

LET'S EXPLORE THE OLDEST EUROPEAN CIVILIZATION IN 6 FOLDING MAPS

ANCIENT GREECE FOR KIDS

OLDŘICH RŮŽIČKA
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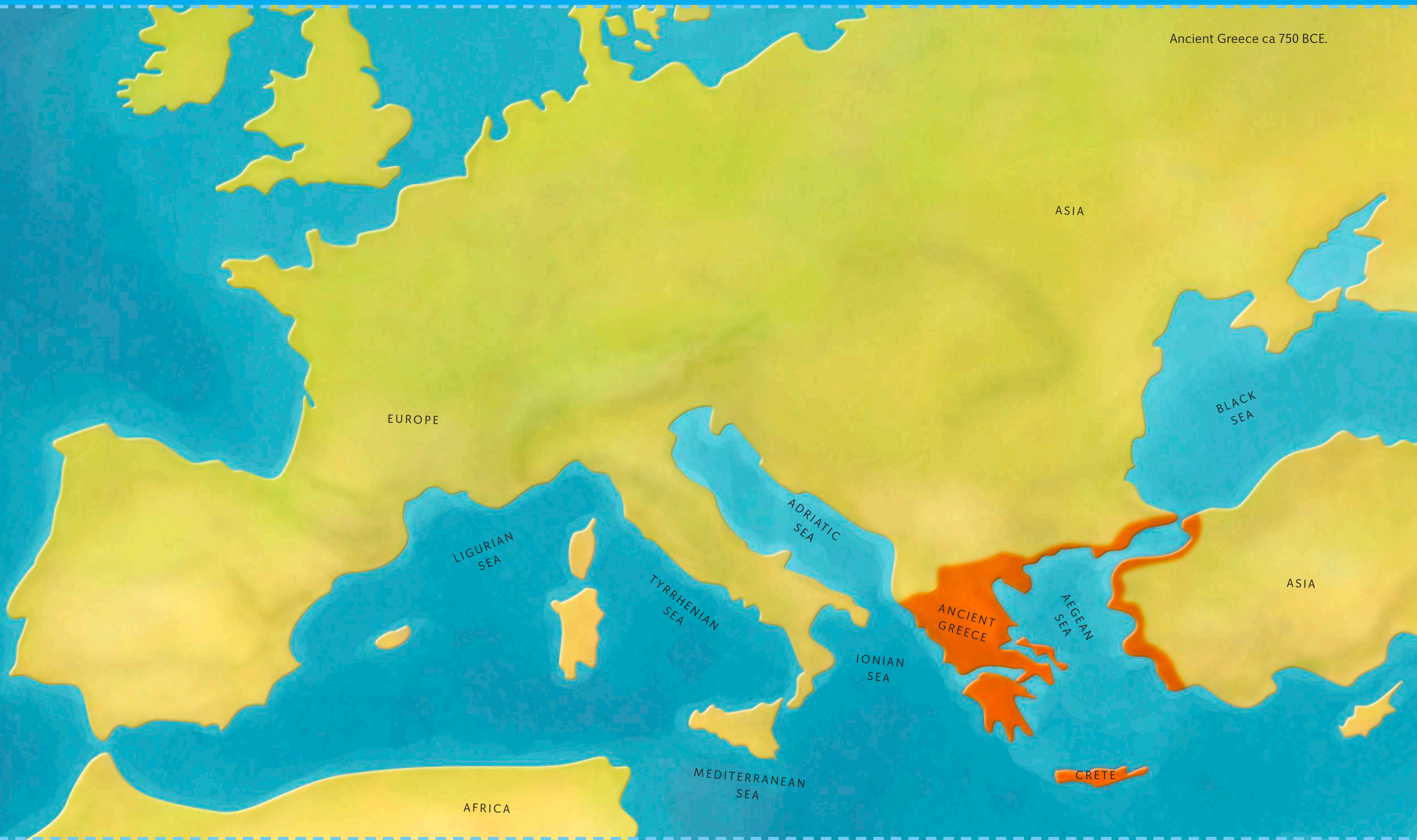
ANCIENT GREECE FOR KIDS



FULLY
ILLUSTRATED



Ancient Greece ca 750 BCE.



