

SECTION
2

Reading for Understanding

▶ Key Ideas

BEFORE, YOU LEARNED

Europe has diverse landforms. Its climate and vegetation vary by latitude and distance from the ocean.

NOW YOU WILL LEARN

Ancient Greek and Roman achievements in government, art and architecture, engineering, and law continue to influence Europe and the world today.

▶ Vocabulary

TERMS & NAMES

democracy a government in which the citizens make political decisions, either directly or through elected representatives

Peloponnesus (PEHL•uh•puh•NEE•suhs) the peninsula in southern Greece where Sparta was located

city-state a political unit made up of a city and its surrounding lands

tyrant someone who takes power illegally

oligarchy (AHL•ih•GAHR•kee) a government ruled by a few powerful individuals

republic a government in which citizens elect representatives to rule in their name

patrician (puh•TRISH•uhn) a wealthy landowner who held a high government position in ancient Rome

plebeian (plih•BEE•uhn) a commoner who was allowed to vote but not to hold government office in ancient Rome

BACKGROUND VOCABULARY

isolate to cut off or set apart from a group

REVIEW

monarchy a type of government in which a ruling family headed by a king or queen holds political power

▶ Reading Strategy

Re-create the chart shown at right. As you read and respond to the **KEY QUESTIONS**, use the chart to help you compare and contrast the governments of ancient Greece, the Roman Republic, and the Roman Empire.



See Skillbuilder Handbook, page R9

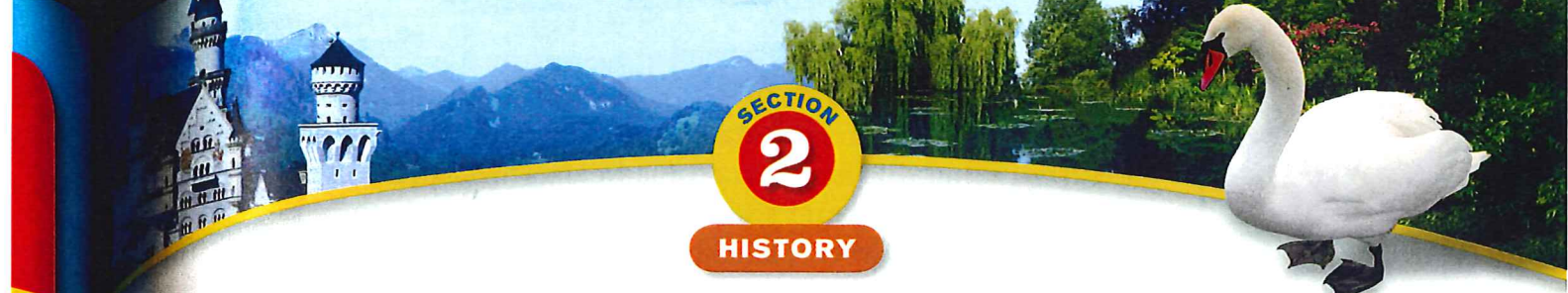
COMPARE AND CONTRAST

GOVERNMENT	WHO RULED	HOW CHOSEN	WHO PARTICIPATED
Greek Democracy			
Roman Republic			
Roman Empire			



GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS

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SECTION
2

HISTORY

Classical Greece and Rome

Connecting to Your World

Have you ever been to the nation's capital, Washington, D.C.? It is the center of the U.S. government. The United States is a **democracy**, a government in which citizens make political decisions. You are about to learn about ancient Greece, the place where modern democracy began. Ideas about what democracy should be have changed over time. Democratic government in Greece stands as a remarkable first step.



Lincoln Memorial

Some buildings in Washington, D.C., reflect ancient Greek architecture.

History of Ancient Greece

KEY QUESTION How did ancient Greek culture spread?

