Greece is a peninsula jutting out into the Mediterranean Sea. It consisted of the mainland & outer islands. Areas of ancient Greece, separated by the sea, mountains & valleys developed into separate city-states (like a province).
City-States such as Megara, Argos, Corinth, Athens, and Sparta, were made up of a main city, small towns, villages, and nearby farms. A City-State was called a polis. Each city-state had its own laws, rulers, military, money, customs & fierce local pride. These factors & the geographical separations kept the Greek city-states from uniting. In fact, they fought each other continually for most of their history!
In spite of their differences, the Greek city-states BANDED TOGETHER in 478 B.C. to combat an invasion by the mighty Persian Empire.

The ALLIANCE THEY FORMED WAS CALLED THE DELIAN LEAGUE. The League's members supplied muscle (fighting men) or money.

ATHENS became the leader in charge of the naval fleet and the treasury. United, the Greek-city states were able to defeat the Persians. Because Athens lay in ruins after the Persian attack, their leader PERICLES used the Delian League monies to rebuild his city and navy. The now rich Athens became the dominate power in Greece. This upset the other city-states and broke up their alliance. Fierce battles soon broke out especially between Athens & its chief rival Sparta.
What followed was 100 years of GREEKS FIGHTING GREEKS in the PELOPONNESIAN WARS. Eventually the constant warfare weaken the city-states so much that the MACEDONIANS INVADED AND CONQUERED ALL OF GREECE BY 338 B.C. These foreign invaders controlled Greece until the Roman armies over threw the Macedonians & added Greece to their expanding Empire.
Downtown... Greek style

The AGORA: an open-air market & gathering place in Greek cities & towns.

Shops, law courts, government building, libraries, & other businesses were all part of the AGORA. It was the place where people met to hear the latest news, listen to orators (public speakers) & discuss current events.
The Greek society was MALE-DOMINATED – only males could be citizens and only upper-class males enjoyed a formal education. Women had few political rights and were expected TO STAY AT HOME AND TAKE CARE OF CHILDREN. More than one quarter of the population was made of slaves, usually prisoners captured during the many wars.
GREEK GIFTS TO THE MODERN WORLD

MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE & PHILOSOPHY

ART & ARCHITECTURE: BALANCE, PROPORTION, HARMONY & BEAUTY were the key Greek IDEALS.

DEMOCRACY: The ancient Athenians developed a government that is ruled by the people through their votes. Only the Athenian male citizen had the right to vote.

THE OLYMPICS: The Ancient Olympic Games were an athletic and religious celebration held in the town of Olympia (near of Mount Olympus) from 776 BC to 393 AD.

DRAMA: Greek theatre history began with festivals honoring the god, Dionysus. Tragedy, comedy, and satyr plays were the theatrical forms that eventually grew out of these religious festivals.
Religion was a very important aspect of Greek society and culture. The Greeks worshipped many gods, creating a **POLYTHEISTIC SOCIETY**.

The gods were admired and feared, being distinguished from humans by their immortality.

The Greeks thought that the gods controlled natural and social forces and resided on **MOUNT OLYMPUS**.

The Greeks believed that they had to worship and please the gods in order to have good fortune. Therefore, they participated in **rituals, ceremonies** and **sacrifices** in order to impress them.
Most Greek communities built a FOR ON TOP OF A LARGE HILL CALLED AN ACROPOLIS. The acropolis was the religious center of the city-state where temples honouring the city state’s chief gods were built.
The PARTHENON: Main temple of the Acropolis. Dedicated to ATHENA, goddess of wisdom and warfare and the
ARCHITECTURE

Greek temples, like Egyptian temples, used basic POST-AND-LINTEL construction.

Post & Lintel **support**

**CELLA:** window-less, rectangular room where *the statue of the temple’s god was kept.*

Colonnade of columns placed in rows surrounding the whole building.
In the post & lintel construction, COLUMNS provide STRUCTURAL SUPPORT for roofs, ceilings and the upper parts of buildings.

The Ancient Greeks desired beauty, harmony and balance in their lives & in their architecture.

Most COLUMNS consist of three part:
- the BASE,
- the SHAFT
- the CAPITAL (TOP SECTION)

These columns orders are still used today in many public buildings.

Columns were NOT one solid piece, but made up of DRUMS that stacked on top of each other.
COLUMN
DECORATIVE ORDER
1. DORIC ORDER

SHAFT: simple, sturdy shaft that tapers towards the top.

BASE: The column rests on the top step with NO BASE.

CAPITAL: a big, plain, disk-like, capital.
2. Ionic Order

More refined and decorative.

