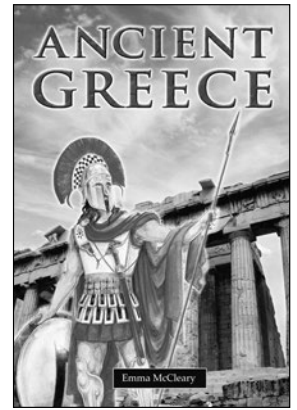


Ancient Greece

by Emma McCleary



Book Summary

Ancient Greece is where Western civilisation began. This book explores how the ancient Greeks' achievements in science, government, sports, and the arts still shape our lives today.

Features of the Book

- Report
- Comparisons with modern life
- Diagrams, maps, and photographs
- Connections with myths and legends
- Table of contents, glossary, and index

Purpose

Ancient Greece can be used to introduce and reinforce the following skills and understandings:

- S** asking questions;
- S** determining the main idea;
- S** exploring everyday life in ancient Greece and the contributions the early Greek culture has made to our world;
- S** making connections.

Investigation Tools

- Digging Deeper – Athens: Home of Democracy, page 6
- Step by Step – How the Ancient Greeks Made Olive Oil, page 10
- Weighing Both Sides – Men's Lives in Sparta, pages 12–13
- Looking Closer – A Town in Ancient Greece, pages 20–21
- Making Connections – Masks in Japanese Theatre, page 23
- What's the Background? – The Olympic Games, pages 26–27

The Guided Reading Lesson

- S** Asking questions
- S** Determining the main idea
- S** Exploring everyday life in ancient Greece and the contributions the early Greek culture has made to our world

Introducing the text

Review what the students know about ancient Greece. If they have very little background knowledge, you may want to build this before or during the lesson. If they have some prior knowledge, ask them to share their ideas with the group.

Read the front and back cover together, and review the contents page. Ask the students to make some predictions about the ideas in the book, and where possible, relate these to what they already know about the topic.

Tell the students that in this lesson, they will be practising the strategy of asking questions to deepen their understanding and to help determine the main idea of the book. Remind them that although the topic is clearly ancient Greece, the main idea may not be so obvious.

Reading and discussing the text

- *From what you already know about ancient Greece (or other ancient civilisations), what questions would you expect this book to answer?*

Write the students' ideas on the board, then read the introduction (page 3) together.

- *Why do you think the author wants us to "keep reading"?*
- *As you read, look for clues to the author's most important points about ancient Greece. Remember to keep your questions in mind and to suggest more questions as you think of them.*

Either assign chapters and questions to pairs of students or have everyone read the book chapter by chapter. Add to the list of questions and use some or all of the questions below to guide discussion as the students read the book.

- *Ancient Greece was a democracy, so why do you think males were treated differently from females? Why were slaves treated differently from citizens?*
- *What is your opinion of slavery in ancient Greece?*
- *What comparisons can you make between life in an ancient Greek city and life in a modern city? Was life better then? Why?*
- *What do you think the author wants us to understand about religion in ancient Greece?*
- *What aspects of ancient Greek civilisation does the author think we have learned from? Why might she think that? What clues tell you that?*

Read the conclusion together.

- *What were the most important ideas that the author wanted us to understand?*
- *This book is written for a school-aged audience. How might this affect the ideas and information the author wanted to convey?*
- *What other ways has ancient Greek culture influenced our lives today?*
- *What further questions do you have and how could you find answers?*


Review the strategies of asking questions to determine the main ideas of a text. Explain that determining the main idea often involves looking for an author's underlying message. Readers can't always be sure of what an author intends, but by applying their own knowledge and looking for clues in the text, they can make a good attempt.

Revisiting the Text

The activities below can be used immediately after the guided reading lesson, during later reading sessions as mini-lessons, or as independent activities.

S Asking questions

S Exploring everyday life in ancient Greece and the contributions the early Greek culture has made to our world

 Ask the students to think about the contributions that early Greek culture has made to our world. Encourage them to ask questions to find out more about these contributions and why they have had such a lasting influence. The students can use copies of the blackline master to record and categorise their questions.

S Making connections

The students can investigate one aspect of life in ancient Greece that is similar to life now. They can use the information on page 23 as a model.”