EUROPE

ASIA

BLACK
SEA

LIGURIAN
SEA

ADRIATIC
SEA

TYRRHENIAN
SEA

IONIAN
SEA

AEGEAN
SEA

ASIA

ANCIENT
GREECE

AFRICA

MEDITERRANEAN
SEA

CRETE

Greek colonization ca 550 BCE

EUROPE

BLACK
SEA

ASIA

ANCIENT
GREECE

MEDITERRANEAN
SEA

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ANCIENT GREECE

FISHING

Ancient Greeks were excellent seafarers. They used ships for military purposes or for trading and fishing, which supplied much of the food they ate.



Will I ever throw it far enough?



COLONIZATION

In ancient times, the size of the territories controlled by individual states and cultures often changed due to military invasions and colonization by other countries. Greece was no exception. At first, Greeks controlled only a part of the Balkan Peninsula, but when Alexander the Great assumed leadership, he created an empire that reached all the way to India in the east and Egypt in the south.

THE CHITON

Women would drape this woolen or linen dress over their arms and tie or fasten it with decorative clasps. In Ancient Greece, the chiton was worn by women and men of all classes. When in public, women wearing a chiton would also cover themselves with a cloak called a peplos.



WINE

Grapes were one of the most popular crops in Greece, and fared pretty well in the country. Greeks grew a lot of it and could turn it into excellent wine. After the harvest, they'd crush the grapes with their bare feet to separate the grape juice.



SPORTS

Ancient Greek games eventually inspired the modern Olympics, now held once every two years and attended by athletes from all over the world.

SCIENCE

Ancient Greece was a cradle of science and education. It gave the world much knowledge of many different scientific disciplines, among others mathematics. To this day, the Greek theorem about right triangles, formulated by the famous philosopher Pythagoras, is taught to children all over the world.



ARCHITECTURE

Ancient Greeks were also excellent architects and builders. In many places in Greece, you can still see the ruins of ancient temples, with their characteristic rows of columns, called peristyles.



THE MILITARY

In Ancient Greece, soldiers were the most esteemed class of all. A typical Greek soldier was called a hoplite, and it was his civic duty to prepare for combat. Hoplite gear was expensive, which is why only those belonging to wealthy classes could fight.



ANTIQUITY

The era of ancient history, which lasted from roughly the 8th or 7th century before Christ to the beginnings of the Middle Ages, is called Antiquity.

ANCIENT TIMES

The era lasting from the emergence of the first civilizations to the beginning of the Middle Ages, around the 6th or 7th century, is called ancient times. Back then, people settled different parts of the world, developing different cultures. While Ancient Egyptians built pyramids out of huge stone blocks and Romans erected such massive stone structures as the Colosseum, the Celts of northern Europe had smaller, fortified, wooden towns called oppida. Due to its arts, architecture, and knowledge of mathematics, philosophy, and other sciences, Ancient Greece became one of the most developed civilizations of ancient times.

ENSLAVED PEOPLE

The lowest class of Greek society, enslaved people were forced to do all types of hard labor and worked in craft workshops. Enslaved women worked in Greek households. If an enslaved person somehow managed to save up enough money, though, they could buy their own freedom.



OLIVE OIL

Greeks grew many olives and made olive oil out of them. They'd press the oil in large presses powered by strong domestic animals.



FARMERS

Greek agriculture suffered from a lack of arable land. In order to survive, Greeks had to set up fields even on steep hills. Growing agricultural crops in the rocky soil was arduous. Villagers needed animals and simple farming tools to help them with the job.



TERRITORY

The marked area roughly corresponds with the Greek territory roughly 750 years before Christ.

LITERATURE

We know about writing in Ancient Greece, thanks to the fact that the first examples of Greek literature have survived to this day. The epic poems by Homer, *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*, are two of the most valuable texts in Europe's literary canon. *The Iliad* describes the events of the Trojan War, while *The Odyssey* tells the story of the travels and adventures of its hero, Odysseus.



