Chapter 5 - Ancient Greece. (1750 BC - 133 BC).

(1) Early People of the Aegean.
(2) The Rise of Greek City-States.
(3) Victory and Defeat in the Greek World.
(4) The Glory That Was Greece.
(5) Alexander and the Hellenistic Age.

Minoan Civilization (Crete). Mycenaean Civilization (mainland).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Minoan</th>
<th>Trojan War</th>
<th>Mycenaean</th>
<th>Homer</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1750 BC</td>
<td>1400 BC</td>
<td>c. 1250 BC</td>
<td>1200 BC</td>
<td>800 BC</td>
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</table>

(1) Early People of the Aegean.

Vocabulary.
shrine - area dedicated to honor god or goddess.
fresco - watercolor paintings on wet plaster.
strait - narrow water passage.

Setting the Scene.
Greek civilization begins off the Greek mainland island on island of Crete.
Crete is the ‘cradle’ of an early civilization that influenced Greek mainland.
Crete though absorbed ideas from older civilizations of Egypt, Mesopotamia.

Minoan Civilization.
Between 1750 and 1400 BC a civilization flourished on Crete as great trading power from Black Sea (olive oil, honey, wine) to Nile (gold, grain, linen).
The Palace at Knossos.
AD 1898. Sir Arthur Evans, English archeologist, excavated city of Knossos, discovering remains of a civilization which he named in 1904 ‘Minoan’ after Cretan king of Greek legend. He later rebuilt palace to recreate how it was.
The palace had shrines (gods) and frescoes on walls (incl. bull, sports).

A Civilization Disappears.
c. 1400 BC. Minoan civilization vanishes without a trace. Why?
Volcanic eruption on nearby island? Maybe.
Invaders were people from the mainland called Mycenaeans, first-Greek speaking people.
Note: Crete developed its own form of writing called Minoan Script that consists of Linear A (graffiti) and better known Linear B (decoded 1952).
**Mycenaean Civilization.**
Between 1400 and 1200 BC a civilization flourished on Greek mainland.

The Mycenaeans were Indo-European people (like Hittites or Aryans) who invaded the Greek mainland (c. 2000 BC) before overrunning Crete.

**Rulers of Mycenae.**
Like Minoans, Mycenaeans were sea traders from Aegean to Sicily, Italy, Egypt, and Mesopotamia. Learned a lot from Minoans, including **writing.**
Mycenaeans lived in **separate** city-states on mainland with warrior kings.

**Trojan War.**
Mycenaeans are best remembered for their part in Trojan War (1250 BC).
Conflict may have been over **economic** rivalry between Mycenae and Troy, a rich trading city in Asia Minor (today Turkey) that controlled the vital straits between Aegean and Black Seas. (See map.)
Conflict according to Greek legend is not economic but a love story. Paris, son of Troy king, captures Helen, beautiful wife of Greek king. Greek kings unite (they had a pact) to go to Troy to get Helen back. For 10 years Greeks fight Trojans until Greeks finally destroy Troy.

**Age of Homer.**
c. 750 BC. Homer epic poems ‘Iliad’ & ‘Odyssey’ were seen as fiction.
   According to tradition, Homer was a blind poet who went from village to village to sing the heroic deeds in the epics.
   ‘Iliad’ and ‘Odyssey’ are to be taken as ‘War’ and ‘Peace.’
   ‘Iliad’ is about Trojan War. Achilles tops Hector in end.
   The Trojan horse and burning of Troy are not in ‘Iliad.’
   ‘Odyssey’ completes tale during story of Odysseus going back home to faithful wife, Penelope, after sack of Troy.
Epics tell much of Greek honor, courage, eloquence of Greek heroes.

1870s. **Heinrich Schliemann** (1822-1890), German businessman who became an amateur archeologist excavated a traditional site (matching Homer’s description) in 1871, 1879, 1882, 1888.
He discovered nine superimposed city sites. (Nine Troys!)
He found evidence of fire and war dating to 1250 BC.

**Collapse of Mycenaeans.**
c. 1200 BC. After Trojan War (1250 BC) Mycenaean civilization crumbles.
Dorians invade from the north.

**Dark Age.**
1200. Greek civilization steps backward into troubled period.
-800 BC. Some Greeks flee to Asia Minor during Dorian invasion.
People forget many skills, including the art of writing.

c. 800 BC. Greeks adopt Phoenician alphabet .. and improve it.
(2) The Rise Of Greek City-States.