Between 5000 and 3000 B.C., groups of people began settling on the **Peloponnesus** (PEHL•uh•puh•NEE•suhs), a mountainous peninsula in southern Europe. Almost 2,000 small islands surrounded the peninsula. Villages were **isolated**, or cut off, from each other. The rugged terrain and remote islands made it difficult to unite the villages under one government. In time, people had settled throughout what is now Greece.

The Acropolis

This part of Athens held important buildings constructed in the second half of the fifth century B.C.





Rise of City-States: Athens and Sparta Eventually, Greek towns and cities became **city-states**, political units made up of a city and surrounding villages. Most people were farmers and herders, but where land was rocky and soil was poor, people made their living from the sea. They fished, sailed, and traded with other city-states.

Greek city-states shared a common culture and language, but each had unique features. They chose different forms of government. At first, many were monarchies, ruled by kings. Others were ruled by tyrants. In Greece, a **tyrant** was someone who took power illegally.

Athens and Sparta, the largest Greek city-states, had different governments. Sparta was an **oligarchy** (AHL•ih•GAHR•kee), a system ruled by a few powerful individuals. Two kings governed the state, making all major decisions with the help of a few officials. Sparta was a military state. Its large slave class farmed the land, freeing male citizens to serve in the army. Spartan boys began receiving military training at age seven. After decades of military service, they became citizens at 30. They faced losing their citizenship if they did not fight bravely.

At first, kings also governed Athens. Then, at the end of the sixth century B.C., Athens became a limited democracy. All citizens had the right to take part in the government and decide on laws. However, only free adult males were citizens. Women, slaves, and foreigners were not. Athens became a center of Greek culture. It attracted the finest scholars, artists, and philosophers from all over the Mediterranean.

ANALYZING Primary Sources

Pericles (495–429 B.C.) was an Athenian statesman and general. His “Funeral Oration” honors those who died in the Peloponnesian War and praises democracy. Pericles saw participation in government as a civic duty. Greek citizens often discussed politics in an agora, or marketplace, like the one shown at left.

An Athenian citizen does not neglect public affairs when attending to his private business. . . . We consider a man who takes no interest in the state not as harmless, but as useless.

Source: Thucydides, from *The Peloponnesian War*

DOCUMENT-BASED QUESTION

Why was an interest in politics considered a public duty?


Pericles ▲




Wars and Conquest In the early fifth century B.C., the rulers of Persia, the region in southwestern Asia that is now Iran, tried to conquer Greece. Led by Sparta and Athens, the Greeks resisted. Conflict between the Greeks and Persians lasted on and off for many years. The Greeks defeated the Persians, keeping Greek culture alive.

Decades later, Athens and Sparta fought each other in the Peloponnesian War. Sparta won the war, becoming the dominant power in Greece. Weakened by their internal conflict, the city-states paid little attention to neighboring Macedonia, a kingdom north of Greece that was preparing to attack.

In 338 B.C., King Philip II of Macedonia used his well-trained army to seize control of Greece. After Philip's death, his son Alexander took control. A brilliant military planner, Alexander conquered vast new territories and became known as Alexander the Great. His empire extended into North Africa, the Middle East, and Asia. As his empire expanded, Greek culture spread. When Alexander died, three of his generals divided his territory among themselves, ending one of the great empires of the ancient world.

 **EVALUATE** Explain the differences between Athens and Sparta.

History of Ancient Rome

 **KEY QUESTION** How were the governments of the Roman Republic and the Roman Empire different?

While Athens was creating a democracy, the people of Rome, located west of Greece on the Italian Peninsula, were also making changes to their government. They overthrew the foreign kings that ruled them and set up a **monarchy** of their own. Then, in 509 B.C., the Romans rejected rule by kings and created a new form of government.

From Republic to Empire The Romans set up a **republic**, a form of government in which citizens elect representatives to rule in their name. It was not a democracy. All male citizens could vote, but only **patricians** (puh•TRISH•uhnzh), members of rich and powerful families, could hold the highest government offices. Farmers, merchants, and craftspeople made up the class known as **plebeians** (plih•BEE•uhnzh). Over time, the plebeians gained more political power.



