

Life in Ancient Greece**Explanatory Notes for Teachers**

Level: S1

Topic: Life in Ancient Greece

Supporting Teaching Materials: worksheets

Students' Prior Knowledge

Before this ELA unit, students should have learnt about features of ancient Greek civilization and gained some understanding of how ancient civilizations influence the development of modern civilization, through the medium of Chinese. In these lessons, they should also have learnt some English terms related to this topic.

Aims and Objectives**I. Content Objectives**

After the ELA activities, students should be able to use English to:

1. describe the features of ancient Greek civilization;
2. use graphic tools to present the information in the reading text; and
3. demonstrate their understanding of the concept “Change and Continuity” (in Strand 2 of the PSHE curriculum framework) by relating the content to modern life

II. Language Objectives

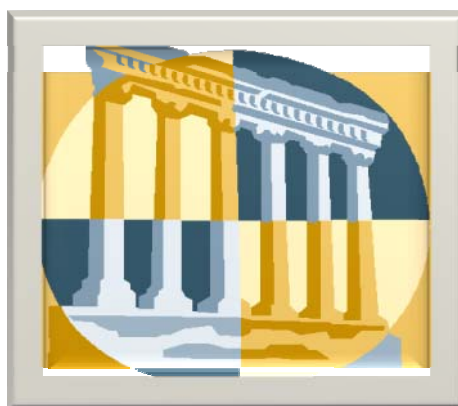
After the ELA activities, students should be able to:

1. understand and use the English terms related to this topic (e.g., *philosopher, geometry, Greek, Greece and civilization, Pythagoras' Theorem, Aesop's Fables, logic, ethics, moral code, and medical theory*);
2. use past tense to describe the features and life of ancient Greek civilization (e.g., Socrates was a philosopher. He was the teacher of Plato. He emphasized ethics and encouraged people to pursue knowledge.)
3. use past tense and present tense to express understanding of the concept “Change and Continuity” (e.g., Ancient Greece was called the *Cradle of Western Civilization*. Its impacts on the cultures of Europe and the United States are still felt today.)
4. use English to exchange information orally through asking and answering questions (see Activity 4), e.g.,
 - *What is the name of this famous figure in Ancient Greece?*
 - *What was his profession?*
 - *Why was he famous in Ancient Greece?*

Procedure:

1. Activity 1 – This activity helps students to have an overview of Ancient Greek Civilization by reading an informational text accompanied by a bilingual glossary.
2. Activity 2 – Information gap activity. This activity requires students to read a short text intensively and transfer the information to the given graphic tools. The diagram demonstrates to students how to make comparisons.
3. Activity 3 – Storyreading. This activity leads students to read a Greek legend. Students read the story “The Trojan War” and answer the questions. The story will enrich students’ knowledge about the religious beliefs and values of the ancient Greeks.
4. Activity 4 - Pair work. This activity requires students to exchange information with a partner by asking and answering questions . It creates opportunities for students to practise questioning skills and speaking skills.
5. Activity 5 - Using the guiding questions provided, students tell how the features of ancient Greek civilizations still have an impact on the modern world. In their own words, students describe how the ancient Greek features have been modified in the modern world.

Life in Ancient Greece



Vocabulary

Occupations	
mathematician	數學家
philosopher	哲學家
ruler	統治者
emperor	皇帝
scientist	科學家
poet	詩人
historian	歷史學家
inventor	發明家

Others (present form)	
taught (teach)	教導
emphasized (emphasize)	強調
invented (invent)	發明
recorded (record)	記錄
conquered (conquer)	征服

Contributions	
Pythagoras' theorem	畢氏定理
the study of logic	邏輯學
ethics	倫理學
moral code	道德法規
medical code	醫學規範
medical theory	醫學的理論
Aesop's fables	伊索寓言
geometry	幾何學
pursue knowledge	追求學問

Activity 1: An Overview of Ancient Greek Civilization

Ancient Greek Civilization



Life in the city-states of Ancient Greece

Ancient Greek civilization began with the rise of the city-states in Greece in about 800BC. Of the 150 city-states of ancient Greece, Athens and Sparta were the strongest and most well-known though the two city-states were very different in culture and lifestyle. Athens lies on the southern coast of the Greek peninsula while Sparta is located on the southern inland areas of the peninsula. Athenians developed their own democratic forms of government and citizens in Athens could join the assembly to discuss politics. Spartans, on the other hand, were ruled by kings and elders. Athenians were mainly farmers, fisherman and traders while most Spartans were farmers. Children in Athens were sent to schools to be educated but children in Sparta were trained to fight in battle at an early age. Athenians were religious people and loved art and learning but Spartans were warlike people with a strong army.

