

Classical Greece - High Culture

Greek Religion

- Complex set of gods and goddesses
 - o Regulated different aspects of human life
 - o Patron gods presiding over different activities
 - Ex. Metalworking
- Religious ceremonies
 - o Given importance in Greek society on grand scale
 - Regular ceremonies for health and harvest
 - o Little solace for everyday people
 - Stories of origins but not ethical behavior
- Mythology
 - o Stories of gods and goddesses
 - o Served as inquiry of human nature

Greek Philosophy

- Tended to focus on speculations on nature's order
 - o Ex. Planetary movement
- Advancements in Geometry

Aristotle

- Stressed importance of moderation and balance
- Interested in collection biological data

Stoics

- Inner Moral Independence
 - o Strict discipline of the body and personal bravery

Socrates

- Encouraged the questioning of conventional wisdom
 - o Basis: Human duty is improvement of the soul
- Idea of Socratic questioning becomes recurrent theme in classical Greece

Plato

- Student of Socrates
- Stressed three perfect forms
 - o Good
 - o True
 - o Beautiful
- Celebrated of human ability to think
- Similar to Confucius
 - o Exception – Skepticism

Greek Art

Architecture

- Temples
- Governmental buildings
- Square or rectangular shape
- Columns
- Pioneered Doric, Ionic, Corinthian (Classical) Architectural style

Ceramics

Statues

- Greek Heroes and Gods
- Athletes

Theater/Literature

- Plays and stories conveying glory of the gods
- Dramas
 - o Deep insight into "Human Condition"
- Poetry
- Comedies
- Tragedy
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Sophocles – Dramatist

Homer – Epic Tradition

Herodotus – Father of History

Euripides – Tragedian