HISTORY MAKERS

Alexander 356–323 B.C.

One important effect of Alexander's conquest was the spread of Greek culture to other parts of the world. When Alexander was young, the great Greek thinker Aristotle was his teacher. Alexander came to know and admire Greek culture. His many conquests enabled him to spread Greek language, ideas, and beliefs far beyond the Greek peninsula. Greek culture influenced life throughout his vast empire.



ONLINE BIOGRAPHY

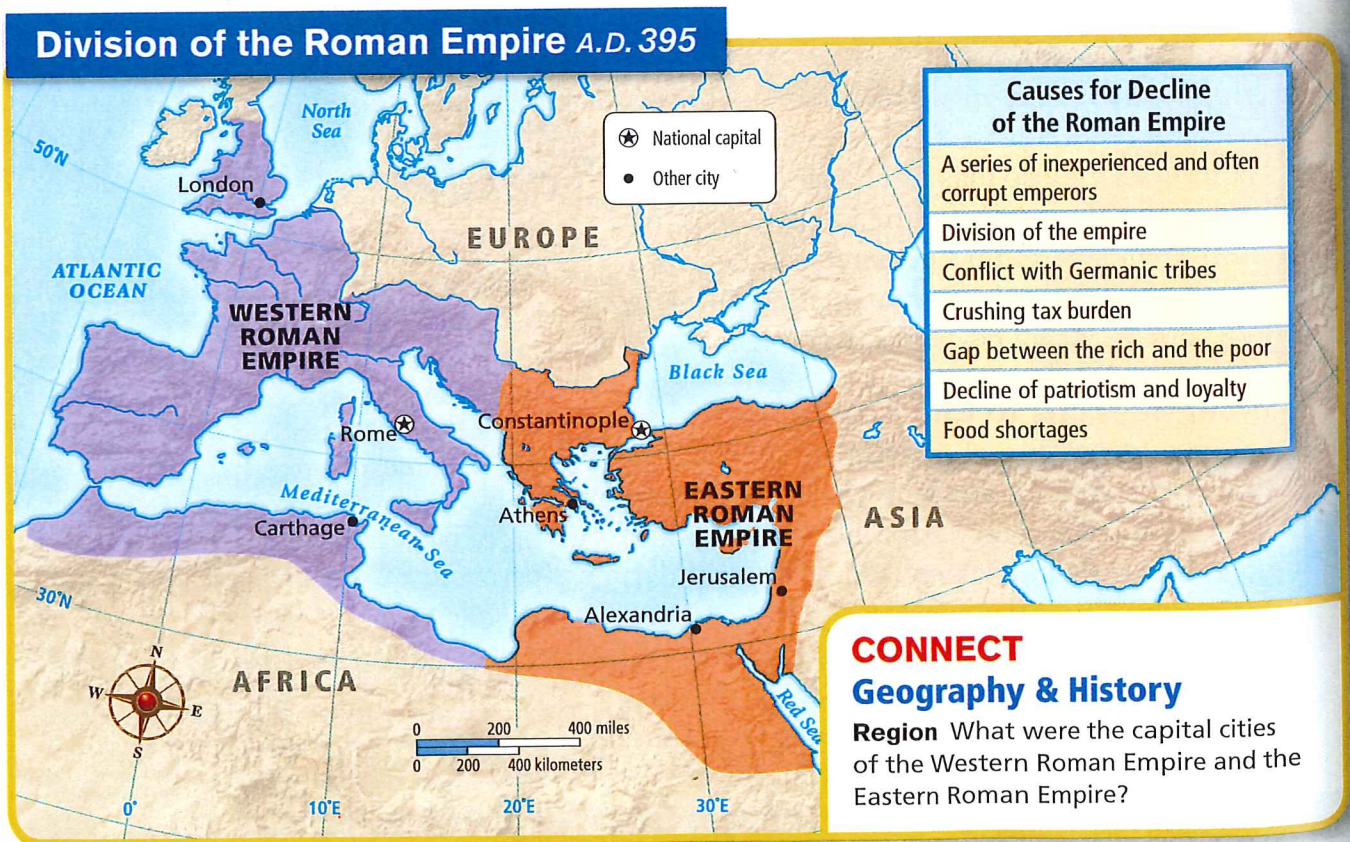
For more on the life of Alexander the Great, go to the Research & Writing Center @ [ClassZone.com](https://www.classzone.com)