Vocabulary.
polis - city-state.
acropolis - atop the city.
monarchy - rule by king.
aristocracy - rule by elite (landowners).
oligarchy - rule by few (business class).
phalanx - massive formation of foot soldiers.
helot - state-owned slaves (Sparta).
democracy - rule by people.
tyrant - one who gains power by force.
legislature - ‘law’ making body.

Setting the Scene.
The Greek thinker Plato: “We live around the sea like frogs around a pound.”
The Mediterranean and Aegean seas were to Greeks like Nile was to Egypt.
Ancient Greeks absorbed many ideas, beliefs from Mesopotamia and Egypt.
But Greeks developed new ideas, particularly how best to govern a society.

Geography of Greek Mainland.
Earliest civilizations rose in fertile river valleys where strong rulers organized irrigation works that helped farmers produce food surpluses to support cities.
Geographic conditions affecting rise of Greek civilization were very different.
Greece is a mountainous peninsula that juts into the eastern Mediterranean.
Greece has rugged terrain wherein only 1/4 of the land can be farmed.

Mountains and Valleys.
Mountains divide peninsula into isolated valleys.
Greece became a group of individual city-states cut off from one another.
A city-state or ‘polis’ included a city and its surrounding countryside.
Isolation means fierce independence means rivalry means war.

The Seas.
While mountains divided Greeks the seas were a link to world outside.
Exports: olive oil. wine. marble.
c. 750 BC. Better farming>More Food>More People>Overseas Expansion.

Governing the City-States.
Between 750 BC and 500 BC Greeks evolved different forms of government.
750 BC. Monarchy was rule by king in each polis. (Two kings:Sparta.)
700 BC. Aristocracy (Gk. ‘aristos’=best) upper class replaces monarchy.
Oligarchy (Gk. ‘oligo’=few) dominated some city-states.
500 BC. Democracy (Gk. ‘demos’=people) gradually developed in Athens.

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<th>750.</th>
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<td>aristocracy.</td>
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<td>oligarchy.</td>
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<td>democracy.</td>
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<tr>
<td>landowners.</td>
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<td>business class.</td>
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Changes in Warfare.
Ordinary citizens got into the army and as a result got involved in politics.
c. 650 BC. Iron weapons replaced bronze ones. Iron was cheaper, affordable.
Ordinary citizens could afford iron helmets, shields, swords.
Ordinary citizens became foot soldiers (‘hoplites’) in massive formation (‘phalanx’) that created strong sense of unity of men.
* By putting the defense of city in hands of ordinary citizens (instead of landowners) the phalanx reduced class differences.
The new type of warfare led to two dominant city-states: Sparta, Athens.

Sparta: A Nation of Soldiers.
Spartans were Dorians (from north) who conquered area called Laconia. The region is in the Peloponnesus, the southern part of Greek mainland.
Spartans turned conquered people into helots or state-owned slaves who greatly outnumbered Spartans. So Spartans set up brutal system of control.
*The ratio of helot/Spartans was 20/1. So military force was needed!

Sparta had two kings, council of 28 elders, and assembly of citizens.
Citizens had to be male, native-born Spartans, and over the age of 30. Assembly elected five ephors, officials who held real power and ran show.

Spartan Male.
* The word ‘spartan’ means simple, frugal or austere.
Boy was encouraged to steal food to supplement food intake. But, if caught, he was beaten severely for not being cunning enough. Boy learns to shut up (‘laconic’).
Age 20. Man could marry. But he still had to live in barracks for 10 years and to eat there for another 40 years.
Age 30. Man took his place in the assembly.
Age 60. Man leaves barracks for good. (No more meals there.)

Spartan Female.
Girls had rigorous upbringing: they were expected to produce healthy sons. Female was told to exercise, strengthen her body, unlike other Greek women.
* Spartan women took part in some military drills.
Spartan women had to obey husband but also had right to inherit property.

Sparta and Its Neighbors.
Spartans isolated themselves from other Greeks. Looked down on trade and wealth. Prohibited use of coined money (corrupt). Forbade citizens to travel outside of city-state. Little use for new ideas of skills.

