

Updated: Unit 4 Greece (6th Grade)

Content Area: **Social Studies**
Course(s):
Time Period: **MP4**
Length: **about 8 weeks**
Status: **Published**

Targeted Standards

6.2.8.HistoryCC.1.a	Describe the influence of the agricultural revolution on population growth and the subsequent development of civilizations (e.g., the impact of food surplus from farming).
6.2.8.HistoryCC.1.b	Determine the impact of technological advancements on hunter/gatherer and agrarian societies.
6.2.8.HistoryCC.1.c	Describe how the development of both written and unwritten languages impacted human understanding, development of culture, and social structure.
6.2.8.HistoryCC.1.d	Demonstrate an understanding of pre-agricultural and post-agricultural periods in terms of relative length of time.
6.2.8.CivicsPI.2.a	Explain how/why different early river valley civilizations developed similar forms of government and legal structures.
6.2.8.CivicsHR.2.a	Determine the role of slavery in the economic and social structures of early river valley civilizations.
6.2.8.GeoSV.2.a	Compare and contrast physical and political maps of early river valley civilizations and their modern counterparts and determine the geopolitical impact of these civilizations, then and now (i.e., Mesopotamia and Iraq; Ancient Egypt and Modern Egypt; Indus River Valley and Modern Pakistan/India; Ancient China and Modern China).
6.2.8.GeoHE.2.a	Determine the extent to which geography influenced settlement, the development of trade networks, technological innovations, and the sustainability of early river valley civilizations.
6.2.8.EconGE.2.a	Explain how technological advancements led to greater economic specialization, improved weaponry, trade, and the development of a class system in early river valley civilizations.
6.2.8.HistoryCC.2.a	Evaluate the importance and enduring legacy of the major achievements of the early river valley civilizations over time.
6.2.8.HistoryCC.2.b	Analyze the impact of religion on daily life, government, and culture in various early river valley civilizations.
6.2.8.HistoryCC.2.c	Explain how the development of written language transformed all aspects of life in early river valley civilizations.
6.2.8.HistoryCA.2.a	Analyze the factors that led to the rise and fall of various early river valley civilizations and determine whether there was a common pattern of growth and decline.
6.2.8.CivicsPI.3.a	Compare and contrast the methods (i.e., autocratic rule, philosophies, and bureaucratic structures) used by the rulers of Rome, China, and India to control and unify their expanding empires.

6.2.8.GeoPP.3.a	Use geographic models to describe how the availability of natural resources influenced the development of the political, economic, and cultural systems of each of the classical civilizations and provided motivation for expansion.
6.2.8.GeoPP.3.b	Explain how geography and the availability of natural resources led to both the development of classical civilizations and to their decline.
6.2.8.EconGE.3.a	Explain how classical civilizations used technology and innovation to enhance agricultural/manufacturing output and commerce, to expand military capabilities, to improve life in urban areas, and to allow for greater division of labor.
6.2.8.HistoryCC.3.a	Determine the extent to which religion, economic issues, and conflict shaped the values and decisions of the classical civilizations.
6.2.8.HistoryUP.3.a	Compare and contrast social hierarchies in classical civilizations as they relate to power, wealth, and equality.
6.2.8.HistoryUP.3.b	Compare the status of groups in the Ancient World to those of people today and evaluate how individuals perceived the principles of liberty and equality then and now (i.e., political, economic, and social).
6.2.8.HistoryUP.3.c	Compare and contrast the tenets of various world religions that developed in or around this time period (i.e., Buddhism, Christianity, Confucianism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Sikhism, and Taoism), their patterns of expansion, and their responses to the current challenges of globalization.
6.2.8.HistoryCA.3.a	Evaluate the importance and enduring legacy of the major achievements of Greece, Rome, India, and China over time.
6.2.8.HistoryCA.3.b	Determine common factors that contributed to the decline and fall of the Roman Empire, Gupta India, and Han China.
6.2.8.CivicsPI.4.a	Analyze the role of religion and other means rulers used to unify and centrally govern expanding territories with diverse populations.