The impact of Greek civilization

Ancient Greece is also known as the “Cradle of Western Civilization” because ancient Greek civilisation has influenced modern Western civilization. This influence can be seen in modern sporting activities, in art and architecture and many other aspects.

Religion and Sport

The ancient Greeks worshipped many gods and goddesses, and celebrated religious festivals such as the Panathenaic Festival. They also held games to honour their god Zeus in Olympia. Though The Olympic Games is no longer a religious festival, it is now held as an important international sporting event.

Art and Architectural style

The ancient Greeks loved all kinds of art. They used marble and bronze to make realistic sculpture. They built temples with large stone pillars. Their architectural designs still influence modern architects.

Writing

The ancient Greeks invented an alphabet of 24 letters. Units and symbols from their written language are still used in science and mathematics today. The ancient Greek alphabet was

copied by the Romans and used in their language, Latin, and later developed into modern European languages.

Literature and Drama

The works of ancient Greek literature are still popular classics today. They include *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey* by Homer, Aesop's *Fables* and Herodotus' *Histories*. The *Histories* of Herodotus is an important source for the study of ancient Greece still used by historians today.

Ancient Greek drama was written as a god-worshipping activity and as entertainment for people in open-air theatres. They performed tragedies about gods, heroes and kings, and comedies about daily life. Greek theatre design and dramatic forms still influence the performing arts nowadays.

Mathematics, Science and Medicine

The ancient Greek discoveries in mathematics, science and medicine provided the foundation for the study of modern sciences e.g. physics and biology. Ancient Greek mathematicians and scientists, such as Pythagoras, Archimedes and Euclid, discovered principles and theories that we still use today.

Hippocrates, also known as the Father of Medicine, was the first person to recognize that diseases were caused by germs instead of being a punishment from the gods as had been believed in the past. He also set a moral code for doctors which is still used in the medical profession today and known as the Hippocratic Oath.

Philosophy

Famous philosophers in ancient Greece such as Socrates, Plato and Aristotle laid the foundations of Western philosophy. Socrates encouraged people to pursue knowledge by thinking deeply and raising questions; Plato started a school and wrote a book to organize the sayings of Socrates; Aristotle taught people to study facts to learn the truth and was the first person to classify knowledge.

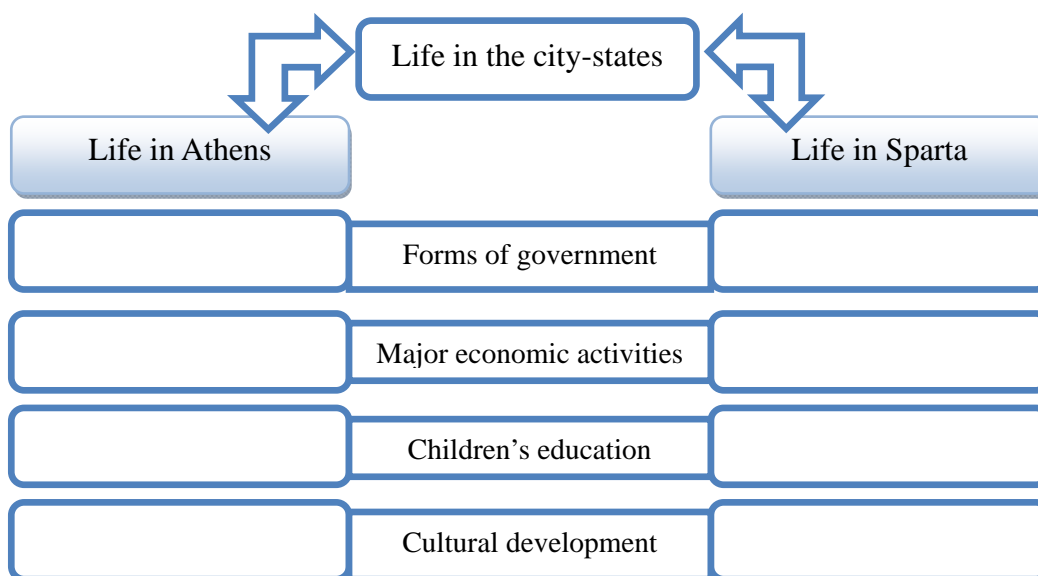
Activity 2 Graphic tools are useful to help us organize the information we have read. The graphic tools below focus on sequence and comparison. Can you organize the information using the graphic tools?

Life in the city-states of Ancient Greece

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Life in the city-states of Ancient Greece

Refer to the passage; compare the life in Athens with that of Sparta. How was life different in the two city-states?