Herodotus was like other Greeks when he wrote that Spartans earned respect as the ‘best fighters’ who succeeded because of ‘discipline and obedience to the law.’ Spartan women were fit but ‘seen as immodest.’
Athens: A Limited Democracy.
Athens was located in Attica which is just north of the Peloponnesus.
Athens evolved from monarchy to aristocracy to tyranny to democracy.
c. 700 BC. Landowners (aristocracy) held power and choose officials.
c. 600 BC. People resented aristocracy rule, wanted more political rights.
c. 500 BC. Tyrants were men who took power by force to impose reforms.
Discontent spread as Athens moved slowly towards a form of democracy.

One reform after another moved Athens closer to democracy.

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<td>621. BC.</td>
<td>594. BC.</td>
<td>546. BC.</td>
<td>507. BC.</td>
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Draco. - Archon asked him to draw up a law code (in writing).
Draco’s Law on public display for all was harsh (Hammurabi).
The word ‘draconian’ means exceedingly harsh or very severe.
* Note: Draco is not mentioned in text.

Solon. - He was archon who got a free hand to make needed reforms.
Solon’s Reforms opened high offices to more citizens, offered fairness to more groups. But citizenship still remained limited.

Pisistratus. - Tyrant who seized power (546 BC) helped farmers by giving them land taken from nobles. He weakened aristocracy.

Cleisthenes. - Broadened role of ordinary citizens in government.
Transformed the assembly into a legislature (make laws).

Limited Rights.
Athenian democracy was limited in terms of modern standards.

Men. Only males, age 20, parents free, native Athenians, were citizens.
8-18. Boys learned grammar, music, rhetoric, memorized literature, especially Iliad and Odyssey (religious beliefs and history).
Education encouraged curiosity and free discussion.
18. Youth took oath to defend city.
Two years military training. Participated in athletic contests.
‘Anima Sana In Corpore Sano’=Sound Mind in Sound Body.
20. Men became citizens. Took their place in the assembly.

Women. Women had no political rights.
Women’s nearest male relative acted as legal guardian.
Women were in seclusion, needed company to go get water.

Forces for Unity.
Greeks had common culture, same language, same heroes, same gods.
Religion. Polytheism. Temples. Festivals. Oracles were priests, priestesses.
Non-Greeks were ‘barbaroi’ or people who did not speak Greek.
(3) Victory and Defeat in the Greek World.

Vocabulary.
alliance - formal agreement between two nations.
direct democracy - large number of citizens with direct role.
stipend - fixed salary.
jury - panel of citizens in a trial.
ostracism - vote to banish.

Setting the Scene.
King Darius (Persia) sends envoys to Greece to demand ‘earth and water,’ symbols of submission who were thrown in well (Athens) and pit (Sparta). Servant whispers to king ‘Master, remember the Athenians’ at every meal.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Persian War</th>
<th>Peloponnesian War</th>
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<tr>
<td>493 BC</td>
<td>431 BC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Persians.</td>
<td>Sparta.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Athens. wins.</td>
<td>Persia. loses.</td>
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<td>of.</td>
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<td>Stomp.</td>
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The Persian Wars.
c. 500 BC. Athens emerges as wealthiest Greek city-state with allies such as Miletus located in Asia Minor where Persia ruled Ionia.
499 BC. Ionian Greeks rebelled against Persian rule.
493 BC. Persia crushes uprising of Miletus which is Athens ally.
490 BC. Persia attacks Greek mainland at Marathon on east coast.

480 BC. Xerxes, Darius (now dead) son, sends larger force to Greece. Athens persuades Sparta et al to join the fight this time. Battle of Thermopylae. All Spartan heroes die. Delay Persians. Battle of Salamis. Athenian navy beats Persia on sea.
479 BC. Battle of Plataea. Persia loses land battle in Asia Minor. This victory marks the end of the Persian invasions!

Results.
Athens emerged from Persian War as most powerful city-state in Greece.
Athens in Age of Pericles.
The time after Persian Wars was a golden age for Athens which became more democratic: it was called the ‘Age of Pericles’ after its wise and skillful leader.

Golden Age for Athens.

or.

Age of Pericles.

479. 429.
BC. BC.

started by. end. started by. Sparta wins.

510. 479. 477. 431. 404.
BC. BC. BC. BC. BC.