21st Century Skills: Career Readiness, Life Literacies and Key Skills

9.4.8.CT.1	Evaluate diverse solutions proposed by a variety of individuals, organizations, and/or agencies to a local or global problem, such as climate change, and use critical thinking skills to predict which one(s) are likely to be effective (e.g., MS-ETS1-2).
9.4.8.CT.2	Develop multiple solutions to a problem and evaluate short- and long-term effects to determine the most plausible option (e.g., MS-ETS1-4, 6.1.8.CivicsDP.1).
9.4.8.CT.3	Compare past problem-solving solutions to local, national, or global issues and analyze the factors that led to a positive or negative outcome.
9.4.8.DC.1	Analyze the resource citations in online materials for proper use.
9.4.8.DC.2	Provide appropriate citation and attribution elements when creating media products (e.g., W.6.8).
9.4.8.DC.6	Analyze online information to distinguish whether it is helpful or harmful to reputation.
9.4.8.GCA.1	Model how to navigate cultural differences with sensitivity and respect (e.g., 1.5.8.C1a).

9.4.8.GCA.2	Demonstrate openness to diverse ideas and perspectives through active discussions to achieve a group goal.
9.4.8.IML.1	Critically curate multiple resources to assess the credibility of sources when searching for information.
9.4.8.IML.2	Identify specific examples of distortion, exaggeration, or misrepresentation of information.
9.4.8.IML.3	Create a digital visualization that effectively communicates a data set using formatting techniques such as form, position, size, color, movement, and spatial grouping (e.g., 6.SP.B.4, 7.SP.B.8b).
9.4.8.IML.4	Ask insightful questions to organize different types of data and create meaningful visualizations.
9.4.8.IML.5	Analyze and interpret local or public data sets to summarize and effectively communicate the data.
9.4.8.IML.6	Identify subtle and overt messages based on the method of communication.
9.4.8.IML.7	Use information from a variety of sources, contexts, disciplines, and cultures for a specific purpose (e.g., 1.2.8.C2a, 1.4.8.CR2a, 2.1.8.CHSS/IV.8.AI.1, W.5.8, 6.1.8.GeoSV.3.a, 6.1.8.CivicsDP.4.b, 7.1.NH. IPRET.8).
9.4.8.IML.8	Apply deliberate and thoughtful search strategies to access high-quality information on climate change (e.g., 1.1.8.C1b).
9.4.8.TL.1	Construct a spreadsheet in order to analyze multiple data sets, identify relationships, and facilitate data-based decision-making.
9.4.8.TL.2	Gather data and digitally represent information to communicate a real-world problem (e.g., MS-ESS3-4, 6.1.8.EconET.1, 6.1.8.CivicsPR.4).
9.4.8.TL.3	Select appropriate tools to organize and present information digitally.

Rationale/Goals

This sixth-grade unit on Ancient Greece introduces students to one of the most influential civilizations in world history. Students will explore how Greece's geography, political systems, beliefs, and cultural achievements shaped the development of Western civilization. Through the study of Greek city-states, mythology, democracy, philosophy, art, literature, and military conflicts, students will examine how ancient Greeks contributed ideas and innovations that continue to impact modern society. This unit encourages students to analyze how geography influenced Greek life, how different forms of government developed, and how Greek achievements in science, politics, and culture continue to influence the world today.

Essential Questions: Main Essential Question

How did the geography, ideas, and achievements of Ancient Greece shape the development of the modern world?

Essential Questions: Guiding Questions

Unit Guiding Questions

- How did geography influence the development of Ancient Greek civilization?
- Why did Ancient Greece develop into independent city-states rather than one unified country?
- How did Greek ideas, beliefs, and achievements influence the modern world?
- How did government systems in Ancient Greece shape the way people lived?
- How did conflict and cooperation impact the growth of Greek civilization?
- What makes a civilization's achievements significant and lasting?

Geography of Ancient Greece

- How did Greece's mountains, islands, and seas influence settlement and trade?
- Why did Greek communities develop into separate city-states?
- How did the Mediterranean Sea affect Greek exploration and communication?
- How did geography influence the Greek economy and way of life?
- How did the geography of Greece compare with other ancient civilizations?

Greek City-States

- What was a Greek city-state, and how was it organized?
- How were Athens and Sparta similar and different?
- How did the governments of Athens and Sparta reflect their values?
- What role did citizens play in Greek city-states?
- How did social classes affect daily life in Ancient Greece?

