

Name: _____
6th Grade Social Studies Unit 3 Study Guide

How to use:

- For each item in bold, create your own test question. Write the answer, too.
- Describe the major successes and challenges of the cultures and leaders discussed in this study guide (Ancient Greece, Rome, Alexander the Great, Julius Caesar, etc.)

1) Describe the influence of geography on the development Ancient Greece.



Geography helped shape early Greek civilization:

The Greeks lived on rocky, mountainous lands surrounded by water. The mainland is a peninsula, an area of land surrounded on three sides by water. It is mountainous and there are many islands. The coastline is rugged. Because mountains cover so much of Greece, there are few flat areas for farmland. Travel across the mountains and seas was difficult, so communities were isolated from one

another. As a result, the people created their own governments and ways of life. Even though they spoke the same language, Greek communities saw themselves as separate communities. Greek communities used the sea to travel and trade. The Greeks became skilled shipbuilders and sailors. As they traveled around these seas, they found sources of food and other products they needed. They also exchanged ideas with other cultures.

Trading cultures developed in the Minoan and Mycenaean civilizations: Many cultures settled and developed in Greece. Two of the earliest were the Minoans and the Mycenaens. These two civilizations influenced the entire regions and helped shape late cultures in Greece.

Minoans:	Mycenaeans:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Lived on an island, spent much of their time at sea -Traded goods such as olive oil, pottery, wood, etc. -Dangerous location (island, volcano) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Didn't speak Greek -Built fortresses all over Greek mainland - Set up colonies in Greece & Italy and shipped goods -Often attacked other kingdoms

The Greeks created city-states for protection and security:

The Greeks started to join together in small groups for protection and stability. Over time, these groups set up independent city-states. The greek word for a city-state is **polis**. Many had walls and fortresses for protection. City-states had farmers and marketplaces. City-states became the foundation of Greek civilization. People began to think of themselves as living in a city, not as Greeks. City-states traded with other city-states.

Conclusion: Greece's geography and its nearness to the sea strongly influenced the development of trade and the growth of city-states.

2) Describe the development of democracy from early political systems in Greece. Describe the essential elements of Greek city-state government that influenced the development of democracy. Analyze Athenian direct democracy. Compare and contrast Athens and Sparta by describing political, economic, and social factors of both city-states.

There were many ways to rule a Greek **polis**. In some city-states, much like river-valley civilizations, kings or monarchs ruled in a government called a **monarchy**. In time, some city-states adopted an **aristocracy**, a government ruled by a small group of noble, land-owning families.