Activity 3 The Story of the Trojan War

Homer was the most famous poet in Ancient Greece. He lived on a Greek island around 750B.C.. At that time, poets did not write down the poems but they sang them aloud while people sat and listened. Homer's poems were about the Greek gods and the myths, describing the religious beliefs and values of the ancient Greeks. One of his famous poems is called the Iliad and it is about the Trojan War. Today the story of the Trojan War is still very popular

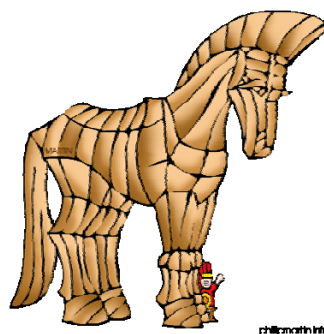
Read the story of the Trojan War and answer the questions on the next page.

Once upon a time, there was an ancient city named Troy, located on one of the Greek islands. The people of Troy built tall walls to protect their city. They also built gates in the wall. For years, the Greeks tried to get over the walls around the city of Troy but failed. The Trojans could not drive away the Greeks. Neither the Greeks nor the Trojans seemed to be able to win.

One day, Odysseus, a Greek general, saw a soldier making a wooden horse as a gift to the Goddess Athena. This gave him an idea. He asked the best artists he could find to work together to build a huge horse. "I need a big wooden horse", Odysseus said, "big enough for our soldiers to hide inside. At night, these men can sneak out and open the gates of Troy."

The wooden horse was finished. At night, the Greeks brought the huge wooden horse and placed it by the gate of Troy. Then they sailed away. The Trojans saw the horse and believed it to be a valuable offering to the gods. They carried it into the city, unaware of the soldiers hiding inside.

When everyone was asleep inside the gates of Troy, the Greek soldiers came out of the Trojan horse and opened the city gates to let their fellow soldiers in. The Greek soldiers got into the city and eventually defeated Troy.



For students with limited English, teacher may use the cartoon resources from <http://www.primaryresources.co.uk/english/englishcart.htm>

Also, students may listen to the story online <http://storynory.com/2006/10/28/the-wooden-horse/>

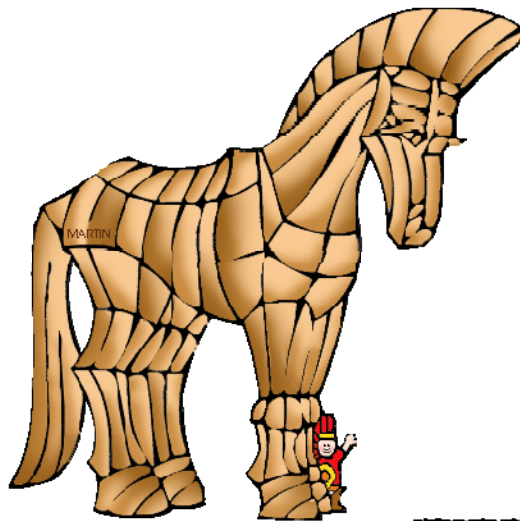
Refer to the story and answer the following questions:

1. Which city-state failed to get over the walls of Troy?

.....

2. What was the gift to the Goddess Athena?

.....



3. Why did Odysseus want a huge wooden horse?

.....

4. Why were the Trojan soldiers delighted when they saw the wooden horse?

.....

Activity 4 The Ancient Greeks

There were many famous figures in Ancient Greece. Work in pairs and learn more about these Greek figures. Each pair has to help each other to complete a worksheet about two famous Ancient Greek figures.

There is some missing information about the famous figures on the worksheet for each partner. For example, Student A has the information about Homer, but nothing about Herodotus. However, Student B has the information about Herodotus, but nothing about Homer. To complete the worksheet, each student has to ask his or her partner for the missing information by using the questions provided. Different pairs may work on different famous Ancient Greek figures. Below is an example of the worksheet for the pair work.

Student A's Worksheet

Figure 1

What is the name of the person in figure 1?

What was his profession?

Why was he famous in Ancient Greece?

Figure 2

What is the name of the person in figure 2?

What was his profession?

Why was he famous in Ancient Greece?

Figure 1

Homer was the greatest poet in Ancient Greece. He was blind but he wrote masterpieces of literature such as the famous Greek poems "The Odyssey" and "The Iliad".



Homer

Figure 2



Herodotus

Student B's Worksheet

Figure 1

What is the name of the person in figure 1?

What was his profession?

Why was he famous in Ancient Greece?

Figure 1



Homer

Figure 2

What is the name of the person in figure 2?

What was his profession?

