Ancient Greece

Greek Achievements

Amphora showing Achilles and Ajax playing a game
Greeks are known for great artwork
- Advances in sculpture, painting, and architecture

Caryatids at the Temple of Erechtheion
Greek statues are known for realism, natural look, and details

Many Greek statues are displayed around the world today in museums
Statues

- Greeks tried to make statues look perfect
  - Studied human body to see how it looked
  - Made statues very life-like
  - Made many statues out of stone and marble
Greek painting is known for realism and detail
- Primarily painted on vases and pots
- Pictures often depicted athletic events or myths
- Black and Red are most popular colors
Many ancient Greek buildings still survive today
- Primarily Temples

Greek buildings are known for their columns
- Made them look perfectly straight
- They were actually smaller at the top – Optical Illusion

Greeks believed their buildings should reflect the glory of their cities
Most impressive building from Ancient Greece is the Parthenon in Athens

- Built around 400s BCE
- Interior decorated with carvings and more columns
- Inside was a 40-foot tall statue of Athena

Parthenon sculptor was Phidias

- Seen as one of the greatest sculptors in Greek history
Parthenon
Greeks created new forms of writing
- Drama and History
- Dramas were originally used for religious ceremonies
  - Actors portrayed gods and heroes
  - Eventually dramas began to become entertainment

400s BCE – Athenians wrote some of the greatest plays in the Ancient World
- Tragedies and Comedies
Philosophers were people who sought explanations for the world besides the gods
- Believed in the power of the human mind
  - To reason, think, explain, and understand

Three of the greatest ancient philosophers were Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle
Socrates

- Socrates is considered one of the greatest Greek philosophers
  - Believed people should never stop looking for knowledge
- Socrates taught by asking questions
  - Called the Socratic Method
  - Socrates tried to make people question their beliefs
- People did not always agree with Socrates’ teachings
  - Socrates was arrested and condemned to death
    - Questioning the authority of the gods
Plato was a student of Socrates

Plato created a school known as The Academy
- One of the most prestigious schools in Ancient Greece

Plato is well-known today for writing The Republic
- Very important book about the ideal society

Plato believed only philosophers knew what was best for everyone

http://iamjwal.com/platos-allegory-of-the-cave/
Aristotle was a student of Plato
- Arguably the greatest thinker of Ancient Greece

Aristotle believed people should practice moderation
- People should think about their actions and how they effect others

Aristotle inspired many later scientists and philosophers with his methods of thinking
- Aristotle was a teacher of Alexander the Great

“We are what we repeatedly do, therefore excellence is not an act, but a habit” - Aristotle
The Greeks made many contributions to Math:

- Geometry rules (Euclid)
- Many theories on Volume and Area
- Pythagorean Theorem
- Accurately calculated the size of the earth
- Pi
- Beginnings of Calculus
The Greeks have contributed many things to our modern-day society:

- Hippocratic Oath (for doctors)
- Archimedes Screw
- Democracy
- Olympic Games
- History Writing (Herodotus)