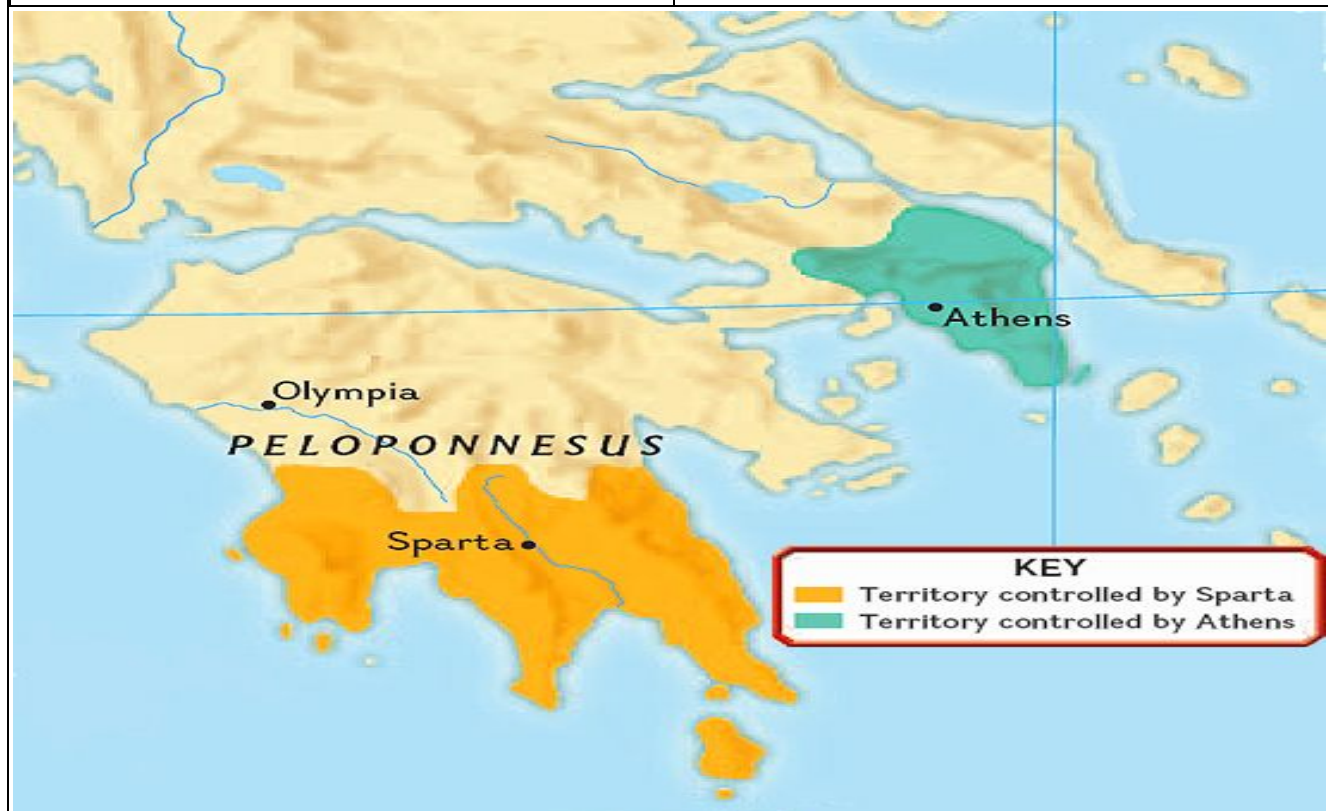
Later, as trade expanded, a new class of wealthy merchants and artisans emerged in some cities. When these groups became dissatisfied with aristocratic rule, they sometimes took power or shared it with nobility. They formed an **oligarchy**, a government ruled by a few powerful people.

Located on a rocky hill in eastern Greece, Athens lay to the north of Sparta. Athens was known for education, while Sparta was known for military. Like other city-states, Athens went through a power

struggle between rich and poor. However, Athenians avoided civil war by making timely reforms. Athenian reformers tried to create **democracy**, rule by the people. In Athens, citizens participated directly in political decision making.

Sparta was located in the southern part of Greece, isolated from the rest of Greece. Unlike other city-states, Sparta built a military state. Two groups governed Sparta. An assembly, composed of all free adult males, elected officials and voted on major issues. The second group was a Council of Elders. It proposed laws on which the assembly voted. Life in Sparta centered around military training.

Athens	Sparta
As an Athenian, you could get a good education and could pursue any of several kinds of arts or sciences. You could serve in the army or navy, but you didn't have to. (This applied only to boys, however: Girls were restricted to other pursuits, not war or business or education.)	Spartan life was simple. The focus was on obedience and war. Slavery made this possible by freeing the young men from household and industrial duties and allowing them to focus on their military duties. Young boys were trained to be warriors; young girls were trained to be mothers of warriors.



Conclusion:

The ancient Greeks were the first to create a **democracy**. The word “democracy” comes from two Greek words that mean people (*δημοκρατία*) and rule (*κρατία*). Democracy is the idea that the citizens of a country should take an active role in the government of their country and manage it directly or through elected representatives. In addition, it supports the idea that the people can replace their

government through peaceful transfers of power rather than violent uprising or revolution. Thus, a key part of democracy is that the people have a voice.