Ancient Greek Religion and Mythology

- Why were Greek myths important to ancient Greek culture?
- How did Greek gods and goddesses influence daily life?
- What do Greek myths reveal about Greek values and beliefs?
- How did religion influence Greek art, literature, and traditions?

Athens and Democracy

- How did Athens develop the first democracy?
- What were the strengths and weaknesses of Athenian democracy?
- Who was allowed to participate in the Athenian government?
- How was Athenian democracy different from modern democracy?
- How did leaders such as Pericles influence Athens?

Sparta and Greek Society

- How did Sparta organize its society to create a strong military?
- Why was military training important in Spartan culture?
- How did Spartan government differ from Athenian government?
- What were the roles of men, women, and enslaved people in Sparta?
- What values did Spartan society emphasize?

Greek Conflicts

Persian Wars

- What caused the Persian Wars?
- How did the Greek city-states work together to defeat Persia?

- Why were battles such as Marathon and Thermopylae important?
- How did the Persian Wars affect Greek identity and power?

Peloponnesian War

- Why did Athens and Sparta become enemies?
- What were the causes and effects of the Peloponnesian War?
- How did the war change the balance of power in Greece?

Greek Philosophy

- Why did Greek philosophers seek explanations about the world?
- What questions did Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle explore?
- How did Socrates influence the way people think and learn?
- How did Plato's ideas influence government and education?
- How did Aristotle contribute to science, logic, and philosophy?
- How do Greek philosophical ideas continue to influence the world today?

Greek Achievements and Culture

- What achievements did Ancient Greece make in art, architecture, literature, and science?
- Why were Greek theaters and Olympic Games important?
- How did Greek architecture influence modern buildings?
- What contributions did Greek mathematicians and scientists make?
- How did Greek literature and storytelling influence future generations?

Alexander the Great and the Hellenistic Era

- How did Alexander the Great build one of the largest empires of the ancient world?
- How did Alexander spread Greek culture throughout his empire?
- What was the Hellenistic Era?
- How did Greek ideas mix with other cultures during the Hellenistic Era?

- What lasting contributions came from the Hellenistic world?

Vocabulary

People	Terms	Places/Events
Homer	Ancient Greece	Greece
Zeus	Balkan Peninsula	Balkan Peninsula
Athena	Peloponnesus (Peloponnese)	Peloponnese (Peloponnesus)
Poseidon	Aegean Sea	Aegean Sea
Hades	Ionian Sea	Ionian Sea
Solon	Mediterranean Sea	Mediterranean Sea
Cleisthenes	Crete	Crete
Pericles	Mountains	Mount Olympus
Leonidas I	Peninsula	Delphi
Draco	Island	Thermopylae
Darius I	Natural Harbor	Athens
Xerxes I	Polis (City-State)	Sparta
Themistocles	Democracy	Corinth
Leonidas I	Oligarchy	Thebes
Socrates	Monarchy	Olympia
Plato	Tyrant	Mycenae
Aristotle	Citizen	Troy
Homer	Assembly	Acropolis
Pythagoras	Council	Parthenon
Hippocrates	Jury	Rise of the Greek city-states (Poleis)
Archimedes	Constitution	Development of Athenian democracy
Euclid	Direct Democracy	Growth of Sparta as a military state
Philip II of Macedon	Republic	First Olympic Games

Alexander the Great	Rule of Law	Construction of the Parthenon
	Social Class	Mount Olympus
	Slavery	Delphi
	Athens	Temple of Apollo at Delphi
	Sparta	Olympia
	Helots	Development of Greek mythology
	Hoplite	Oracle of Delphi's influence on Greek leaders
	Phalanx	Religious festivals honoring the Greek gods
	Military Society	Ancient Olympic Games
	Education	Marathon
	Citizenship	Thermopylae
	Polytheism	Salamis
	Mythology	Plataea
	Olympians	Persian Empire
	Oracle	Ionian Revolt
	Oracle of Delphi	Persian Wars
	Mount Olympus	Battle of Marathon
	Zeus	Battle of Thermopylae
	Hera	Battle of Salamis
	Athena	Battle of Plataea
	Poseidon	Greek victory over Persia
	Hades	Athens
	Apollo	Acropolis
	Artemis	Parthenon
	Ares	Golden Age of Athens
	Aphrodite	Leadership of Pericles
	Hermes	Construction of the Parthenon