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Herodotus

Figure 2

Herodotus was a historian. He was called the "Father of History". He recorded the Persian Wars and is an important source in studying the history of Ancient Greece.

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Figure 3

What is the name of the person in figure 3?

What was his profession?

Why was he famous in Ancient Greece?

Figure 3

Pythagoras

Pythagoras was one of the greatest mathematicians of all time. He discovered the rule about the lengths of the sides of a right-angled triangle and people called his discovery "Pythagoras' theorem".



Figure 4

What is the name of the person in figure 4?

What was his profession?

Why was he famous in Ancient Greece?

Figure 4

Hippocrates was a doctor. He was called the "Father of Medicine". He set up a moral code for doctors and proposed many medical theories that are still used today.



Hippocrates

The following is the additional resources for pair work or individual work.

Figure 5



Aristotle was highly regarded as a philosopher and father of logic and reasoning. He was the first person to define and classify knowledge into branches.

Aristotle

Figure 5

_____ was a great Greek philosopher. He was _____.
_____.
Moreover, _____
_____.

Figure 6



Socrates was a philosopher. He was the teacher of Plato. He emphasized ethics and encouraged people to pursue knowledge.

Socrates

Figure 6

Socrates was a _____.
He was also the teacher of _____.
He encouraged people _____
_____ and
emphasized _____.

Figure 7



Plato was a philosopher. He opened a school in Athens. He taught students to think independently through discussion.

Plato

Figure 7

Another famous Greek philosopher was _____.
He _____
and _____.

Figure 8



Alexander the Great was a ruler / emperor. He set up a large empire by conquering Persia, Egypt and north India between 334 and 323BC.

Alexander the Great



Figure 8

Alexander the Great was _____

Activity 5 Change and Continuity: Features of Ancient Greek Civilization

Ancient Greece was called the 'Cradle of Western Civilization'. Its impacts on the cultures of Europe and the United States are still felt today. Do you notice any influences of ancient Greek civilization on western countries or on Hong Kong? What is that influence?

Complete the table below and say whether the Ancient Greek features are still around us today.

Features of Ancient Greek civilization	Has this feature been changed or does it still continue?
 <p>Religion and Sport</p>	<p>The Olympic Games was a religious festival. Does the event still continue today? In what ways are today's Olympic Games similar to or different from those in ancient Greece?</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>
<p>Art and Architectural style</p>  <p>Doric Ionic Corinthian</p>	<p>Ancient Greeks were artistic. They made beautiful stone columns for their buildings. Many of these columns were in Doric, Ionic and Corinthian styles. Have you seen buildings using these columns? If yes, where have you seen them?</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p> <p>.....</p>



Writing

Ancient Greek used 24 Greek letters.
Are the Greek letters still used today? If yes, can you give an example of a Greek letter that you often come across?

.....