CAPITAL: Shaped like a double scroll or ram’s horns

SHAFT: taller and more delicate, slender and fluted

BASE: columns sit on a base that looks like stacked rings
COLUMN DECORATIVE ORDER

3. corinthian ORDER

CAPITAL: decorative with rows of curling organic shapes

BASE: tallest of the three orders

SHAFT: Most slender and ornate
Directly across from the Parthenon is a large Ionic temple named the ERECHTHEUM after Erechtheus, a legendary Athenian king. An unusual feature of this temple is the Porch of the Maidens that uses six feminine figures called CARYATIDS instead of columns for support.
THE AMPHITHEATRE

A BUILDING DESIGNED FOR ENTERTAINMENT.

These rows of curving benches called *theatrons* were the seats for ancient Greek theater-goes.

The Greeks build their theaters on hillsides, using the flat, circular area called the *orchestra* as the stage.
Greek Sculptures

Just as their architecture changed over time, Greek sculpture evolved through three distinct stages.

• ARCHAIC PERIOD - 650 B.C. to 480 B.C.
• CLASSICAL PERIOD – 480 B.C. to 300 B.C.
• HELLENISTIC PERIOD - 300 B.C. to 100 B.C.

Purpose of Greek Sculpture

1. RELIGIOUS:
   a. Relief sculptures decorating the outsides of temples
   b. Statues of the gods & goddesses were placed in temples or shrines.

2. GRAVE MONUMENTS:
   statues of a god or the deceased or relief sculptures depicting the deceased.

3. COMMEMORATIVE SCULPTURE: sculpture depicting athletic or military victories or famous people
Periods of Greek Sculpture

1. The Archaic Period

From around 600 to 480 B.C., Greek sculptors concentrated on carving LARGE, FREE-STANDING STATUES. *The Greek were the first artists to produce freestanding statues.*

The subject matter was mainly limited to figures of young men and women.

The statues of young men were called **KOUROS** and the female figure was called **KORE** (meaning maiden).

- **KOUROS**: idealized, nude, representing ideal athlete, left foot slightly forward, front view, formal posture, smiling
- **KORE**: stiff posture, idealized, smiling, clothed and positioned with one arm stretched out holding an offering

Archaic Greek statues were influenced by Egyptian sculpture but had many different style features.
As time went by, Archaic figure representation evolved from a highly stylized form to a more naturalistic and proportional one.

c. 525 B.C.

650 - 625 B.C.

KOUROS statues

KORE statues

ca. 590–580 B.C.
Periods of Greek Sculpture

2. The Classical Period

The change from Archaic to Classical is in the STANCE OF THE FIGURE. The rigid posture of Archaic is not more relaxed, yet dynamic called CONTRAPPOSTO.

**CONTRAPPOSTO:** *most of figure’s weight is shifted onto one leg showing movement.*

Sculptures began to honour the gods. Male figures were graceful and god-like.

**WOMEN:** Women also became graceful and placed in a CONTRAPPOSTO pose. Nudity was reserved for representing Aphrodite, the goddess of love. However, garments were revealing.
Around 400 B.C. changes in the look of sculpture came about. Sufferings caused by wars, new philosophical outlooks and the influences of foreign cultures TRANSFORMED THE DEPICTION OF THE HUMAN INTO ART.

Idealized style is lost, now a more natural, less god-like portrayal is seen. More interest was shown in the ORDINARY INDIVIDUAL and REALISTIC PORTRAITURE.

NATURAL POSES AND MORE REALISTIC

Subject matter included: old age, childhood, emotions like anger, despair and other human conditions like drunkenness, and dying.
**The DYING GAUL, c. 240 BC.**

**EMOTIONAL REALISM OF HELLENISTIC PERIOD:** Dying Gaul reflects the sadness of a Gallic warrior following the loss of battle while slumped on his shield, slowly succumbing to a wound on the right lower ribs.

**LAOCOON AND HIS SONS, 25 B.C.**

**EMOTIONAL REALISM OF HELLENISTIC PERIOD:** Laocoon was a Trojan priest who warned the Trojans not to accept the Greek wooden horse.

The god Poseidon and goddess Athena, who favored the Greeks sent sea serpents to punish Laocoon.

This dramatic sculpture depicts Laocoon and his sons in a deathly struggle.
GREEK VASE PAINTING

Although examples of Greek painting have not survived, we recognize their evolving ability by studying their vase decoration.

Over time, Greek vases became more skillfully drawn with more harmonious designs.

The style changes went from the stick figures of the GEOMETRIC PERIOD - FUNERAL VASES to precisely detailed and realistically drawn figures showing action. The subject matter told stories of heroes, gods & goddesses, and everyday life.

Greek vases were so much admired throughout the ancient world that many pottery painters signed their work and became famous.