Political Life.
Periclean Athens was a direct democracy (v. representative democracy).
Athenian assembly met several times a month.
At least 6000 members (quorum) had to be present to vote important issues.
All male citizens, regardless of wealth or social class, could vote.
Public officials were paid a stipend or fixed salary. Poor could now serve.
Athenians served on a jury - panel of citizens (100s or 1000s). Judge a trial.
*Note: In US a grand jury is 12 to 23 persons,
and a petite jury has 12 normally.
Athenian citizens could vote to banish or exile some public figure by process called ostracism: writing of a name on a shard (Gk. ‘ostrakon’) of pottery.

Funeral Oration.
Thucydides records speech by Pericles at funeral of Athenians slain in war.
Pericles praises Athens form of government with some notable:
“power was in the hands not of a minority but of a whole people.”
“taking part in government makes on a useful person.”
Funeral Oration is seen one of earliest and greatest expression of democracy.

Economic and Cultural Life.
Remember that Athens was burned down by Persians on way to Salamis.
Pericles hired best architects and sculptors to rebuild the Acropolis.
Magnificent new temples and colossal statues rose from ruins of Acropolis.
Economic boost: Building programs provide jobs for artisans and workers.
Athens becomes a cultural center for the arts and attracts talented people.
The Peloponnesian War.
There were actually two time intervals to this war: 460-446 and 431-404 BC.
Text focuses on second interval: “In 431 BC warfare broke out in earnest ...”

Text is inaccurate indicating Delian preceded Peloponnesian League.
Peloponnesian League (Sparta and allies) was formed in 510 BC.
Delian League (Athens and allies) was formed (after 479) in 477 BC.

Why did Greeks who fought Persians together end up fighting each other?

It turned out to be a conflict between two alliances seeking domination.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sparta &amp; allies.</th>
<th>Athens &amp; allies.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>began 510 BC.</td>
<td>began 477 BC.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Encouraged oligarchy.</td>
<td>Encouraged democracy.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Land Power.</td>
<td>Sea Power.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Locked inland.</td>
<td>Better Navy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not assailable by sea.</td>
<td>Assailable by land.</td>
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Result of war. Sparta wins but does so with help of Persian navy.
Athens loses its empire and its navy. But city is spared.

How do we know about Greek wars?
Primary Sources.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Battle.</th>
<th>Peloponnesian Wars.</th>
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<tr>
<td>of.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marathon.</td>
<td>460. 446. 431. 404.</td>
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<td>490 BC.</td>
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Herodotus.
(484-425 BC).
Born six years after Battle of Marathon.
Was able to interview people in action.
From Halicarnassus (Asia Minor).
Traveled. Interesting anecdotes.
Did not double-check stories.
Wrote “The Histories.”
Prose. Not Homeric verse.

Thucydides.
(460 - 400 BC).
Born in year of first fighting (interval one).
Was a general (age 36) in 424 BC who lost ship.
Athenian. Got exiled. Decided to write on war.
Wrote: “History of Peloponnesian War.”
Looked for human causes. Dismissed gods.
Vocabulary.
logic - rational thinking.
rhetoric - public speaking.
tragedy - play of human suffering ending in disaster.
comedy - humorous play that made fun of people or customs.

Setting the Scene.
Despite wars Greek thinkers, artists, and writers explored nature of universe.

Greek Philosophers.
Greek thinkers challenged belief that events were caused by gods, not men. They used observation and reason to find causes for what happened. Called philosophers (Gk. ‘philos’=love, ‘sophia’=wisdom): ‘lovers of wisdom.’ They explored many subjects: math, music, logic or rational thinking.

Ethical Issues.
Questions they debated: What was the best kind of government? What standards should rule human behavior?

Sophists shook up Athens. Earlier philosophers had been interested in the universe. But Sophists were less interested in looking for a big truth and more interested in Man himself, how he behaved, how he could fend for himself. Taught rich boys rhetoric: to make speeches to win court cases.

Famous Greek philosophers: Socrates taught Plato who taught Aristotle.

Socrates.
(70).

Plato.
(82).

Aristotle.
(62).

