



Teacher's Guide

Classical Greece **Time Compass**

Grade Levels:

4-8

Subject Areas:

Social Studies

Synopsis:

Innovative animation and a tongue-in-cheek approach to ancient history provide a sound introduction to classical Greek society, from soldiers in the field, to beloved artists, Olympians, and philosophers. The military might of Greek city-states is discussed in reference to the action in the Iliad and the Odyssey and in a section on the lives of Spartan warriors. Students learn of the gods and goddesses of Olympus, the city-states that came together for the Olympic Games, and the amazing military and cultural achievement of Alexander the Great. Above all, they gain an understanding of how Greek morality, Greek ideals of beauty, and the habit of answering philosophical questions with logic and reason, have had a permanent effect on Western culture. The episode closes by mentioning events that were happening in Maya and Roman societies during this time.

Learning Objectives: Students will:

- Describe all levels of classical Greek society.
- Explain the contributions of Greek philosophers and political thinkers to values of government and society in present day Western civilization.
- Describe the achievements of Alexander the Great.
- Appreciate the cultural heritage that has been passed down from ancient Greece.

Vocabulary:

virtue, perfection, epic, polis, democracy, javelin, discus, Pentathlon

Pre-Viewing Discussion:

What do you know about ancient Greek society? For example, what kinds of jobs did the people do?

Does anyone know the system of government that originated in classical Greece?

What is philosophy? Do you know how the philosophers in classical Greece influenced ideas that we still hold true today?

Where did the Olympic Games originate? Does anyone know what these games started in the first place, in classical Greece?

Post-Viewing Discussion:

What was a polis? How did classical Greek polis deal with one another? How did the Olympic Games ease the political situation in ancient Greece?

How did the society in ancient Athens differ from the society in Sparta?

What famous stories were told in the Iliad and the Odyssey? How do these stories express classical Greek thought about the gods and also the way Greek cities felt about one another?

How were classical Greek ideas spread throughout the Mediterranean world? Did the Maya also know about Greek ideas at the time of Alexander the Great? What was happening in Rome while classical Greek ideas were being spread throughout the Mediterranean world?

Further Activities:

Discover how the philosopher, Plato, influenced classical Greek ideas about good government.

Find out what the ancient Greeks did for entertainment during this period of time. In particular, research the importance of classical Greek theater.

Research more about the events that were staged at the ancient Olympic Games.

Search for the names of Greek sculptors and architects who were famous in classical Greece. Include details about the masterpieces that made them famous.

Related New Dimension Media Titles:

Greece (Beyond Our Borders Series)
Seven Wonders of the Ancient World (series)
Great Civilizations of the Ancient World (series)
Greece: My House in Athens
Greece: My House on Hydra Island