Over centuries the Roman Republic grew, until it controlled the entire Italian Peninsula. As they conquered, the Romans offered citizenship to many groups, a policy that strengthened the republic. After almost 500 years, however, the republic began to fall apart. By 27 B.C., military leaders were fighting civil wars. Worn down by the conflict and seeking order at the cost of liberty, the Romans allowed Octavian—later known as Augustus—to take over the government. The republic became an empire, united under a supreme leader.

Augustus and later emperors greatly expanded the empire, as the map below shows. Palestine, a Jewish kingdom on the eastern edge of the Mediterranean, came under Roman control. It was here that Jesus was born and Christianity began. The new religion quickly spread across the empire, becoming its official religion in A.D. 380.

The Empire Falls Apart By the third century A.D., the Roman Empire faced serious problems, which you can see in the chart below. To make the empire easier to govern, it was divided into two halves. Constantinople became the capital of the eastern empire. Rome remained the capital of the western part. Germanic tribes who lived outside of Rome's borders began pushing into Roman territory. In A.D. 476, the Western Roman Empire fell. The Eastern Roman Empire lasted about 1,000 years more.

COMPARE AND CONTRAST Explain how the governments of the Roman Republic and the Roman Empire were different.

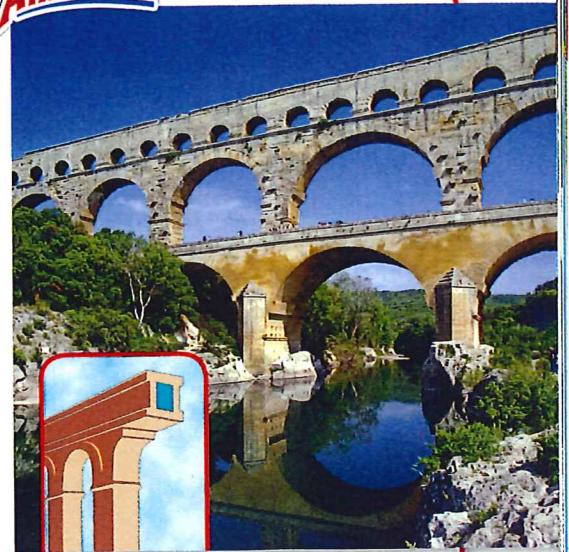


Classical Culture

KEY QUESTION What accomplishments of ancient Greece and Rome still influence modern life?

The ancient Greeks and Romans left a powerful legacy. The Greeks excelled as artists, writers, and philosophers. Their ideas led to developments in theater, science, and government that still influence life today. Perhaps the greatest legacy of the Greeks is democracy. Greek society was one of the first to give people a voice in government. Democracy is a goal for many countries.

The Romans adopted many aspects of Greek culture, but they also had many practical skills of their own. Roman engineers designed and built roads, aqueducts, and public buildings such as the Colosseum. Their system of roads helped expand trade networks and spread culture, including Christianity. The Romans invented the idea of the republic and created a written code of law, the Law of the Twelve Tables. These ideas later shaped legal systems throughout Europe and the Americas.



Roman Aqueduct Their advances in engineering allowed the Romans to build aqueducts, like this one in France, which carried fresh water from distant sources into cities and towns.