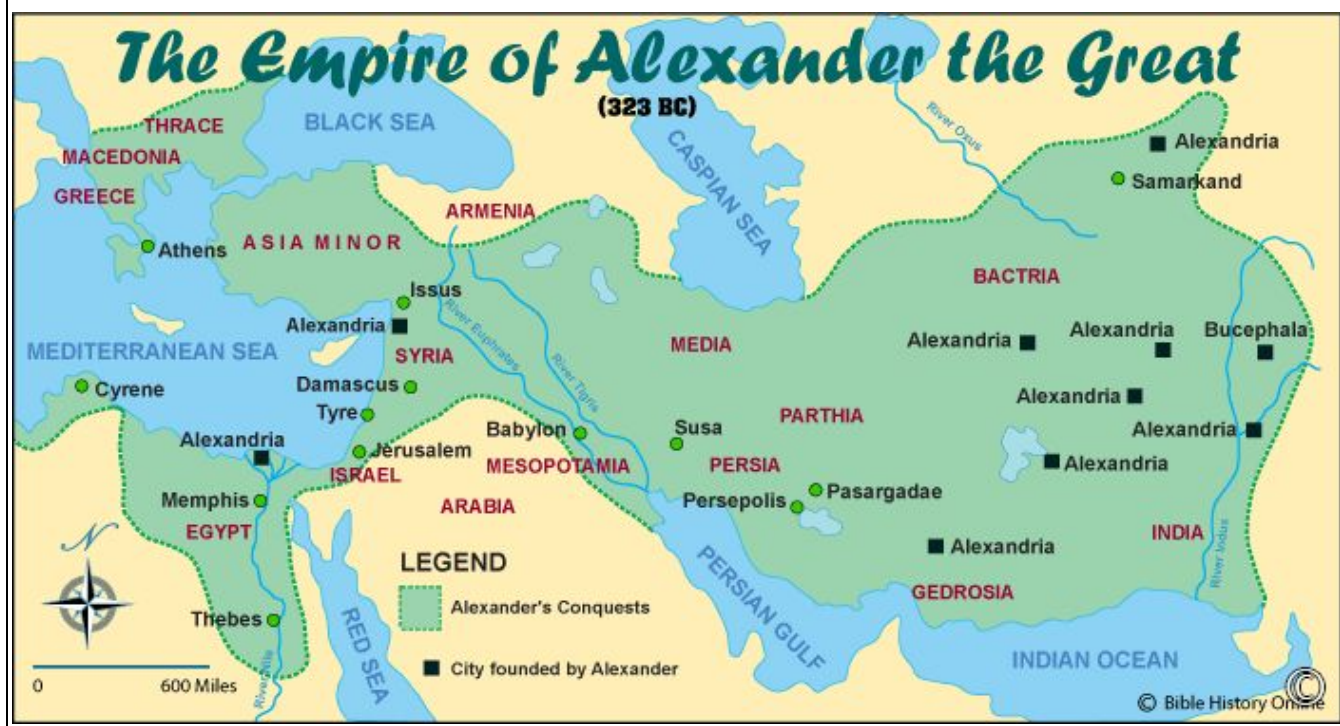
Explain the impact of Alexander the Great's conquests on the spread of Greek culture:

Alexander the Great, king of ancient Macedonia, built an empire that stretched from Greece to India. Years of fighting had weakened the Greek city-states. Macedonia, a kingdom in northern Greece, conquered the entire region. Then Alexander turned to the east and conquered the Persian Empire. When Alexander died, his generals divided his empire into separate kingdoms. Alexander's conquests led to the mixing of Greek culture with the cultures of conquered lands.

- Born in Pella, Macedonia
- Tutored by the Greek philosopher, Aristotle



- His father, Philip, was king of Macedonia, and had conquered the Greek city states during his 27 year reign



Hellenistic Culture

“Hellenistic” culture is the Greek culture that existed during and after the time of Alexander the Great. It was classical Greek culture blended with Egyptian, Persian and Indian influences.



Roman Republic to Roman Empire. Govt. and democracy.

Rome was founded as a small city-state, then became a republic, and eventually grew into a powerful empire. Rome became a republic in 509 B.C.E. The Republic came to have a democratic government. The Roman Republic gained land through conquest. As the republic grew, so did its army. Civil wars destroyed the Roman Republic. The republic became an empire by 27 B.C.E, led by a single ruler. The capital of the republic and the empire was the city of Rome. During the republic, the Democratic Senate was the most powerful government body. Under the Empire, the Senate had very little real power under the Emperor.

