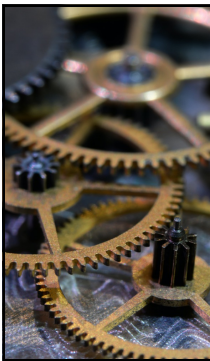




Athens in the Classical Period

History of Ancient Greece | Meeting #9

1



Upcoming Dates

- Monday, November 17
Birds Essay Due
- Monday, December 15
Position Paper Due
- Sunday, November 2
Responses for Week 9 Due

2

Five things today

- *Clouds*
- History
- Athenian philosophy
- Athens walking tour
- The Undeclared War

3



4

Quiz #6: Athens in the Classical Period

- People who taught the skill of arguing a question from any or all positions, as part of the art of rhetoric, in classical Athens were called:
☐ a. humanists
☐ b. sophists
☒ c. rhetoricians
☐ d. philosophers
- All of the following are true of barriers protecting the crucial road connecting Athens and its port, the Piraeus, EXCEPT:
☐ a. They were built in the mid-5th century, during the Peloponnesian War
☒ b. The walls had no military importance and were put up to keep traders from trespassing on nearby farms
☐ c. They were constructed to prevent Athens from being besieged and cut off from supplies
☐ d. They were known as "the Long Walls"
- The philosophical debates over *nómos* vs. *physis* arose from the difficulty classical Athenians had in answering the question:
☒ a. What is the source of morality and justice? How do we agree on what is right or wrong?
☐ b. Do humans have free will, or is their behavior determined by forces beyond their control?
☐ c. What happens after death? Is there one, suffering, or none at all?
☐ d. Is a *kyō*-*tsū* a sandwich?
- All of the following are true of the Parthenon temple EXCEPT:
☐ a. It is situated on the Acropolis
☒ b. It was a place for the entire Athenian populace to regularly gather together inside and worship Athena as a congregation
☐ c. The Athenian treasury was kept in the back
☐ d. It was named for, and meant to be the home of, Athena the Virgin (and her statue)
- The agora was a place where:
☐ a. merchants sold and traded goods
☐ b. citizens gathered for social, political, and religious events
☐ c. government buildings and meetings were located
☒ d. all of the above

Extra Credit

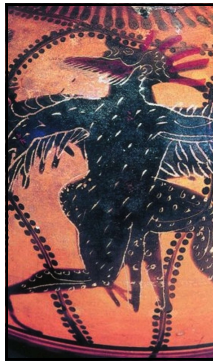
1C. For today you read the rest of Birds. What stood out to you about the depictions of the various gods? What do you think Aristophanes was trying to say about them?

5



Responses

6



Birds

- The birds and the gods
 - The birds' claim of superior divinity (grandchildren of Erebus)
- Pisthetaerus's increasing autocracy
- Unwelcome visitors

- Poet	- Rebellious youth
- Prophecy-seller	- Another poet (Cinesias)
- Famous geometer (Meton)	- Sycophant
- Athenian inspector	
- Law-seller	
- Parabasis: award us first place or you will be shit on
- Gods and legends
 - Iris infiltrates
 - Prometheus: advice on dealing with Zeus
 - Poseidon, Heracles, and the barbarian god Triballus
 - Sovereignty presents Pisthetaerus with Zeus's scepter

7



Birds overview

- What is *Birds* about?
- Is it political, social, or just broadly cynical?
- What does *Birds* tell us about Athens?

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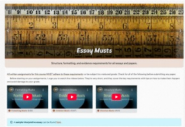


The *Birds* Essay

- Goal: Use *Birds* and one other work to say something about Athens and its culture
- Choice of three topics
- Make an argument (thesis)
- Choose three key moments that illustrate your thesis
- Compare to similar moments in another work from another work from ancient Athens

9

Guidance and resources



10

Birds essay options

Choose your topic from one of the three prompts below.

