

Religion, Philosophy, and Art in Ancient Greece

- I. The Golden Age of Athens
 - A. Period from 479 to 431 B.C.
 - B. Sources of wealth
 - 1. Trade
 - 2. Silver
 - 3. Tribute
 - C. Pericles
 - 1. Powerful in Athenian politics
 - 2. Supported democracy
- II. Ancient Greek religious beliefs
 - A. Gods and goddesses
 - 1. Twelve great gods led by Zeus
 - 2. One god was honored by each city-state
 - B. The Oracles
 - 1. Sacred sites where gods spoke
 - 2. Heads of state often sought advice there
- III. Science and philosophy
 - A. Philosophers Thales and Democritus tried to understand nature
 - B. Sophists cleverly debated topics in public
 - C. Socrates asked questions that made people think about what they believed, but was condemned to death
 - D. Plato distrusted democracy
 - E. Aristotle believed reason should guide the pursuit of knowledge
- IV. Visual and dramatic arts
 - A. The Parthenon
 - 1. Temple to the goddess Athena
 - 2. Most magnificent work of Greek architecture
 - B. Dramas
 - 1. Athenians were first to write dramas
 - 2. Greek tragedies were famous
 - 3. Tragedies were performed as part of religious festivals
 - C. Comedies
 - 1. Made fun of well-known citizens and politicians
 - 2. Because of the freedom in Athens, people accepted the humor and jokes