EUROPE

LIGURIAN SEA

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IONIAN SEA

MEDITERRANEAN SEA

BLACK SEA

ASIA

ANCIENT GREECE

AEGEAN SEA

CRETE

AFRICA

ANCIENT GREECE

In Southern Europe lies a place called the Balkan Peninsula. Over 4,000 years ago, the first tribes arrived there and founded the original Greek settlements. Greeks have lived there ever since, making it the oldest country in Europe. With their thirst for knowledge, Ancient Greeks inspired the world in many areas of human endeavor.

AGRICULTURE

Over half of the population worked in agriculture for a living. Greeks had to set up terraced fields because the soil in Ancient Greece was quite rocky. The grain produced in this way wasn't enough to sustain them, so they had to trade as well.



WEAVING

Weaving fabrics to make clothes was the domain of women. Weaving looms were used for this. As there were no wardrobes, fabrics and clothing were stored in ornamented chests.



WOMEN'S CLOTHING

Women in Ancient Greece wore simple garb—a strip of woolen fabric, draped in various ways and either tied with a belt or fastened with clasps.



MEN'S CLOTHING

Just like women, men wore very simple, modest garb. It was called the chiton.



CLASPS

They both fastened the piece of fabric, which served as clothing, and decorated it, allowing them to wear little more than strips of cloth secured in place.



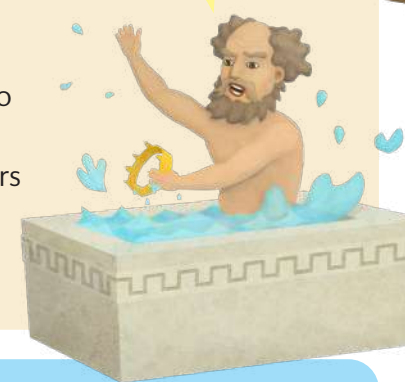
SHOES

Both men and women either walked barefoot or wore simple sandals woven out of leather strips. A leather sole gave their feet support.



PHILOSOPHY

In Ancient Greece, the thirst for answers and for the laws governing the natural world led to a science known as philosophy. Greece gave the world some of the most important thinkers and philosophers in history, one of them being the philosopher and mathematician Archimedes.



CROPS

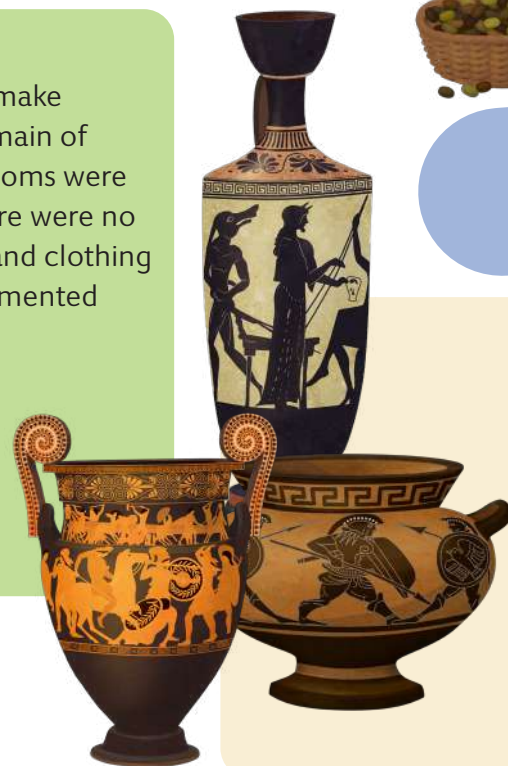
Ancient Greeks grew mostly olives, wine, wheat, and barley. The olive oil they produced was exported, while many grains were imported from other countries.