Option A	Option B	Option C
The use of fantasy. <i>Birds</i> uses the fantastic scenario of creating Cloudcuckooland and meeting messengers and legendary figures to comment on real issues of concern to Aristophanes. How does this compare to other ancient Greek works that use elements of fantasy or the idea of utopia to discuss matters of contemporary concern?	Aristophanes's agenda. The surviving plays of Aristophanes range over a long and turbulent period of Athenian history. Do Aristophanes's opinions and technique change over time? Discuss the consistency of Aristophanes's approach to writing, and the evolution of his overall philosophy across this most troubled period. What themes and ideas are present in both plays? Is his approach, methodology, or agenda consistent? If not, how does it change?	Gods and mortals. <i>Birds</i> uses both gods and animals as a contrast to humans. How do other plays contrast mortal humans with the gods? In what ways do the similarities or differences in <i>Birds</i> provide insight into what Aristophanes was trying to say?

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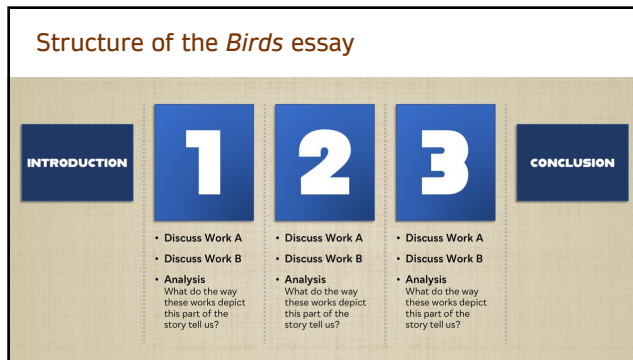
Birds essay options

Choose a second work to compare with *Birds*.

Option A	Option B	Option C
For the "Use of fantasy" option, choose another work from ancient Greece that uses elements of fantasy to compare to <i>Birds</i>. Popular options include: • <i>Oedipus at Colonus</i> by Sophocles, in which Oedipus seeks the sanctuary of a mystical sacred grove that helps him transform himself; • <i>Cyclops</i> by Euripides, featuring the Cyclops from Homer's <i>Odyssey</i> and a chorus of satyrs; • <i>Assemblywomen</i> by Aristophanes, which involves the women taking to create an ideal Athens; and • <i>Republic</i> by Plato, which outlines an ideal city-state according to Plato's philosophy. (Use an outline to focus on a few key sections that might be useful examples.)	For the "Aristophanes's agenda" option, choose another play by Aristophanes to compare with <i>Birds</i>. Popular options include: • <i>Frogs</i>, mounted in 405 BCE, in which Dionysus, bored with contemporary Athenian plays, travels to Hades to bring back a dead playwright; • <i>Clouds</i>, mounted in 423, in which a farmer seeks to learn false speech to rid himself of debts; and • <i>Wealth</i>, mounted in 388, involving the god of wealth and his inability to tell good men from bad. • Any of the 11 surviving plays is fair game. Full texts in English are also available (links on the essay page).	For the "Gods and mortals" option, choose another work from ancient Greece that depicts the gods to compare to <i>Birds</i>. Popular options include: • <i>Eumenides</i> by Aeschylus, which involves the Furies hazing Orestes for killing his mother, and Athena and Apollo testifying on his behalf in an Athenian court; • <i>Bacchae</i> by Euripides, which has Dionysus punishing Thebes for ignoring his honors by driving the women into a frenzy; and • <i>Hippolytus</i> by Euripides, which has Aphrodite plotting against Theseus's illegitimate son Hippolytus, a follower of Artemis. • There are other possibilities as well.

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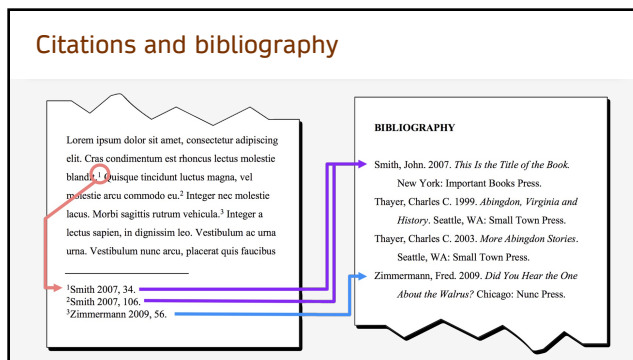
Structure of the *Birds* essay



13

[illegible]

Citations and bibliography



14

[illegible]

Citing a play or poem

[illegible]

15

Questions about whatever



16

Athenian Democracy

17

What are the problems with democracy?

