

SOL 3.6 Ancient Greece

3.6a - Where Was Ancient Greece?

3.6 The student will apply history and social science skills to describe the geographic, political, economic, and social structures and innovations of ancient Greece by

- a. locating ancient Greece on a map of the world



Ancient Greece was located on a **peninsula** (a piece of land mostly surrounded by water) with many **islands** in the **Mediterranean Sea**.

- The boundaries of Greece **changed over time** as the Greeks traded and settled in new areas.
- Greece today is still on a peninsula with many islands in the Mediterranean.

3.6b - Geography

- b) describe the unique geography of ancient Greece

Greece had mountains, hills, and rocky land, which made **farming difficult**.

Because there was **not much fertile soil**, the Greeks:

- Built **ships** and became **traders**
- **Fished** in the seas
- Grew **small crops** like olives and grapes



Greek ships traded with across Mediterranean Sea

The sea **connected Greece to other lands** and helped them **trade** across the Mediterranean.

💡 Think About It:

- How did geography **affect farming** in Greece?
- What did the Greeks do **instead of farming** large areas of land?

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3.6c –Direct Democracy

- c) identify and explain direct democracy



Direct democracy in ancient Greece

The Greeks invented **democracy**, which means "**government by the people**."

- In **direct democracy**, people voted **themselves** on laws and rules instead of electing representatives.
- The city of **Athens** is known as the **birthplace** of democracy.
- The **United States government** is based on some **ideas from Greece and Rome**, but we have a **representative democracy** (we elect leaders to vote for us).

💡 **Think About It:**

- How was government in ancient Greece different from the U.S. government today?
- How is it the same?

3.6d –Arts, Innovations, and Sports

d) describe the arts and innovations

Ancient Greeks were known for their **art and inventions**.

- Arts included:
 - 🏺 **Pottery**
decorated with pictures of daily life
 - 🎭 **Theater plays**
(tragedy and comedy)
 - 🧱 **Mosaics, paintings, and sculptures**
displayed in public places
- Innovations included the **Olympic Games**, which focused on **physical health** and competition.
- Today's Olympics are modeled after the ones first held in ancient Greece!



💬 Think About It:

- How do ancient Greek arts still influence us today?
- Why were the Olympic Games important to the Greeks?

3.6e –Architecture and Its Influence

e) identify and explain the architecture and its influence in the world today.

The Greeks built beautiful structures with **columns and arches**.

- The most famous building is the **Parthenon** in Athens.
- Workers likely used **simple machines** like ramps and pulleys to build these great structures.
- Greek architecture influenced buildings all around the world, including the **United States**. Many government buildings in Washington, D.C. (like the U.S. Capitol) have Greek-style columns.



See the similarities?

• 💬 Think About It:

- How does Greek architecture still influence buildings today?
- What tools might Greeks have used to build the Parthenon?