Persian Empire	Growth of democracy
Battle of Marathon	Advances in art, architecture, drama, and philosophy
Battle of Thermopylae	Athens
Battle of Salamis	Sparta
Persian Wars	Delos
Peloponnesian War	Peloponnese
Delian League	Formation of the Delian League
Peloponnesian League	Formation of the Peloponnesian League
Civil War	Peloponnesian War
Alliance	Defeat of Athens
Philosophy	Spartan victory
Socrates	Teachings of Socrates
Plato	Founding of Plato's Academy
Aristotle	Aristotle establishes the Lyceum
Logic	Growth of philosophy and scientific inquiry
Reason	Rise of Macedonia
Ethics	Philip II unites Greece
Olympics	Alexander the Great conquers the Persian Empire
Olympic Games	Founding of Alexandria
Theater	Beginning of the Hellenistic Era
Tragedy	Spread of Greek culture (Hellenization)
Comedy	Death of Alexander the Great
Architecture	Division of Alexander's Empire
Columns	
Parthenon	
Acropolis	
Sculpture	

Mathematics
Geometry
Medicine
Science
Astronomy
Macedonia
Philip II
Alexander the Great
Hellenistic Era
Cultural Diffusion
Empire
Conquest

Content/Enduring Understandings

Early Greek Civilization

Content Knowledge

- The Minoan and Mycenaean civilizations and their contributions.
- The impact of the Trojan War on Greek history and literature.
- The Greek Dark Age and its effects on society.
- The rise of the polis (city-state).

- The development of Greek culture and identity.

Greek City-States

Content Knowledge

- The organization and purpose of Greek city-states.
- The similarities and differences between Athens and Sparta.
- The governments of Athens and Sparta.
- The roles of citizens, women, enslaved people, and other social groups.
- Daily life, education, and military training in Greek society.

Greek Government

Content Knowledge

- The development of democracy in Athens.
- The roles of the Assembly, Council, and juries.
- The contributions of Solon, Cleisthenes, and Pericles.
- The strengths and limitations of Athenian democracy.
- Comparison of democracy, oligarchy, monarchy, and tyranny.

Greek Religion and Mythology

Content Knowledge

- Greek polytheism and the Olympian gods.
- The role of myths in explaining the natural world and teaching values.
- Religious festivals and ceremonies.
- The Oracle of Delphi and its influence.
- The importance of Mount Olympus and sacred sites.

Persian Wars and Peloponnesian War

Content Knowledge

- Causes and effects of the Persian Wars.
- Major battles, including Marathon, Thermopylae, Salamis, and Plataea.
- The growth of Athenian power after the Persian Wars.
- Causes and effects of the Peloponnesian War.
- The decline of Greek unity following the war.

Greek Philosophy and Achievements

Content Knowledge

- The teachings of Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle.
- Greek contributions to philosophy, science, mathematics, medicine, and history.
- Greek achievements in architecture, sculpture, theater, and literature.
- The Olympic Games and their significance.
- The lasting influence of Greek culture on later civilizations.

Macedonia and the Hellenistic Era

Content Knowledge

- The rise of Macedonia under Philip II.
- The leadership and military achievements of Alexander the Great.
- The spread of Greek culture throughout Alexander's empire.
- The characteristics of the Hellenistic Era.
- Cultural diffusion and the blending of Greek and other cultures.

Enduring Understandings

- **Geography influences the development of civilizations. Mountains, seas, and natural resources shaped the growth of Ancient Greece and its independent city-states.**
- Different forms of government reflect the values and needs of societies. The development of democracy in Athens and the military government of Sparta demonstrate different approaches to leadership and citizenship.
- Ideas and philosophies can have a lasting impact on the world. The teachings of Greek philosophers continue to influence education, government, ethics, and scientific thinking.
- Conflict can unite or divide civilizations. The Persian Wars strengthened Greek identity, while the Peloponnesian War weakened the Greek city-states.
- Culture, art, literature, and innovation leave lasting legacies. Ancient Greek achievements in architecture, theater, sports, mathematics, and science continue to shape modern society.
- Leadership can influence the rise and expansion of civilizations. Leaders such as Pericles, Philip II, and Alexander the Great transformed Greece and expanded its influence beyond its borders.
- The exchange of ideas between cultures shapes civilizations. The Hellenistic Era demonstrates how cultural diffusion can spread knowledge, beliefs, and innovations across regions.