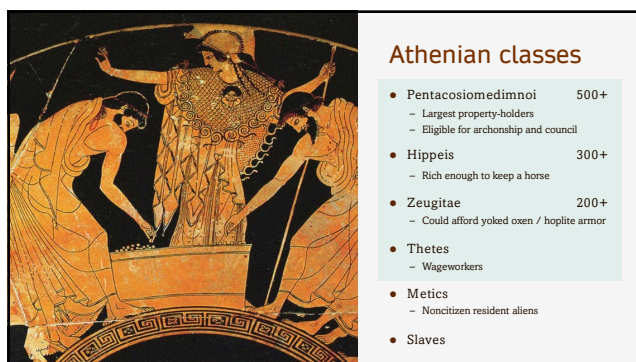
- Burden on voters
 - Travel required
 - Free time required
- Faction
- Demagoguery
- Tyranny of the Majority
- Ostracism



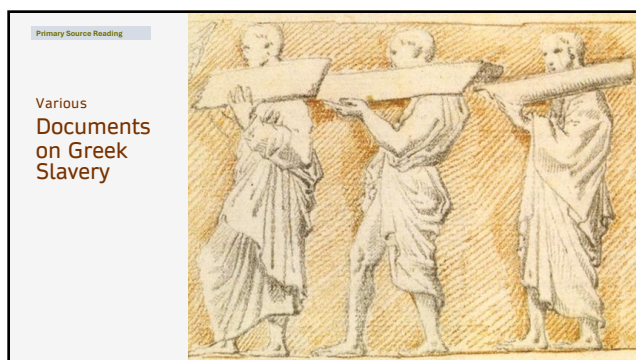
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20



21

The Age of Perikles

22



Perikles

- Member of the board of strategi
- Consistently prominent figure in Athenian politics
- Dominant voice in the move to raise Athens higher
 - Military and cultural hegemony
 - Use of the Delian League to assert dominance
 - "City on the hill"

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Primary Source Reading

Plutarch
Pericles and
Cimon



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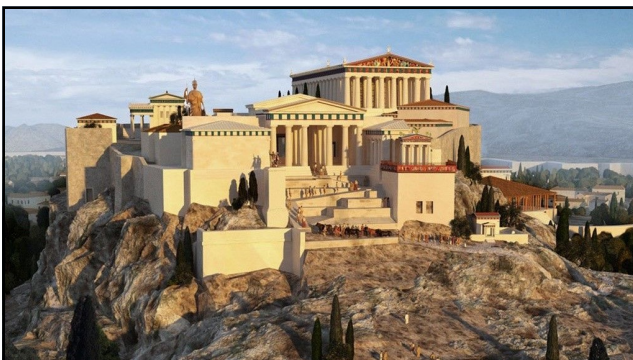
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Verbal arts

- Philosophy and rhetoric
- Lyric poetry
- Tragedy
 - Aeschylus
 - Sophocles
 - Euripides
- Comedy
 - Aristophanes

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Athenian thinkers

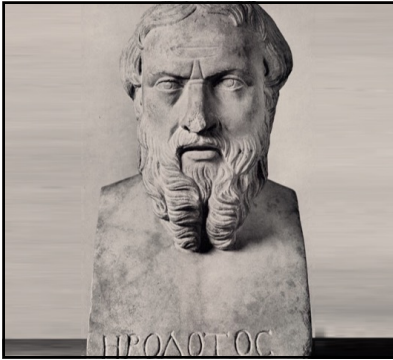
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Classical Athens

- Expansion and patronage of creative expression
- Build up and expansion of Athenian monuments and structures
- Escalation of Athenian influence

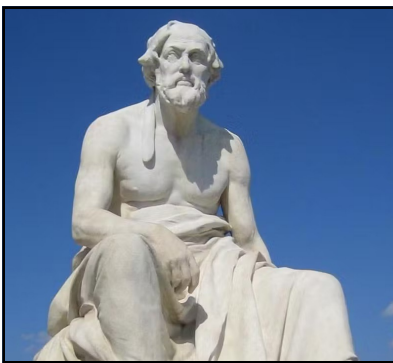
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Herodotus