ANCIENT GREECE WAS THE CRADLE OF EUROPEAN CIVILIZATION

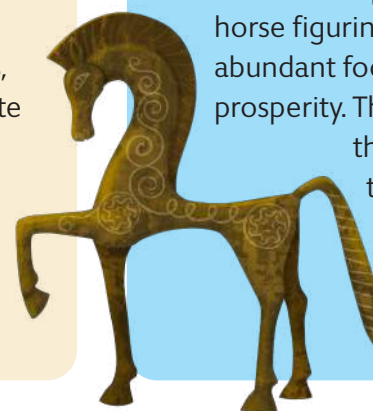
CERAMICS

Greeks were excellent potters. They'd take important scenes from their lives, sporting events, or historical scenes and decorate their pottery with them. The images would be engraved in the ceramics, with the lines filled with thin clay which would turn black once baked.



SYMBOLS OF ABUNDANCE

Ancient temples used to contain horse figurines that symbolized abundant food supplies and prosperity. They would be sold to the people coming to the temple and they would then sacrifice them to the gods. The figurines were usually made of bronze.



GREEK ALPHABET

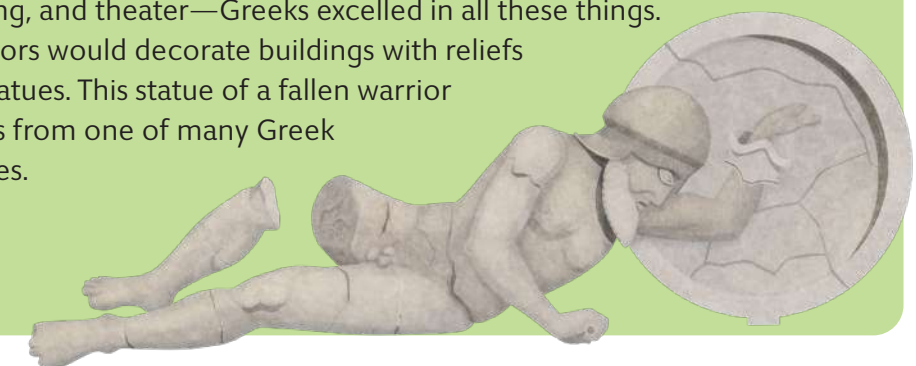
Almost 3,000 years ago, Greeks began using a script that's used to this day, not only in Greece but also in other countries, where it's used for mathematical notations. This means that the Greek alphabet is the oldest surviving script in Europe.



Modern cultures follow in the footsteps of Greek art, military science, architecture, philosophy, and sports to this day. Ancient Greece gave the world democracy, which means equality and governance by the people. Modern scientists draw inspiration from Greek mathematicians, physicians, and politicians. Ancient Greece thus became the cradle of European civilization.

THE ARTS

Ancient Greece saw the emergence of many artistic forms and styles that continue to inspire artists to this day. Architecture, sculpting, painting, and theater—Greeks excelled in all these things. Sculptors would decorate buildings with reliefs and statues. This statue of a fallen warrior comes from one of many Greek temples.



GREEK TREASURES

TROY
You can see in the picture what Troy might have looked like. According to legend, it was besieged for many years by Greek armies led by Agamemnon, the king of Mycenae.



OLYMPIA
There used to be a temple of Zeus in Olympia. Its ruins have come far from its previous glory.



THE TEMPLE OF ZEUS
This is what the temple looked like in its glory days. Its perimeter was decorated with 34 tall Doric columns.

GREEK GAMES
In ancient times, the regular Olympic Games were held in the city of Olympia.

THE STATUE OF ZEUS
One of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World, this 40-foot statue of Zeus, sculpted by Phidias, used to stand inside the Olympian temple.



THE PALACE OF KNOSSOS
The ruins of the Knossos palace, which once had 1,000 rooms and was likely the center of the entire Minoan civilization.



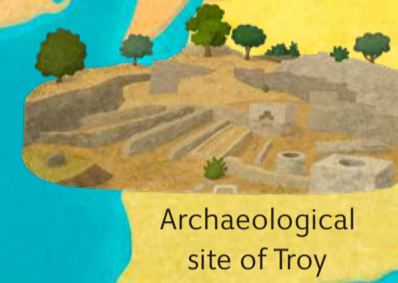
THE TROJAN WAR
Greeks began besieging Troy because Paris, a son of the king of Troy, kidnapped Helen, a beautiful wife of the king of Sparta. The famed Greek warrior Achilles also fought in the war.