Skills

- use geographic tools
- explain

- cause and effect
- use sources (primary and secondary)
- make evidence based inferences and claims
- cite textual evidence
- argue
- identify
- examine
- analyze
- cite primary and secondary sources
- assess
- compare and contrast

Learning Targets (examples)

Geography of Ancient Greece Learning Targets

- I can locate Ancient Greece and identify its major geographic features.
- I can explain how mountains, islands, and surrounding seas influenced Greek civilization.
- I can describe how geography led to the development of independent city-states.
- I can explain how trade and travel helped Ancient Greece grow.
- I can analyze the relationship between geography and the success of Ancient Greece.

Early Greek Civilization Learning Targets

- I can describe the achievements of the Minoan and Mycenaean civilizations.
- I can explain the importance of the Trojan War in Greek history and literature.
- I can describe how the Greek Dark Age affected the development of Greece.
- I can explain how the polis became the center of Greek life.

Greek City-States Learning Targets

- I can explain the purpose and characteristics of a Greek city-state.
- I can compare and contrast Athens and Sparta.
- I can describe the roles of citizens, women, and enslaved people in Greek society.
- I can explain how education and daily life differed between Athens and Sparta.
- I can analyze how different forms of government reflect the values of each city-state.

Greek Government Learning Targets

- I can explain how democracy developed in Athens.
- I can identify the roles of the Assembly, Council, and juries.
- I can describe the contributions of Solon, Cleisthenes, and Pericles.
- I can compare democracy, oligarchy, monarchy, and tyranny.
- I can evaluate the strengths and limitations of Athenian democracy.

Greek Religion and Mythology Learning Targets

- I can explain the importance of religion in Ancient Greece.
- I can identify the major Greek gods and goddesses.
- I can explain how myths reflected Greek beliefs and values.
- I can describe the importance of Mount Olympus and the Oracle of Delphi.
- I can explain how religion influenced Greek culture, festivals, and daily life.

Persian Wars and Peloponnesian War Learning Targets

- I can explain the causes of the Persian Wars.
- I can describe the significance of the Battles of Marathon, Thermopylae, Salamis, and Plataea.

- I can explain how the Persian Wars strengthened Greek civilization.
- I can explain the causes and effects of the Peloponnesian War.
- I can analyze how war changed the balance of power in Ancient Greece.

Greek Philosophy and Achievements Learning Targets

- I can identify the major ideas of Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle.
- I can explain how Greek philosophers influenced education, government, and science.
- I can identify important Greek achievements in art, architecture, theater, mathematics, medicine, and science.
- I can explain the significance of the Olympic Games.
- I can evaluate the lasting impact of Greek achievements on the modern world.

Macedonia and the Hellenistic Era Learning Targets

- I can explain how Philip II strengthened Macedonia.
- I can describe how Alexander the Great built a vast empire.
- I can explain how Alexander spread Greek culture throughout his empire.
- I can define the Hellenistic Era and describe its importance.
- I can explain how cultural diffusion influenced the spread of Greek ideas.

Evidence/Assessments

- tests/quizzes
- writing

- primary source analysis
- benchmark assessment
- image analysis
- map and chart analysis
- warm ups
- exit tickets

Resources (Savvas)

Topic	Lesson	Subtopics
Topic 6: Ancient Greece	Lesson 1: Early Years of Greece	<i>Main Focus</i>
		-How did geography shape the Greek World?
		-Who Influenced the Early Greeks?
		-Trojan War
		-Emergence of City-States
		<i>Additional Focus</i>
		-Minoans/Mycenaeans
		-polis/acropolis
		-aristocracy
		<i>Main Focus</i>
	Lessons 2: Democracy in Athens	-Experimenting with forms of government.
		-What is an oligarchy?
		-Military Tactics in Government (phalanx).
		-The World's First Democracy
		-The age of Pericles

-How did democracy work?