- "Father of history"
- Told the story of the Persian Wars
- Approach to history?
- Overall focus
 - Social
 - Anecdotal and subjective
 - Focus on human nature

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Thucydides

- General who fought in the Peloponnesian War
- Main source for the Peloponnesian War
- Approach to history?
- Overall focus
 - Key factors causes of major events
 - Evidence-based and objective
 - Focus on making an argument and supporting with narrative evidence

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Natural philosophy

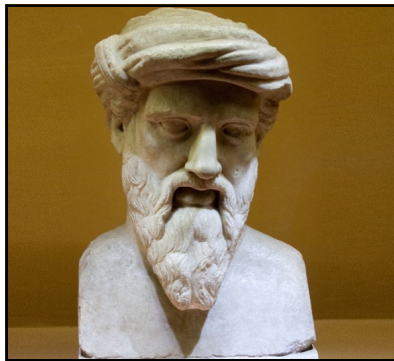
- Chaos ("expanse")
 - Primordial void / unformed mass
 - First thing to exist
 - First gods created from its substance
- Cosmos ("order")
 - Order and structure brought to the chaos
- Strong contrast
 - Chaos is the alternative to cosmos
 - Chaos is before / outside
 - Earth (place of order) vs. space (above or below)
 - Discussed in *Birds*
- Nous ("awareness")
 - Human genius
 - Faculty of the human mind necessary for understanding what is true or real
 - Source of reason and cosmos

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Natural philosophy

- Anaxagoras
 - Attempted to give a scientific account of eclipses, meteors, rainbows, and the sun
 - Famous for introducing the cosmological concept of *Nous* (mind), as an ordering force
- Empedocles
 - Originator of the cosmogenic theory of the four classical elements (earth, water, air, fire)
- Leucippus and Democritus
 - Everything is composed entirely of various imperishable, indivisible elements called atoms
- Hippocrates
 - Father of Western medicine
 - Use of prognosis and clinical observation, the systematic categorization of diseases, or the formulation of humoral theory

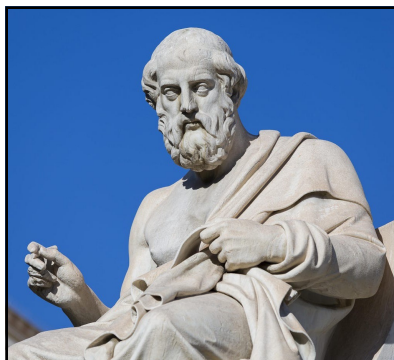
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Pythagoras

- From Samos, sixth century
- Key ideas
 - Mathematical and scientific discoveries
 - Music and harmony
 - The rationality of aesthetics
- Founder of Pythagoreanism
 - Transmigration of souls
 - Communal life
- Saw himself as a lover of wisdom ("philosopher")

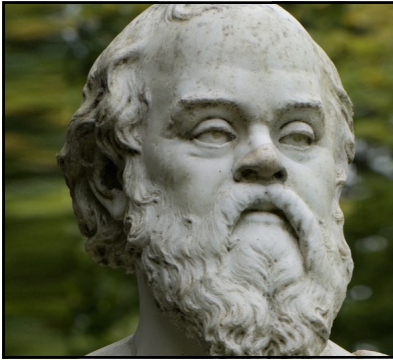
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Protagoras

- From Abdera, sixth century
- Considered a sophist
- "Nomos" philosophy
 - "Of all things the measure is Man, of the things that are, that they are, and of the things that are not, that they are not"

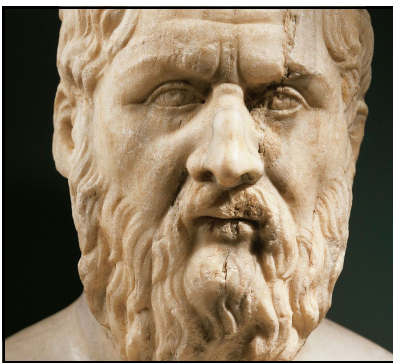
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Socrates