Syllogism is basis of (logical) argument.
Premises: All men are mortal. Socrates is a man. Pupil of Plato.
Conclusion: Socrates is mortal.
Socrates.  (469-399 BC.).
Athenian.
Father was sculptor or stonemason. Family was well off.
Strong physique. Great endurance. Indifferent to comfort and luxury.
Serves in Athenian army as foot soldier. Courageous in battle.
Marries (second) wife late in life who has notoriously bad temper.
Main interest is work of patient ‘inquiry’ into right conduct of life.
Socratic method is ‘cross questioning.’ Answer a question with a question.
He writes no books.
His famous quote is ‘An unexamined life is not worth living.’
399 BC. Goes on trial.
   Charged with corrupting youth (making them subversives).
   introducing strange gods (bogus charge).
   Attacks democracy.
   Nixes plan of escape.
   Drinks hemlock (within 30 days).
Socrates lived in age of widespread criticism and discussion.

Plato.  (429-347 BC).
Athenian.
40 years younger than Socrates, his teacher.
Distinguished parents.
Early on, he wants to be a statesman.
Later, he resolves that rulers should be philosopher-kings.
399 BC. His teacher Socrates dies.
   He leaves Athens. Travels next dozen years to many places.
385 BC. He returns to Athens.
   He founds the Academy.
Plato’s main political principle is that government is a science (like medicine) and requires
expert knowledge (and thus is not a job for an amateur). To this he adds a constitutional
love of neatness and order. Both lead him to the strongest condemnation of democracy.

Aristotle.  (384-322 BC).
Ionian.
45 years younger than Plato, his teacher.
Father was physician at Macedonian court.
343 BC. Age 41. Becomes tutor to Alexander the Great.
335 BC. Age 49. Philip of Macedonia dies.
   Returns to Athens. Founds Lyceum (school-all knowledge).
329 BC. Age 55. Writes “Politics.”
322 BC. Age 62. Aristotle dies of bad digestion.
Aristotle analyzed all forms of government from monarchy to democracy.
He ultimately favored rule by a single strong, virtuous leader.
Architecture and Art.
Plato argued that every object on Earth had an ideal form.
Greek artists showed similar concern with balance, order, and beauty.

Architecture.
Architects conveyed perfect balance to reflect harmony and order of universe.
The most famous Greek architecture is Parthenon (G. ‘parthenos’=virgin) built between 447 and 432 BC atop acropolis (G. ‘acro’=high, ‘polis’=city) dedicated to Athena who was goddess of wisdom, practical arts, and war.
It is the top representation of Doric architecture. Rectangle. Tall columns.

Sculpture and Painting.
Greek sculptors developed new style (450 BC) that emphasized natural poses. New style (not in text) is contraposto (L.‘contra’=opposite, ‘ponere’=to place) wherein a figure is twisted on its vertical axis so that hips and legs are turned in a different direction that shoulders and head. Not like Egyptian rigidity.
Greek sculptors carved gods, goddesses, athletes as idealistic versus realistic.
Only Greek paintings to survive are on vases and other pottery.

Poetry and Drama.
Greeks developed their own kind of literature called “classical style” later on.
Greek literature begins with Homer (epics), Sappho (poems), Pindar (odes).

Greek Drama.
The most important contribution to literature is arguably Greek drama.
Three greatest Greek playwrights are Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides.

Tragedies.

Aeschylus.
Father of Greek tragedy.
Orestes - family break-up.

525.  456.
BC.  BC.

Sophocles.
Antigone - individual v. State.

496.  406.
BC.  BC.

Euripides.
Trojan Women - victims of war.

485.  406.
BC.  BC.

Sophocles and Euripides survived the horrors of the Peloponnesian War.

Comedies.
Aristophanes wrote Lysistrata and better known Frogs (not in text).
(5) Alexander and the Hellenistic Age.

**Vocabulary.**
- assassination - murder of public figure.
- assimilate - to absorb.
- heliocentric - sun is center.

**Setting the Scene.**
359 BC. Philip II (382-336 BC) became king of Macedonia. He was age 23 and will rule for 23 years.

He admires Greek culture. Hires Aristotle to tutor his son, Alexander. Demosthenes warns Athenians against him.
338 BC. Philip beats united forces of Athens & Thebes at Chaerona.
336 BC. He dies in an assassination at daughter’s wedding.