TROJAN HORSE
Greeks conquered the city through trickery—by giving the Trojans a wooden horse. The Trojans believed the horse to be the sign of a truce. But in fact there were Greek soldiers hidden inside who then let the Greek army into the city after nightfall.



THE JUDGEMENT OF PARIS
In Greek myths, there was an apple meant for the most beautiful woman in the world. And so the goddesses Hera, Aphrodite, and Athena argued about whom it should go to. Prince Paris gave it to Aphrodite, who promised him the love of the most beautiful mortal, Helen. But Helen was married to the king of Sparta, and this caused the Trojan War. Since then, the apple has been known as the Golden Apple of Discord.



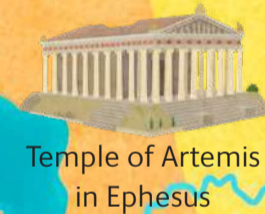
THE TEMPLE OF ARTEMIS IN EPHEBUS
A wonder of the ancient world, the temple dedicated to Artemis, the goddess of hunting and protector of animals, was 375 feet long and enclosed by 125 Ionic columns, each 60 feet tall.



MYCENAE
Around 1,600 BCE, Mycenae, a town on the Peloponnese Peninsula, was one of the chief centers of Greek civilization. The civilization of Mycenae comprised multiple city-states. Mycenae itself was a military fortress at the top of a hill.



WONDERS OF THE ANCIENT WORLD
Seven unique constructions whose size and beauty outshined even other structures of ancient times. The Egyptian pyramids in Giza are the only wonders still standing. We know of the rest only from historical texts. Four of the seven wonders were located in the territory more or less controlled by Ancient Greeks.



Temple of Artemis in Ephesus

THE MAUSOLEUM OF HALICARNASSUS
Mausolus, the ruler of Caria, had a tomb built for himself that became one of the world's great wonders. Its top featured a four-horse team made out of marble.



Mausoleum of Halicarnassus

GREEK THEATER
You can see the remnants of large terraced theaters made out of stone in many places in Greece. In ancient times, plays used to be performed to honor the god Dionysus.



CRETE
Knossos



COLOSSUS OF RHODES
The bronze statue of Helios, an Ancient Greek god, used to stand in a port on the island of Rhodes. Roughly 100 feet tall, it was the tallest statue of ancient times and another of the Seven Wonders.

GREEK TREASURES

The foundations of Greek civilization were laid on the island of Crete. There, the Minoan civilization, as it's now called, originated more than 4,000 years ago, sparking more than 2,500 years of Ancient Greek culture, which saw the creation of many beautiful temples and works of art.



Doric Column

Ionic column

Corinthian column

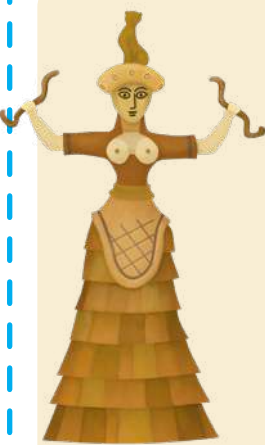
ARCHITECTURAL STYLES

Ancient Greeks set the tone in architecture, mainly when it came to the shapes of columns. Their three basic columns were adopted and later developed by other cultures.



CYCLOPEAN MASONRY

Many Mycenaean structures were built out of robust masonry consisting of huge stone blocks that could be up to 10 feet tall. Ancient masons were able to work these blocks and place them directly on top of one another. Those who later discovered these buildings believed they were too big to have been created by anyone other than the mythical one-eyed giants known as Cyclopes. The picture shows a Lion Gate leading to a Mycenaean fortress.



SNAKE GODDESS STATUE

Minoan civilization was very advanced for its time. People on the island of Crete worshiped goddesses, and women there enjoyed a high status, unlike in other civilizations of the day.