- Sought universal truths by eliminating unreason
- Process was to ask a series of questions that exposed irrational and superstitious thought
- Never wrote anything
 - Change created through dialog
 - Known through the writings of Plato
- Traditionalists saw him as a threat to order
 - Subject of Aristophanes's *Clouds*
 - Executed in 399 for irreligion and corruption of the youth
- Then and now considered the founder of modern philosophy

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Plato

- Student of Plato
- Comes across as more pessimistic about human nature
- Key works
 - Dialogs of Socrates
 - *Republic*

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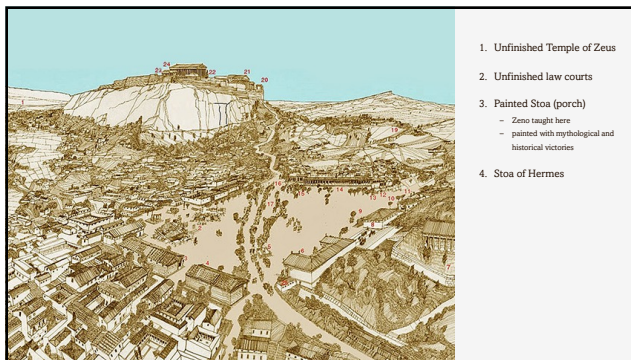
Aristotle

- "Third generation" of Socratic philosophy
- Practical application of philosophy
 - Surveyed existing knowledge in many fields—politics, theater, poetry
 - Examined what worked and what did not
 - Derived basic principles
- Tutor of Alexander the Great

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Classical Athens

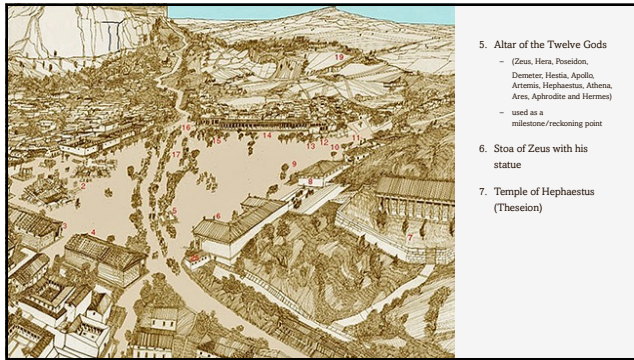
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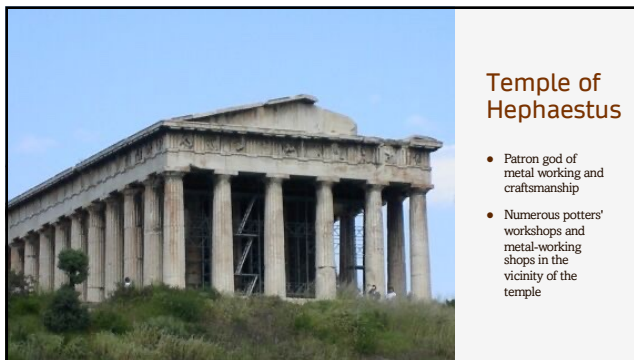


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5. Altar of the Twelve Gods
 - (Zeus, Hera, Poseidon, Demeter, Hestia, Apollo, Artemis, Hephaestus, Athena, Ares, Aphrodite and Hermes)
 - used as a milestone/reckoning point
6. Stoa of Zeus with his statue
7. Temple of Hephaestus (Theseion)

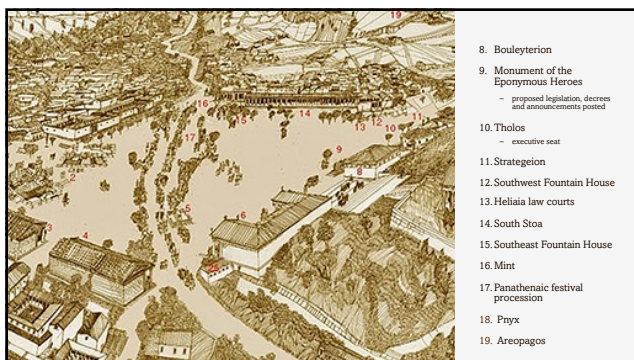
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Temple of Hephaestus