After the change from republic to empire, Roman territory continued to expand. At its height, the Roman Empire ruled the entire Mediterranean region. Strong Roman rulers brought peace and wealth to the region during a period called 'Pax Romana'. Roman roads and sea routes connected the empire. Long distance trade thrived. The Roman Empire included many different cultures. Trade and a common language helped unite the empire.

Roman empire was known for:

- Sanitation
- Construction
- Architecture
- Transportation

Decline of the Roman Empire:

Corrupt rulers and constant wars weakened the Roman Empire. By the end of the 400s, only the eastern half of the empire had survived. Civil wars, disease, and famine created disorder throughout the empire. At the same time, migrating barbarians from Europe and Asia invaded the empire. They claimed land for their own kingdoms. In 395 Roman territory was divided into the Western Empire and the Eastern Empire. By 476 the western lands were no longer under Roman control. The Eastern Empire continued to thrive.

What is a “barbarian”? The word **barbarian** comes from Greek insult to non-Greek speakers.

Roman Republic to Roman Empire

2 social classes:		3 part government : tripartite		
Working class	Wealthy	Consul	Senate	Assembly
Shopkeepers	landowners	Ran govt	made laws	elect consuls
Artisans	Ruling class	Led army	spending	watch out
Citizen	Citizen	Veto	taxes	rights of
Right to vote	Right to vote		foreign policy	commoners
Pay tax	Pay tax			
Less Status	Hold public			
No public office	office			

From Republic to Empire

Roman REPUBLIC	Roman EMPIRE
Who leads?	
Elected officials	Emperor
How long do they rule?	
One year	For life, although many were assassinated
How do new leaders take power?	
Appointed by Senate	By inheritance or by force

D The Republic ended when powerful generals seized control of the government. After about 20 years of civil war, a new government was established. The Roman Empire had begun.

Julius Caesar

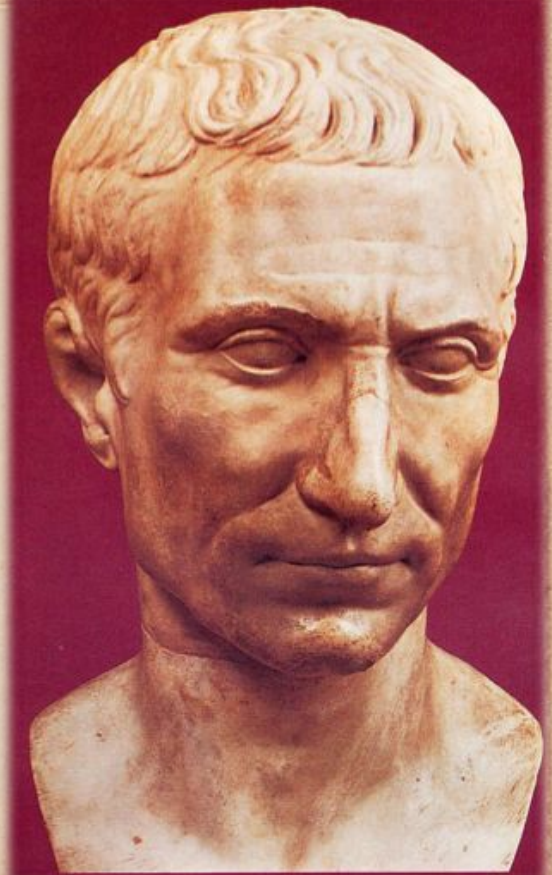
- Centralized military, governance under personal control
- Redistribution of land to war veterans, other allies
- Major building projects reduce urban unemployment
- Extended citizenship to provinces
- Aristocrats threatened, assassinate Caesar in 44 BCE



MyShared

Julius Caesar

- Ruled until 44 B.C.
- Ruled in tandem with the Senate and other leaders.
- Civil War broke out after his death.





Describe the influence of ancient Greece & Rome on later cultures.



Greek & Roman Influence

- Modern day ideas about democracy & republican government come from ancient govt of Greece & Rome.

What are some of the early ancient influences on democracy?

- Greece practiced direct democracy (all citizens vote directly on issues)
- Romans practiced representative democracy or republic (people elect representatives)