Additional Focus:

-citizenship

-direct vs representative democracy

Main Focus

-Sparta in contrast with Athens

-Military Training in Sparta

Lesson 3:

Oligarchy in Sparta

Additional Focus

-Education in Sparta

-Spartan Social Classes

-Unique Role of Women

Main Focus

-Social Divisions

-The Greek Economy

Lesson 4:

Society and Economic
Expansion

Additional Focus

-tenant farmer

-slavery

-trade in Athens

-the effects of expansion

Main Focus

Lessons 5:

Warfare in Ancient Greece

-The Persian Wars

-Battle of Marathon

-Battle of Salamis

- Battle of Thermopoly
- The Peloponnesian War

Additional Focus

- Athen's Alliance: Delian League
- Sparta Alliance: Peloponnesian League
-

Main Focus

- Greek Religion and Mythology
- Arts in Ancient Greece
- Greek Literature

Lesson 6:
Greek Beliefs and Arts

Additional Focus

- Olympian Gods/Goddesses
- The Olympics
- Painting and Sculpture
- Greek Literature (Homer: The Odyssey)
- Greek Drama
- Lyric Poetry

Main Focus

- Greek Philosophy (Socrates and Plato)

Lesson 7:
Greek Learning and
Philosophy

- Socratic Method
- How did politics shape Greece?
- Science and Technology
- Math and Medicine

Additional Focus

-Hippocratic Oath

Main Focus

-What fueled Macedonian Rise?

-Alexander the Great

-Hellenistic Period

-What is Hellenistic Learning?

Lesson 8:

Alexander and the Hellenistic
World

Additional Focus

-Spread of Greek Culture

Key Resources/Activities

- Savvas textbook
- Timelines
- Map Analysis
- BrainPop
- EdPuzzle
- Nearpod
- National Geographic
- Metropolitan Museum of Art
- TED-Ed
- PBS Learning Media
- History Channel Learning Videos
- Kahoot/Blooket Games
- Reading passages, Readworks, NewsELA
- Additional Films: Hercules, Percy Jackson: Lightning Thief

Interdisciplinary Connections

-ELA: IRA texts featuring autobiographical writings; *The Book Thief*/Boy in the Striped Pajamas literature study; Juneteenth picture books

RI.6.9.: Compare, contrast and reflect on (e.g. practical knowledge, historical/cultural context, and background knowledge) one author's presentation of events with that of another (e.g., a memoir written by and a biography on the same person).

-Math/Science: Volcanoes; Evolution of natural phenomena once attributed to Greek Gods.

MS-ESS2-2: Construct an explanation based on evidence for how geoscience processes have changed Earth's surface at varying time and spatial scales. [Clarification Statement: Emphasis is on how processes change Earth's surface at time and spatial scales that can be large (such as slow plate motions or the uplift of large mountain ranges) or small (such as rapid landslides or microscopic geochemical reactions), and how many geoscience processes (such as earthquakes, volcanoes, and meteor impacts) usually behave gradually but are punctuated by catastrophic events. Examples of geoscience processes include surface weathering and deposition by the movements of water, ice, and wind. Emphasis is on geoscience processes that shape local geographic features, where appropriate.]

-Art: Greek God visual representations

(MA:Pr4.1.6): Validate how integrating multiple contents and forms can support a central idea in a media artwork, such as media, narratives, and performance.

Intersections of History

Black:

- Connections between Ancient Greece and North Africa through trade and cultural exchange
- Greek contact with Egypt and other African civilizations
- African influences on the Hellenistic world
- Cultural exchange between Greece, Africa, and the Mediterranean

Hispanics:

- Connections between Ancient Greece and the Mediterranean region
- Trade and cultural exchange among Mediterranean peoples
- The spread of Greek culture into areas that later became part of Spain and the wider Mediterranean world
- How Greek ideas influenced later European and Mediterranean cultures

Women:

- The role of women in Athens and Sparta
- The unique role and greater freedoms of Spartan women
- Education and daily life for women in different Greek city-states
- Women's limited role in Athenian citizenship and government
- Comparing the lives and rights of women in Ancient Greece with women today