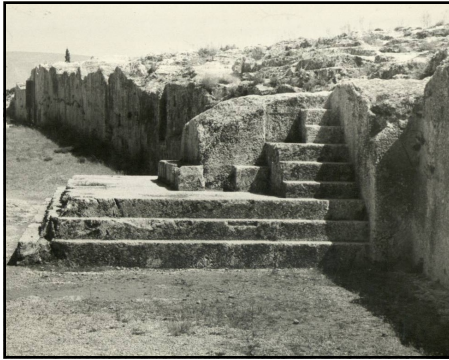
- Patron god of metal working and craftsmanship
- Numerous potters' workshops and metal-working shops in the vicinity of the temple

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8. Bouleuterion
9. Monument of the Eponymous Heroes
 - proposed legislation, decrees and announcements posted
10. Tholos
 - executive seat
11. Strategeion
12. Southwest Fountain House
13. Heliia law courts
14. South Stoa
15. Southeast Fountain House
16. Mint
17. Panathenaic festival procession
18. Pryx
19. Areopagos

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Pnyx

- Meeting place of the assembly
- Speakers' platform still stands

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Areopagos

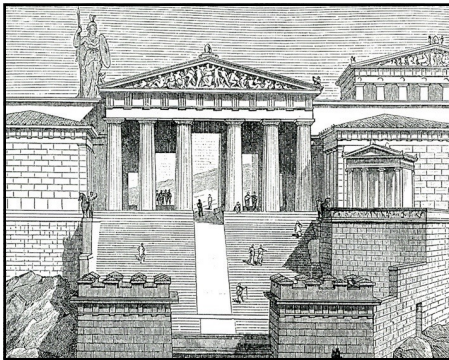
- Meeting place of the boulē (council)

50



- 20. Temple of Athena Nike
- 21. Propylaia
 - monumental gateway
- 22. Statue of Athena Promachos
 - "Athena who fights in the front line"
 - colossal bronze statue of Athena
- 23. Erechtheum
- 24. Parthenon
- 25. Royal Stoa

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Propylaea

- Partition between secular and sacred parts of Athens

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Statue of Athena Promachos

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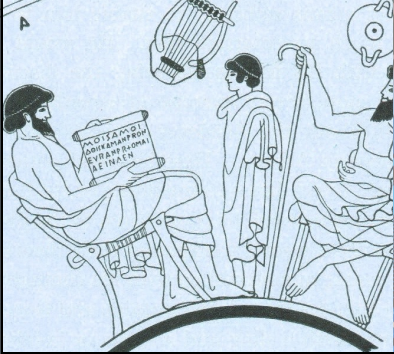
Temple of Athena Nike



Temple of Athena Parthenos



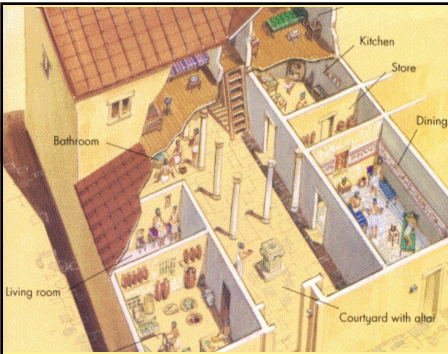
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Education

- Education was private and diverse
 - Anyone could open a school and charge various rates
 - Even poor families sent their sons to school for a couple years
- Longer-term schooling (ages 7-14) in three areas
 - Gymnastics (including athletics, sport, and wrestling)
 - Music (including poetry, drama, and history)
 - Writing and literacy
- Sophists taught specialized subjects
 - Rhetoric, mathematics, geography, natural history, politics, and logic

