

# Introduction

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3:49 PM

## Xaipete! (Hello)

X (chi) k-h pronounced as in k(h)it  
P (rho) = r

**Xaipete** to more than 1  
**Xaipe** to 1 person

Medusa the Gorgon and Pegasus (her child), who was born out of Medusa's severed head.

Greeks invented drama, theatre, scripts, sets, awards.

## What is Ancient Greek civilization?

### Ancient

- **BCE** (before the common era), BC (before Christ), BP (before present).
- Divided into pre-historic (no written history) and historic.

#### Pre-historic

- Palaeolithic ("old stone ") (100,000 - 10,000 BCE)
- Mesolithic ("middle stone") (10,000 - 6,000 BCE)
- Neolithic ("new stone") (6,000 - 3,000 BCE)
- The Bronze Age (3,000 - 1,100 BCE)
- Dark/Iron Age (1,100 - 750 BCE)

*Don't need to know exact dates, just sequence*

According to **Hesiod**, the pre-historic ages were:

- Gold Age (no one had to work, everything just appeared for them)
- Silver Age
- Bronze Age
- Heroic Age (Trojan War)
- Iron (When Hesiod lived; thought it was very depressing)

### Historic

- Herodotus of Halicarnassus (484 -c. 420 BCE) "The Father of History"
- Started to ask questions, **historia**.

*"-c" means circa (around)*

#### Historic Eras

- Archaic (750 - 490 BCE)
- Classical (490 - 323 BCE)
- Hellenistic (323 - 31 BCE)
- **Roman (31-323 CE)**
- **Byzantine (323 - 1453 CE)**
- **Ottoman (1453 - CE)**

*Aren't studying the highlighted eras.*

### "Greek"

- **Graeci** (Latin Word), what the Greeks were called by the Romans.
- **Hellenes**, what the Greeks called themselves. Comes from the name Hellen (male form of Helen), son of the Greek equivalent of Noah. All Greeks are descended from Hellen.
- Lived in **Hellas** (the name of their country).
- What makes a Hellene? Two things they had in common...

#### 1) Language

- Belonged to the Indo European
- 3 main dialects (Dorian, Ionian, Aeolian)

#### 2) Religion

- Polytheistic
- Same rituals and festivals
- Around 2000-c BCE both appeared in Hellas.

### "Civilization"

- Hellenes were the first civilized Europeans.

### 5 criteria for civilization:

- 1) Agriculture
- 2) Towns of 5000+
- 3) Monumental buildings (big buildings, ie: temples)
- 4) Metallurgy (working of metals)
- 5) System of Writing

*ATMMS*

## Who got the credit for teaching the Hellenes the elements of civilization?

Prometheus (son of a Titan)

- Got credit for elements of civilization.

## Hellas

Hellenes inhabited three of the continents.

### Topography

- Mountains (difficult to communicate by land) and valleys (18% of Hellas is fit for growing food)
- Islands, many of which are drowned mountains
- Sea (Ionian, Aegean, Mediterranean, and Black Sea)... good communication routes (tide-less with good visibility). Setting for mythical voyages (Jason), climate moderators.

### Climate

- Winter is mild and rainy.
- Summer is hot and dry
- As a result:
  - 1) Most activities occur outdoors: social, political, legal, entertainment, religion, sport, etc.
  - 2) Winter agricultural cycle (plant crops in fall and harvest in spring)

Climate + topography determined diet.

Diet is called "**Mediterranean Triad**" ... grain, grapes (wine, all Greeks from childhood drank diluted water), olives.

### Grain

- Barley
- Wheat
- Goddess of Grain, Demeter.

### Grapes

- God of wine, Dionysus

### Olives

- Athena is the Goddess of olives.
- Olive tree is beaten to get olives, which are then collected and pressed to be used for olive oil.
- Uses of olive oil:
  - 1) Cooking
  - 2) Eating
  - 3) Light (used in oil lamps)
  - 4) Lubrication
  - 5) Religion (ceremonies, offered to the Gods)
  - 6) Medicine
  - 7) Perfume base

## Sources of Information (How do we know about the Greeks?)

- Written... histories, drinking songs, plays, manuals, epics
- **Epigraphy** ("Stone writing")... writing on stones, laws, accounts, etc. are written on stone
- **Papyrology**... writing on papyrus (somewhat like paper, exported from Egypt)... Used to wrap and stuff mummies, provides information to modern day.
- **Archaeological** (material remains)
  - 1) Art (sculptures, vase painting, jewellery)
  - 2) Graves
  - 3) Architecture (temples, tombs, fortifications, ship wrecks)