

## Great Greeks

Homer	Great storyteller who was blind. Wrote his epics depicting heroic deeds between 750 and 700 B.C. <i>The Iliad</i> and <i>The Odyssey</i> two poems of the Trojan War
Draco	Wrote first legal code in 621 B.C. which included contracts, property ownership and unfair practices and debt slavery
Solon	Headed Athenian government in 594 B.C. Outlawed debt slavery. Allowed all citizens to participate and debate in the Athens assembly. Citizens could bring charges against wrongdoers. Encouraged overseas trade and export of grapes and olives
Pericles	Lead Greece during the Golden Age or the Age of Pericles (461 to 429 B.C.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Strengthen Athens democracy</li> <li>2. Hold and strengthen the empire</li> <li>3. Glorify Athens</li> </ul> Introduced direct democracy – citizens rule directly (not through representatives) Used Delian League money to build large navy Built Parthenon over 15 years (447-432 B.C.)
Phidias	Great sculpture hired by Pericles to build statue of Athena in the Parthenon, made of precious materials such as gold and ivory and was 38 feet tall.
Aeschylus	Wrote more than 80 plays – only 7 survive. Most famous <i>The Oresteia</i> – about the commander of the Greeks at Troy (Agamemnon) and his family
Sophocles	Wrote about 100 plays including the tragedies <i>Oedipus</i> and <i>The King</i> and <i>Antigone</i> .
Euripides	Wrote the play <i>Medea</i> and often featured sympathetic portrayals of women in his plays.
Aristophanes	Wrote comedies or satires that poked fun at people. Famous for <i>The Birds</i> and <i>Lysistrata</i> . His work showed that there was freedom of speech in democratic Athens.
Protagoras	A Sophist philosopher who questioned the existence of traditional Greek gods. <b>“Man [the individual] is the measure of all things”</b>
Socrates	A philosopher who criticized the sophists. Believed absolute standards existed for truth and justice. Encouraged Greeks to question their own moral character. <b>“The unexamined life is not worth living”</b> In 399 B.C. (when he was 70) he was brought to trial for corrupting the youth of Athens and neglecting the cities’ gods. He was condemned to death by the jury and died from drinking hemlock
Plato	Student of Socrates. Between 385 and 380 B.C. wrote <i>The Republic</i> where he told of the perfect society. Not a democracy, it was an ideal society with three groups: farmers and artisans, warriors and the ruling class. The person with the greatest insight and intellect from the ruling class was the philosopher-king. He dominated philosophical thought in Europe for the next 1500 years.

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Aristotle	Questioned the nature of the world and of human belief, thought, and knowledge. He invented a method for arguing according to the rules of logic. He applied his method to psychology, physics, and biology. His work was the basis for the Scientific Method. One of his more famous students was Alexander the Great.
Aristarchus	From Samos and reached two scientific conclusions <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Estimated that the sun was at least 300 times larger than the earth – this disproved that the sun was smaller than Greece</li> <li>2. Proposed that the earth and other planets revolve around the sun. (This is the <b>Heliocentric Theory</b>)</li> </ol> Other astronomers refused to support his theories
Ptolemy	Incorrectly placed the earth at the center of the Solar System (This is the <b>Geocentric Theory</b> ) Astronomers accepted this theory for the next 14 centuries!
Eratosthenes	Director of the Alexandrian Library. Closely calculated the earth's true size. Used geometry to calculate the earth's circumference was 24,662 miles. [Today we compute it at 24,860 miles] – He was within 1% of modern calculations.
Euclid	Created the geometry used by both Aristarchus and Eratosthenes Opened a school of Geometry in Alexandria. Best known book <i>The Elements</i> contained 465 geometry propositions and proofs. Used until the 1900's and still the basis for courses in geometry.
Archimedes	He accurately estimated the value of pi ( $\pi$ ) the ratio of the circumference of a circle to its diameter. Explained the Law of the Lever and invented the compound pulley, used to lift heavy objects. Invented the Archimedes-Screw used to raise water from the ground. Built a catapult or missile-throwing machine.
Zeno	Lived 335-263 B.C. and founded the school of philosophy called Stoicism. Stoics believed in a divine power that controlled the universe. People should a moral life in harmony with natural law. Vices, human desires, power and wealth must be controlled. An ethical life, social unity and focus on what you can control. Appeals to many difference cultures and backgrounds.
Epicurus	The Epicureanism school of thought. The universe is composed of atoms and rules by gods who had no interest in humans. The only real objects were those that the five senses perceived. The main goal of humans is to achieve harmony of body and mind. Today epicurean means pursuing human pleasures but Epicurus advocated moderation in all things.