**Alexander the Great.**
336 BC. Alexander (356-323 BC) takes throne of Macedonia. He is only 20 and will rule 13 years.
334 BC. Alex takes on Persian Empire and lands at Troy. 333 BC. Alex defeats Darius at Issus.
332.
-331 BC. Alex in Egypt; Alexandria founded.
331 BC. Alex enters Babylon (uses as his capital).
323 BC. Alex dies a couple of months before his 33rd birthday. 305 BC. Alex empire is divided between three of his generals.

**Legacy of Alexander.**
Alexander’s most lasting achievement was spread of Greek culture.

**Blending of Cultures.**
Local people assimilated (absorbed) Greek ideas. Greeks adopt local customs. Alex thinks himself Greek but adopts Persian ways. Marries Persian princess.

**Alexandria** (library and museum) becomes the center of Greek civilization.

**Hellenistic Civilization.**
Hellenistic civilization (330-30 BC) is period of spread of Greek culture.

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New Schools of Thought.
Political turmoil contributed to new schools of philosophy.

Stoicism.

Zeno (335-263 BC) founded school of Stoics that urged people to avoid desires and disappointments by accepting calmly whatever life brought.
Stoics believed happiness was greatest good but there was divine lawgiver.
Stoicism later influenced many Roman and Christian thinkers.
The word "stoic" has come to mean a person who remains calm in the face of pain or misfortune.

Epicureanism.

Epicurus (341-271 BC) argued greatest good was being happy or free from fear and pain.
Epicureans lived calm, simple, well-regulated lives. But the word "epicurean" has come to mean a person fond of luxury and pleasure.
Current text neglects to mention this philosophy (as it did in prior edition).

Advances in Learning.

Pythagoras (c. 6th century BC) derived a formula that bears his name to calculate the the relationship between the sides of a right triangle.
Euclid (c. 300 BC) wrote “The Elements,” a summary of mathematics learning in the ancient world: it is a textbook that became basis for modern geometry.

Aristarchus (c. 270 BC) argued that Earth rotated on its axis and orbited around the sun.
The theory of a heliocentric or sun-centered solar system was not accepted by most scientists until (Copernicus) almost 2000 years later.

Eratosthenes (c. 276-194 BC) was the head of the library at Alexandria known as the most versatile scholar of his time. He postulates that the Earth is round and accurately calculates its circumference.

Archimedes (c.287-212 BC) masters use of lever and pulley.

Medicine.

Hippocrates (c. 400 BC) studied causes of illnesses and looked for cures.

Looking Ahead.

During the Hellenistic period, Rome emerges as the powerful new state.
After its conquest of Asia Minor in 133 BC Rome replaces Greece as the dominant power in the Mediterranean world. But Greek ideas about law, freedom, justice and government influence the civilization of Rome and of Western Europe.
Chapter 6 - Ancient Rome and the Rise of Christianity. (509 BC - AD 476).

(1) Roman World Takes Shape.
(2) From Republic to Empire.
(3) The Roman Achievement.
(4) The Rise of Christianity.
(5) The Long Decline.

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<td>BC. 27.</td>
<td>AD. 392.</td>
<td>AD. 476.</td>
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(1) The Roman World Takes Shape.

Vocabulary.
republic - government chosen ‘by people.’
patrician - upper class landowners.
consul - patrician chosen as leader for one year.
dictator - ruler with absolute power for 6 months.
plebeian - lower class workers.
tribune - plebeian-elected official.
veto - to block approval. (L. ‘vetare’ = forbid).
legion - basic military unit of 5000 men.

Setting the Scene.
The legend is that brothers Romulus and Remus were thrown into Tiber by great-uncle usurper but rescued by gods and a wolf and raised by shepherd as his own sons. The boys later killed great-uncle and founded Rome in 753 BC on seven hills atop Tiber. The moral of the story is that strength, justice, and favor of gods win against danger and greed.

Virgil (70-19 BC) created an epic "Aeneid" that provided Romans with a new legend in a way Homer did with “Iliad” for Greeks. The moral of his story is that Rome was linked to older civilizations of Greece and Asia Minor. Rome won control of Mediterranean world in Punic Wars between 265 and 44 BC.

Geography and Peoples of Italy.

Geography.
Italian peninsula is a boot with toe off near Sicily and top blocked by Alps. It is centrally located in Mediterranean Sea. The city of Rome enjoyed natural boundaries being inland on west coast, the most fertile. Its location helped expansion first within Italy and then into lands around Mediterranean.