Our Democratic Heritage

A Look at Ancient Greece’s Influence on the Development of the United States Government
Circle Map

Ancient Greece
Notice the **green** boot?

That is **Italy**.

**Greece** is to the right of the heel.

So, the next time you need to locate Greece, look for the boot!
Locate Greece on this map.

What is the body of water that borders Greece?

Border means to surround or touch on the edges.

Look at the body of water that “.touches Greece on the edges.”
Can you find Athens, the capital of Greece?

On this map, the capital is located with a red dot next to it.
Ancient Greece Notes

- Greece is in southern Europe.
- The Mediterranean Sea borders Greece.
- Athens is the capital of Greece.
- You can look for Italy (the boot) when finding Greece on a map.
We get many architectural ideas from the ancient Greeks.

(Architecture means how buildings are designed.)

The Parthenon is a temple for Athena in Athens, Greece.

The US Supreme Court is a building in the United States.
Greek Architecture

• Many of our buildings today use the same architectural style as the ancient Greek’s buildings.

• Similarities: carvings, columns, made from marble, and stairs

• Greek Architecture:
  • Parthenon (Greece)
  • US Supreme Court, Lincoln Memorial (United States)
We get our Olympics from ancient Greeks.

The Olympic rings represent both Olympics.

We get the word **Olympics** from the Greeks.
Ancient Greeks competed in marathon running games, and so do we today.

We get the word marathon from the Greeks.
This is where people come see the Olympic games.

We get the words **coliseum** and **stadium** from the Greeks.
Winners were recognized in both Olympics for success.

**In Ancient Greece**
Laural Wreaths went to the winners.

**Modern Olympians**
get Medals when they win.
Ancient Greece & Today’s Olympics

- Ancient Greek Olympics:
  - laural wreaths
  - both male and female Olympians
  - recognition
  - medals

- Modern Olympics:
  - only male Olympians
  - running marathons
  - stadium
  - coliseum
  - rings

- Both:
  - Ancient Olympics
  - Modern Olympics
Olympics

• We get our Olympics from the ancient Greeks.

• The first Olympics were held over 2,700 years ago.

• There was only one event: the sprint.

• The flame started in the Ancient Greece Olympics.
Today, we have many sporting events.

Men and women are in today’s Olympics.

We still use the flame.

We hold the events every 4 years in different countries.
Democracy started in Athens, Greece. It most likely started with Greek political ideas.

Democracy means rule by the people.

A democracy is a government in which the leaders are elected.
• People of Athens believed that citizens should be the ones to choose their leaders.

• If we, the citizens, choose our leaders, then our leaders should feel they must do what we wish.

• If the leaders don’t do what the citizens want, then on the next voting day, Election Day, the citizens may vote someone else to take the leaders’ place. They will lose their elected job.
We, the United States, used Athens’ democracy as a model for our government, but...

- There was a problem with the Greek’s democracy: **MOST** people could **NOT** vote.
- They could not vote because:
  - You had to be a citizen to vote.
  - Most people were **NOT** citizens (women and slaves were not citizens).
- Athens was **NOT** a true democracy.
There are 2 different types of democracies:
Representative verses Direct Democracy

United States has this form.
Athens, Greece has this form.

A group of citizens send a person to government to represent them, or vote for them.
All the citizens vote. This means all the citizens go to the government.
• Democracy means rule by the people.

• Democracy began in Athens, Greece.

• Ancient Greece had a DIRECT DEMOCRACY because all qualified citizens served in the government.

• America has a REPRESENTATIVE DEMOCRACY (REPUBLIC) like Ancient Rome had. We elect people to be representatives in the government for us.