55



Athenian houses

- Public and private areas

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Gynaecium

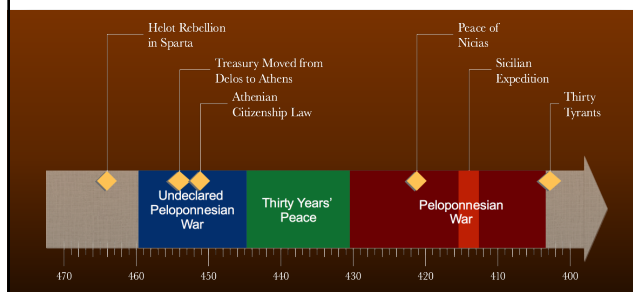
- Women's apartments
- Forbidden to guests

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The Undeclared War

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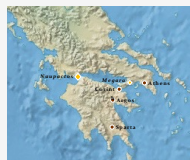
Timeline: Peloponnesian Wars



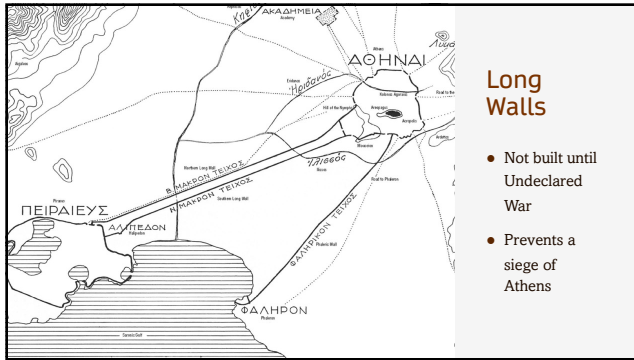
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The Undeclared War – Causes

- Naming of the war
 - Conflict between Delian League and Peloponnesian League
 - Undeclared — sporadic battles
- Trade rivalry
 - Two maritime commercial powers — Athens and Corinth
- Megara
 - Switches sides out of fear of Corinth
 - Hands Athenians an important port
- Helot rebellion
 - Earthquake leads to uprising
 - Helots relocated to Naupactos
- Corinth goes to war with Athens
- Athens builds the Long Walls



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Long Walls

- Not built until Undeclared War
- Prevents a siege of Athens

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The Undeclared War

- Sparta dragged into war by Corinth
- Athens could have sued for peace
- Instead overextends itself in Egypt

62

The Thirty Years' Peace

- Neither side interferes with allies of the other
- Neutrals free to join either side
- Arbitration of disagreements
- No one can switch sides
- Sparta and Athens can use force within their alliances

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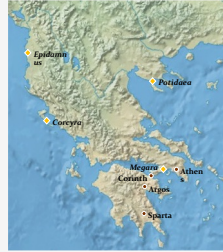
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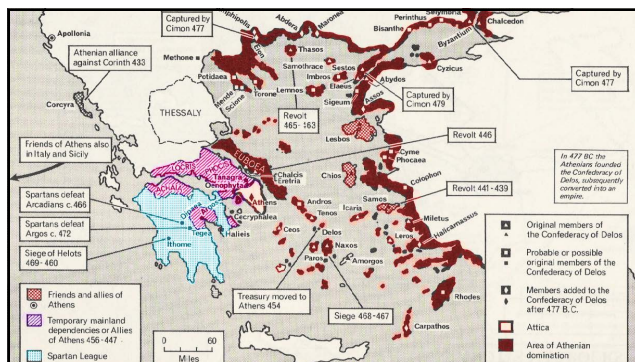
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Breakdown of the Peace

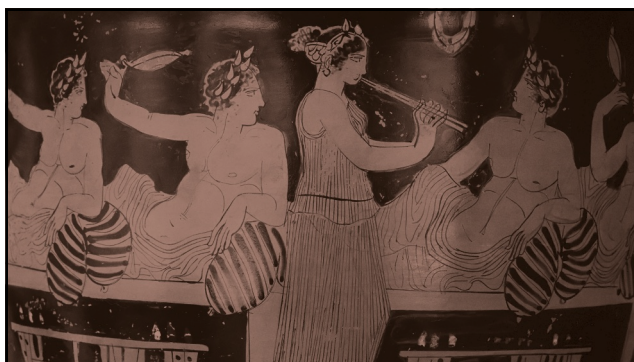
- Epidamnus and Corcyra
- Potidaean Ultimatum
- Megaran Decrees



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68



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