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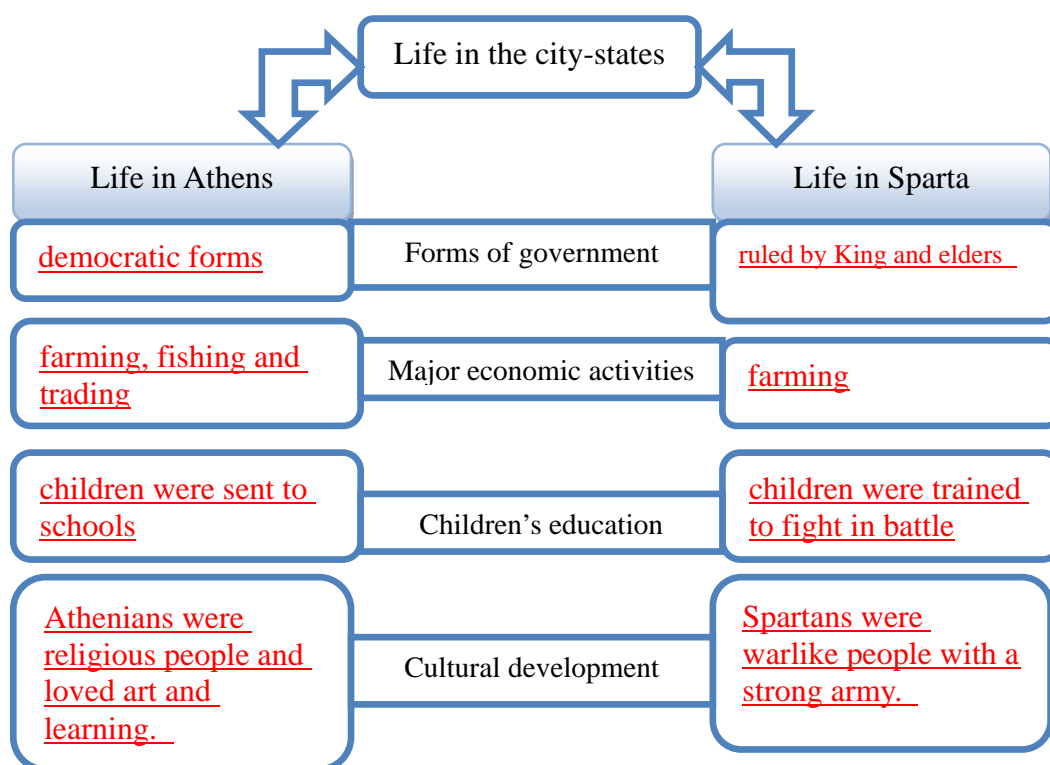
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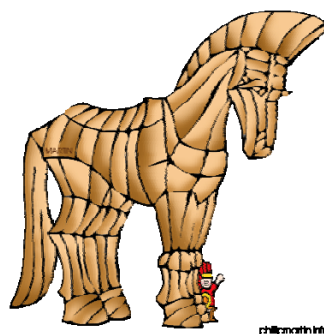
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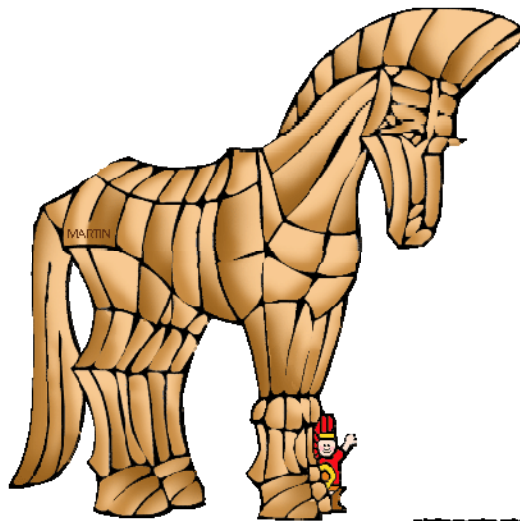
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The Greeks failed to get over the walls of Troy.

2. What was the gift to the Goddess Athena?

A wooden horse was the gift to the Goddess Athena.



3. Why did Odysseus want a huge wooden horse?

Odysseus want a wooden horse big enough for Greek soldiers to hide inside.

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Figure 2

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Herodotus

Figure 2

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Herodotus

Figure 2

Herodotus was a historian. He was called the "Father of History". He recorded the Persian Wars and is an important source in studying the history of Ancient Greece.

The following is the resource for the pair work, which can also be used for individual written work, depending on the teacher's decision.

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Homer

What was his profession?

A poet

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Socrates was a philosopher. He was also the teacher of Plato. He encouraged people to pursue knowledge and emphasized ethics.

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 <p>Doric Ionic Corinthian</p> <p>Art and Architectural style</p>	<p>Ancient Greeks were artistic. They made beautiful stone columns in buildings. Many of these columns were in Doric, Ionic and Corinthian styles. Have you seen buildings using these columns? If yes, where have you seen them?</p> <p><u>(optional answer) Some contemporary buildings such as the opera house in France, the British Museum, the White and the former legislative council building in Hong Kong are built with these columns.</u></p>
 <p>Writing</p>	<p>Ancient Greek used 24 Greek letters. Are the Greek letters still used today? If yes, can you give an example of a Greek letter that you often come across?</p> <p><u>Some Greek letter and symbols are still used in science and mathematics today. For example, there are theta "θ", beta "β", alpha "α" and gamma "γ".</u></p>

References:

World of Teaching – Ancient Greece Teaching PowerPoint
[www.worldofteaching.com/powerpoints/history/Ancient Greece.ppt](http://www.worldofteaching.com/powerpoints/history/Ancient%20Greece.ppt)

BBC School Ancient Greece
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ancientgreece/index.shtml>

Heritage Museum – Education Kits for “The Ancient Olympic Games”
<http://www.heritagemuseum.gov.hk/engtxt/downloads/downloads.aspx>

The Trojan War and the Curriculum
<http://www.cambridge.org/us/education/classics/images/PDF/The%20Trojan%20War%20&%20The%20Curriculum%20sample%20pages.pdf>

Ancient Greece at pppst.com
<http://ancienthistory.pppst.com/greece.html>

Ancient Greece for Kids
<http://greece.mrdonn.org/index.html>

Ancient Greece PowerPoint Slides
<http://www.catalog.socialstudies.com/c/product.html?record@TF39778+af@pppst>