

The Golden Age of Greek Culture?

THE GREEKS—SECTION

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Today

1. Introduction
2. Presentations
 - a. [REDACTED]: Pindar, *Poems*
 - b. [REDACTED]: Plato, *Crito*, *Protagoras*
3. The 5th Century as a Cultural Golden Age?
 - a. What Is a “Golden Age”?
 - b. How do Different Expressions of Culture Relate to this “Golden Age”?
 - i. Philosophy
 - ii. Material Culture
 1. Sculpture
 2. Architecture
 3. Painting
 - iii. Tragedy
4. Conclusion

Presentations

What Is a “Golden Age”?

Think—Pair—Share

Some Definitions:

- OED: “An idyllic, often imaginary past time of peace, prosperity, and happiness. The period when a specified art or activity is at its peak.”
- Merriam-Webster: “a period of great happiness, prosperity, and achievement.”
- Wikipedia: “A golden age is a period in a field of endeavor when great tasks were accomplished. The term originated from early Greek and Roman poets, who used it to refer to a time when mankind lived in a better time and was pure.”

Group Discussions

How do Different Expressions of Culture Relate to this “Golden Age”?

- 1) Philosophy
- 2) Material Culture
 - a) Sculpture
 - b) Architecture
 - c) Painting
- 3) Tragedy

Some of Your Questions

Tragedy

- “Do [we] think [that the] Greeks did [develop many of their plays during the Peloponnesian War] to distract themselves from the fact that these wars were actually going on?”
- “Did the intellectual and artistic boom amongst Athenian elite filter into the lives of slaves and illiterate peasants in and around Attica?”
- “What does the cultivation of tragic stories [without happy endings] tell us about Greek life, society, [ideas of justice], and culture?”

Philosophy

- “[How much time does it take] during [the 5th century] for writings to come out in one region and be seen and retorted by a thinker in another region?”
- “To what extent do Greek philosophies represent the truth of the world? How accurate were their theories?”
- “Why did Socrates seem to go along with his conviction and execution instead of fighting back or trying to escape?”

Conclusion