THE END OF MINOAN CIVILIZATION

What remained of Minoan civilization was first destroyed by the world's strongest known volcanic eruption (on the island of Thera) and its ensuing tsunami, and then by an invasion from the mainland.



MEGARON

Halls with columns and a fire pit in the center, so-called megarons, became a basic feature of Greek temples. This is what a Mycenaean megaron might have looked like.

TROY

A city that was known only from legends until the end of the 19th century, when it was discovered by archaeologists and became reality.



THE GREEKS WERE EXCELLENT ARCHITECTS AND BUILDERS

PHAISTOS DISC

Minoans used three scripts to write, two of which have yet to be deciphered. One of the ones we still can't read are the hieroglyphics on a disc found in the Cretan palace of Phaistos.



MYCENAEAN CIVILIZATION

A region in the Peloponnese Peninsula is one of the longest-settled parts of Greece. Over three and a half millennia ago, the Mycenaean civilization was established here. Important Mycenaean relics include the death mask of the king Agamemnon.



What remains of many architectural treasures that can now be seen in many places in Greece is just a fragment of the originals. Thanks to archaeologists and scientists, though, we know what the original buildings looked like.

PALACE OF KNOSSOS

In its heyday, this palace stretched out far and wide, with 30,000 people living in its vicinity.



Minoan civilization on Crete

ca 2700 BCE



Greek tribes arrive at the mainland, first settlements

ca 2000 BCE



Mycenaean civilization on the Peloponnese

ca 1650 BCE



Trojan War

ca 1200 BCE



City-states

8th century BCE



Greek Olympic Games

776 BCE



Alexander the Great's empire in its heyday

326 BCE



Roman rule

146 BCE

GREEK MYTHS

Myths and legends played an important part in the lives of the Ancient Greeks, who would build sanctuaries for the mythical figures, dedicate temples to their gods, and erect their statues.



ODYSSEUS

One of these mythical figures was the hero Odysseus, who experienced incredible adventures while traveling home after the Trojan War and fighting the one-eyed giant called the Cyclops.

DAEDALUS AND ICARUS

When escaping from Crete, Daedalus, the builder of the Cretan labyrinth, made two pairs of wings out of bird feathers and wax and then fled together with his son Icarus. But the sun melted the wax in Icarus's wings and he plunged into the sea, where he drowned.



LABYRINTH

A maze on the island of Crete where the Minotaur, a monster with a human body and a bull's head, was imprisoned.



ORPHEUS

A great singer and skilled musician, Orpheus ventured down into the underworld to win over the god of the dead with his singing and get back his deceased wife, Eurydice. The ferryman Charon took him to the underworld, across the mythical river of Styx.



PERSEUS

A mythical hero and the alleged founder of Mycenae, he outsmarted Medusa, a woman with a horrifying face and snakes for hair. Whoever looked directly at her would turn into stone. Perseus used his gleaming shield to see Medusa's reflection in it, and cut her head off.



SISYPHUS

He was said to be the most cunning and smart of all people. Because he angered the gods with his disobedience and sly nature, they punished him by forcing him to push a large boulder up a hill and then roll it down once he'd reach the peak. But he never managed to push the boulder all the way up because it would always slip right before the summit and roll back. Since then, any kind of hopeless endeavor is called a "Sisyphean task."



CERBERUS

Greek myths featured not only legendary heroes but also terrifying supernatural beings—such as Cerberus, who guarded the gate to the underworld. He'd let everyone in but no one back out.



ORTHUS

Cerberus's brother, a monstrous two-headed dog who guarded wonderful herds of cattle owned by a three-bodied giant, protecting them from thieves.



CHIMERA

A sister of Cerberus and Orthus, she looked like a mixture of a lion, a wild goat, and a snake.



HYDRA

Another sister, a monster with a snake's body and nine dragon's heads.



SPHYNX

The last member of this crafty family, a being with a human's head and a lion's body.



