greek Civilization, Vol. 6—Greek Thought. Annenberg/CPB, U.S., 1989. (each vol. 30 min/each tape 2 vols.)

Survey covering the origins and development of Classical philosophy, art, religion, and the city-state. The lecture/documentary format is suitable for high school and undergraduate students.

Video Suppliers

Annenberg/CPB Project
P.O. Box 2345
South Burlington, VT 05407-2345
Tel. 800-532-7637

Crystal Productions
P.O. Box 2159
Glenview, IL 60025-6159
Tel. 800-255-8629

Metropolitan Museum of Art Retail Sales
1000 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10028
Tel. 212-570-3894 ext. 2927

Questar Video
P.O. Box 11345
Chicago, IL 60611
Tel. 800-544-8422

To Borrow or Rent Videotapes

Donnell Library Center
New York Public Library
20 West 53rd Street
New York, NY 10019
Tel. 212-621-0642

Pennsylvania State
University
Media & Technology
Support Services
1127 Fox Hill Road
University Park, PA
16803-1842
Tel. 800-826-0132

WEB RESOURCES

We encourage you to explore the World Wide Web for additional information. The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Web site address is <http://www.metmuseum.org>. Some Web sites devoted to Greek culture are:

General

Perseus Project: An Evolving Digital Library

<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu>

An important resource on the WWW for the study of ancient Greece. The site contains extensive textual and visual source material, including an overview of Archaic and Classical Greek history, primary texts, and thousands of images and descriptions of vases, coins, sculpture, buildings, and sites. Simple search function by keyword.

Argos: Limited Area Search of the Ancient and Medieval Internet

<http://argos.evansville.edu/>

A peer-reviewed, limited area search engine (LASE) covering the ancient and medieval worlds.

Institute for Mediterranean Studies

<http://www.studies.org>

This site offers books, videos, and audiotapes on mainly the ancient world. Its topics include the ancient Olympic games, the roles of women in ancient Greece, and archaeological sites.

Art and Archaeology

Perseus Project

<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu>

The Perseus Web site contains a massive library of art objects, archaeological sites, and buildings, with over 30,000 images. Search through architecture, site, coin, or vase catalogues, or by keyword.

Athletics and the Olympic Games

The Ancient Olympics

<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/olympics/>

An exhibit on the ancient Olympics using the Perseus Project.

The Ancient Olympic Games Virtual Museum

<http://dev/ab.cs.dartmouth.edu/olympic/>

Extensive information on the Olympic games in antiquity.

Music

Ancient Greek Music

<http://www.oeaw.ac.at/kal/agm>

Listen to all published fragments of ancient Greek music containing more than a few scattered notes.

Ancient Greek Mythology

Perseus Project

<http://www.perseus.tufts.edu>

The Perseus site contains the most extensive mythological material on the Web. The following sites deal exclusively with mythology, often linking to pages on Perseus.

Encyclopedia Mythica

<http://pantheon.org/mythica/areas/greek/>

Extensive indices of mythological characters. Select a name to access information, with links to *Bulfinch's Mythology* online.

Classical Myth: The Ancient Sources

<http://web.uvic.ca/grs/bowman/myth/index.html>

Linking to Perseus, this site draws together ancient texts and images concerning the Olympian gods.

Longman Classical Mythology Online

<http://www.longman.awl.com/mythology/>

Myth summaries, related activities, links to Perseus texts and images, commentary, bibliographies, and a quiz for each chapter of Mark P. O. Morford and Robert J. Lenardon's *Classical Mythology*, 4th ed. (New York: Longman, 1991).

Classics Technology Center Curriculum Guides

<http://www.ablemedia.com/ctcweb/guide.html>

Curriculum guides using Perseus for the study of ancient Greek mythology, history, and literature.