[Click here](#) to see how aqueducts work @ClassZone.com

SUMMARIZE Describe the achievements of ancient Greece and Rome that continue to influence modern life.

ONLINE QUIZ
For test practice, go to [Interactive Review @ClassZone.com](#)

Section 2 Assessment

TERMS & NAMES

1. Explain the importance of

- democracy
- oligarchy
- patrician
- plebeian

USE YOUR READING NOTES

2. Compare and Contrast Use your completed chart to answer the following question:

Who participated in elections in the Roman Republic?

GOVERNMENT	WHO RULED	HOW CHOSEN	WHO PARTICIPATED
Greek Democracy			
Roman Republic			
Roman Empire			

KEY IDEAS

3. Why were the waters surrounding the Greek peninsulas an important resource for ancient Greece?
4. How did Alexander help spread Greek culture to foreign lands?
5. What role did patricians and plebeians play in the early Roman Republic?

CRITICAL THINKING

6. **Compare and Contrast** What are some differences between the achievements of the ancient Greek and Roman civilizations?
7. **Analyze Causes** Which of the causes of the fall of the Western Roman Empire do you think was most significant? Why?
8. **CONNECT to Today** How was the original Roman Republic similar to the U.S. government today?
9. **WRITING Rewrite a Myth** Pick a myth from Greek or Roman literature. Rewrite it as a poem or short story set in the present.

COMPARING Classical Cultures

The cultures of ancient Greece and Rome shaped the people who came after them. The influence of both cultures can still be seen today.

Greece

The Greeks developed new ideas about architecture and the gods. They created a new art form—the Greek drama. Other cultures, including ancient Rome, picked up many of these ideas. We can still see ancient Greece in ruins like the Acropolis, shown below, and reflected in our own culture.



Religion

Poseidon is the Greek god of the sea. The Greeks often showed their gods as looking like human beings, but with divine powers.



Daily Life

Greek pottery provides a good record of daily life. This pot shows women collecting water from a public fountain.



Entertainment

Many Greek plays were performed during religious festivals, in large amphitheaters.



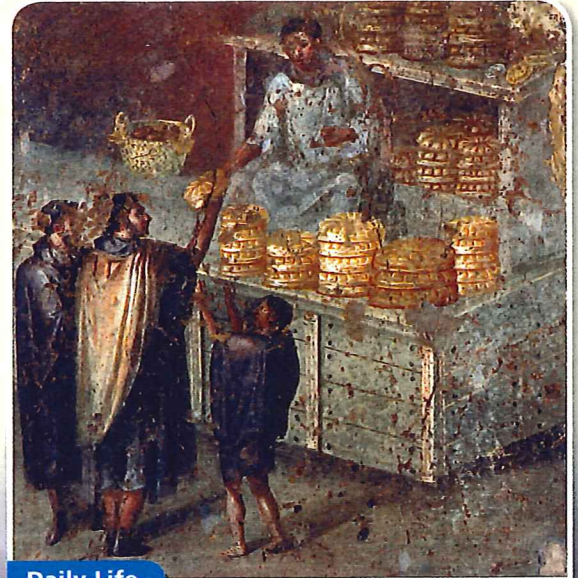


Religion

The Romans called the god of the sea Neptune. Roman depictions of their gods and goddesses frequently seem more realistic and three-dimensional than those of the Greeks.

Rome

Roman culture was based on values of strength and loyalty. The Romans picked up some Greek ideas about the gods and architecture. They transformed these ideas into styles that were uniquely Roman, as seen in the Forum, shown below.



Daily Life

Agriculture and trade formed the basis of the Roman economy. Shops occupied the ground story of many ancient buildings.

Entertainment

Chariot races, which took place in oval arenas called circuses, drew huge crowds.



CRITICAL THINKING

1. Compare and Contrast

What do their forms of entertainment suggest about the differences between Greek and Roman culture?

2. Make Inferences

Why might these cultures have saved their classical buildings?