MYTHS IN THE THEATER

Ancient Greece saw the emergence of classical theater, based around the performance of dramatic texts. Theater experienced its greatest boom in Athens. Authors drew inspiration from Greek mythology, creating grand dramas and comedies.

THEATER MASKS

Greek actors wore masks—some were meant to be used for performing tragedies, others for comedies. Masks allowed actors to portray animals as well.



THEATER MUSIC

Theatrical performances also included music. Musicians used simple instruments—the seven-stringed kithara, the lyre, and a wind instrument called an aulos.



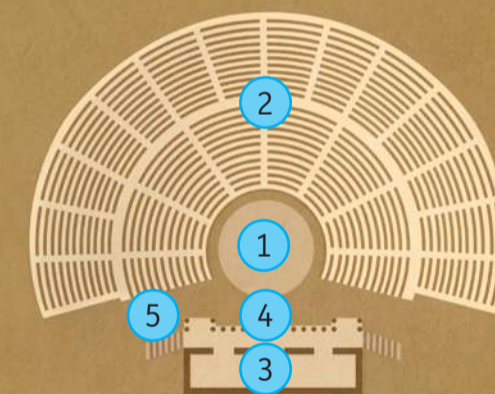
ACROPOLIS

1. Temple of the goddess Athena
2. Statue of the goddess Athena, sculpted by Phidias
3. Propylaea, the entrance gate to Acropolis
4. Sanctuary of Erichthonius, the mythical founder of Athens
5. Sanctuary of the goddess Artemis
6. Chalkotheke, an Athenian treasury
7. Sanctuary of Pandion, a legendary king of Athens
8. Sanctuary of Zeus
9. Temple of Athena Nike
10. Theater of Dionysus



DEUS EX MACHINA

In ancient plays, the plot and the fates of heroes were often directed by the gods, who caused many unexpected twists to occur. To make such a divine intervention quick and effective, a special mechanism was used to lower an actor or a god's statue onto the scene.



PLAN OF A GREEK THEATER

1. Orchestra — round-shaped space where the actors performed
2. Theater — stepped area where spectators would sit
3. Skene — or scene, as it's known nowadays: a raised platform for actors, also a set piece
4. Proskenion — area in front of the skene
5. Parados — entrance to the stage

CENTAUR

A wild creature: half-horse, half-man.



PEGASUS

A winged horse and a son of the god Poseidon, he could fly like the wind, helping the weak and needy.





ANCIENT GREECE FOR KIDS

DISCOVER FUN AND FASCINATING FACTS ABOUT EUROPE'S OLDEST CIVILIZATION

Written by Oldřich Růžička

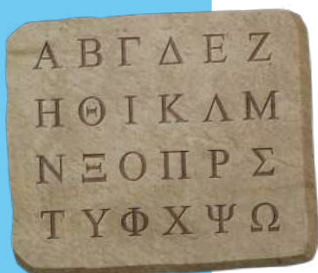
Illustrated by Tomáš Tůma



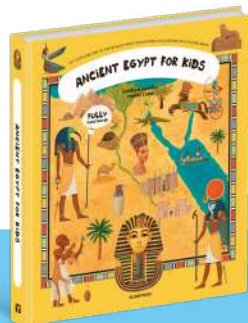
Thousands of years ago, the first tribes arrived in the Balkan Peninsula, laying the foundations of Europe's oldest civilization: Greece, which gave the world democracy, as well as endless knowledge of mathematics, architecture, military affairs, and philosophy. Modern scientists can all trace their lineage back to Greek mathematicians and philosophers, and modern Greece is littered with the remnants of beautiful temples and ancient buildings that shaped the taste and style of modern architects. Let's travel far into the past and take a look at how the Ancient Greeks lived, worked, fought, and created art..

This atlas contains:

- Ancient Greece in six large-format folding maps
- The most beautiful buildings and what they looked like in their prime
- Architectural and artistic treasures
- Greek gods of Olympus and heroes from Ancient Greek legends
- Ancient Greek games
- The Greek military and the role of Alexander the Great
- Ancient Greek democracy and city-states



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