

Famous Ancient Greeks

Ancient Greece was a hotbed of famous people from inventors to philosophers to doctors. Some of the most notable are still leaving their mark on life today.

Hippocrates

Hippocrates was a famous Greek doctor. He was one of the first people to notice that medicine should be a different part of science to philosophy. Additionally, he was one of the first doctors to identify lung cancer and heart disease. Doctors today have to pledge to follow the Hippocratic Oath. This was named after Hippocrates.

Aristotle

Aristotle was a famous Greek philosopher. He was taught by another philosopher, Plato. Aristotle went on to tutor Alexander the Great and devise an entirely new system of philosophy. He was also an avid writer and wrote many poems. Many of his ideas about the world around him were far ahead of their time. Most weren't proved to be valid until the 19th century.

Alexander The Great

Nobody knew who Alexander's father was. He grew up to commit great deeds, so people soon believed he was actually the son of Zeus. He was tutored by Aristotle until he was 16 years old when he became King of Macedonia. He used the Macedonian and Greek armies to launch a 10-year campaign. During these wars, he captured large sections of Europe and Persia. He died a hero aged 33.

Archimedes

Archimedes was a Greek engineer. He was also an inventor, philosopher, astronomer and mathematician. He allegedly ran down the street naked once after he came up with an idea in the bath. He also played an essential tactical role in helping the Greek army defend against the Romans. Archimedes was the first person to arrive at the value of Pi. He also invented the formulae to calculate the volume of a sphere and a cylinder.



Pythagoras

Pythagoras was a prominent mathematician who created the formula to calculate the sides of a right-angle triangle. Pythagoras was so renowned that on one of his trips he was followed by 300 people who worshipped him as the god Apollo! Pythagoras was also one of the first people to suggest that the Earth orbits around the sun and not the other way around. This wasn't proved until nearly 2000 years later!

Homer

The Ancient Greek Homer was an author who wrote the Iliad and the Odyssey. These are two of the greatest epic poems ever written and have inspired writers throughout history. He was the first person to tell the story of Troy and the Trojan Horse, as well as the story of Achilles.



VOCABULARY FOCUS

1. What does the phrase "hotbed of famous people" tell you about Ancient Greece?
2. Find a word or phrase that means something was correct.
3. What are deeds?
4. Find a word or phrase that tells the reader how important Archimedes was to the army.
5. Which word has been used to describe Pythagoras that means he was famous?

VIPERS QUESTIONS

I

Why do you think doctors named the Hippocratic Oath after Hippocrates?

R

Who wrote the Iliad and Odyssey?

R

Who did his followers think Pythagoras was?

S

Why did Aristotle stop tutoring Alexander the Great?

P

Which of today's famous people do you think will still be remembered in 3,000 years? Explain why.