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# Introduction

*Ancient Greece* is an exciting, whole language, interdisciplinary unit. Its pages are filled with a wide variety of lesson ideas, as well as reproducible pages, for use with intermediate and middle school students. The Ancient Greece theme is connected to the curriculum with individual, classroom, and cooperative learning activities in reading, language arts (written and oral), science, social studies, maths, art, music, and life skills.

This unit is divided into the following sections to allow for easy thematic planning: Geography; Early Greek Cultures; Government; Economy, Trade and Transportation; Religion; Society, Family, the Arts and Education; Hellenistic Greece; Achievements; Living History—A Day in Ancient Greece; and Literature Connection. The lessons are designed so that they can be used in conjunction with social studies and science textbooks.

This interdisciplinary unit includes the following:

- **Bulletin Board and Transparency Ideas**—provide motivational, interactive, and informative ideas
- **Curriculum Connections**—incorporate skills in maths, science, language arts, fine arts, and social studies
- **Visual and Performing Arts**—create opportunities for students in the areas of art, architecture, construction, drama, and music
- **Whole Language Experiences**—offer a wide variety of reading techniques, ideas for writing passages and poetry, and oral language activities
- **Group Projects and Activities**—foster cooperative learning strategies and critical thinking skills
- **Moments in Time**—transport students back in time through reading selections, readers theatre and reenactments
- **Living History—A Day in Ancient Greece**—provides research ideas, activities, and suggestions for re-creating a day in the life of the Ancient Greeks
- **Literature Connection: *Adventures of the Greek Heroes***—a book and activities related to the theme
- **Technology**—suggests uses of technology that can be integrated throughout the unit and correlated with the theme
- **Bibliography**—lists additional materials related to the theme

## Moments in Time—Readers Theatre

Each section has an informative and fun read-aloud play or narrative about Ancient Greece. Through reenactment, students will experience “going back in time.” Reproduce scripts for all the students so they can participate and/or read along as the plays or narratives are presented orally to the class. Use the scripts as springboards for introducing and discussing how the Ancient Greeks lived. Vocabulary and comprehension activities further students’ understanding and knowledge of this important civilisation.

# Pathos the Farmer

**Narrators 1–5**  
**Pathos**, a farmer  
**Dela**, his wife  
**Dorian**, his son

**Acropis**, a friend  
**Zetu**, a friend  
**Plutos**, a worker

**Narrator 1:** The land of Ancient Greece lies along the northern coast of the **Mediterranean Sea**. To the west is present-day Italy and Europe. To the east is Asia Minor, Turkey, and the Middle Eastern countries. The northern coast of Africa, including Egypt, sits to the south. Because of this prominent and strategic geographical position, Greece was able to establish itself as a major power of the Ancient World.

**Narrator 2:** Many geographical factors shaped the culture and history of the ancient civilisations. Travel back in time to visit with Pathos, a farmer and his family and friends. They will tell you of the wonders of this unique land and give you a tour of a typical farm in Ancient Greece.

**Pathos:** Welcome, my friends. We live bounded by water—between the **Aegean, Ionian, and Mediterranean seas**. Many people live on the mainland, or Peloponnesus Peninsula and many others have settled on the thousands of islands offshore. The very first Greek Civilisation was established on the large southern island of **Crete**. As with most Greek settlements, its development was greatly influenced by the sea and the land. The sea provided excellent fishing opportunities and the land was fertile.

**Dela:** Other groups of people eventually settled on the **Peloponnesus Peninsula** and islands scattered in the Aegean Sea. However, most of Greece is very mountainous. Mountains divide the mainland and the islands into small, isolated regions. These natural barriers make communication between the different settlements very difficult. So we have formed many close-knit communities independent of each other. We consider ourselves citizens of a local community rather than of a nation.

**Narrator 3:** We now call these groups **city-states**, although they were actually more like small towns. The rivalries between these many city-states became key issues in Greek history. What united these people and made them all Greek? It was their religious belief system and similarities in culture, shaped by this unique terrain.



# Make a Map

Use an atlas and the directions below to label the map of Ancient Greece.

1. Three seas have played an important role in the history of Greece. Label the following: Mediterranean Sea, Aegean Sea, Ionian Sea.
2. Label the following areas on the map: Persian Empire, Macedonia, Thessaly, Attica, Peloponnesus, Thrace.
3. Label the island of Crete and the city of Knossos, where Greek civilisation began.
4. Label the following important city-states: Mycenae, Troy (Abydos).
5. The Greeks believed their gods lived atop their highest mountain. Label Mount Olympus.
6. Label the following: Athens, Sparta, Delphi, Argos.

