

Lesson 3: Everyday Life in Ancient Greece

Getting Started

In this lesson, you will learn about ancient Greek beliefs, explore the daily lives of people in ancient Greece, and discover the achievements of some famous ancient Greeks.

Stuff You Need

- ✓ *Ancient Civilizations* by Joseph Fullman (DK Eyewitness)
- ✓ costume and prop materials* (Activity 1 - optional)
- ✓ colored pencils, crayons, or other art materials* (Activity 2 - Option 2)

Ideas to Think About

- What is life like for different people in a society?
- What roles do stories, myths, and legends play in a culture?
- How do cultures endure over time?

Things to Know

- Women and men had very different roles in ancient Greece.
- On a typical day, most ancient Greek people ate a simple diet of bread, porridge, supplemented with cheese, fish, eggs, vegetables, fruit, honey, and wine. Meat was typically eaten only during festivals or by rich people.
- A **monologue** is a lengthy speech by a single character in a play.

Reading and Questions

Read pages 44-45 of *Ancient Civilizations*. In addition, read the information at the following web link about life in a Greek family. NOTE: Be sure to click on each family member to learn more about him or her. You do not need to enable Flash — you can read all of the text even if Flash is blocked.

Web Link:

<https://www.movingbeyondthepage.com/link/8863/>

1. How would your education be different than it is today if you lived in ancient Greece?

2. What role did women play in ancient Greek life?

3. Name one way in which a typical Greek home was like your home and one way in which it was different.

4. Describe the type of clothing that Greeks wore.

Activities

□ Activity 1: Voices of Greek Gods

Ancient Greeks worshiped many different gods and goddesses who, they believed, all lived on Mount Olympus. Pages 42-45 mention some of these, including Athena, Ares, Apollo, Asclepius, and Hermes. Greek people would pray to different gods and goddesses depending on their needs, and worshippers followed various rules about how to pray to and offer sacrifices to each god. Festivals gave people celebratory opportunities to pay their respects to the gods and ask for their favor, and people consulted the gods about the future at oracles, such as the Oracle at Delphi (see p. 43).

In this activity, you'll have the chance to learn more about a specific Greek god or goddess that interests you. If you are using the *Greek Myths* unit, you can find information and stories about each god and goddess in *D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths* by Ingri and Edgar Parin d'Aulaire (consult the book's table of contents or index). You can also use one of the following online resources. Choose one of the following:

- Aphrodite
- Apollo
- Ares
- Artemis
- Athena
- Demeter
- Dionysus
- Hera
- Hermes
- Persephone
- Poseidon
- Zeus

Imagine that you are writing a play that includes the Greek god or goddess that you chose. Use your "Voices of the Greek Gods" activity page to create a **monologue** — a lengthy speech by a single character in a play — from the point of view of that god or goddess. Your monologue should include the god or goddess's name and the concepts and symbols associated with him or her, as well as a brief retelling of a story about him or her.

Much of modern theater owes a great debt to the early dramatic performances of ancient

Greece. If you would like, you can practice your own dramatic skills by performing your monologue. Create a costume appropriate to the god or goddess you choose to portray — ancient Greek actors sometimes wore padded costumes to appear larger, used mask and wigs, and wore bright clothes when portraying happy characters and dark clothes for more somber ones. Assemble any props you may need, and practice performing your monologue until you feel comfortable doing so in front of an audience of family members and/or friends.

Meet the Greek Gods
www.movingbeyondthepage.com/link/8865/
The 12 Olympian Gods
www.movingbeyondthepage.com/link/8864/
Scroll down and click the link for the god or goddess you'd like to learn about.

□ **Activity 2: Daily Life in Ancient Greece**

In the readings for this lesson, you learned about the family lives, homes, food, education, recreation, and more of the ancient Greeks. In this activity, you'll explore ancient Greek life in even more detail and will use the "A Kid's Day in Ancient Greece" page to plan out a day in the life of an ancient Greek child about your age. Although we don't know for sure exactly what time a Greek child might have had breakfast — you'll need to take your best guess about the timing of different activities — you do know about what might have been on the menu for breakfast and what the Greek home where the child ate might have been like. You'll have to blend what you have learned from your reading and your own imagination to create a rich, full day in the life of a kid in ancient Greece.

First, you'll need to decide a little bit about the life of the person you're making a schedule for. Is this child the daughter of a wealthy merchant? The son of a farmer? Your answers to those questions will determine a lot about what the child's day would be like. Then, you'll fill in a schedule for a full day, adding in details to paint a fuller picture of each part of the child's day. For example, instead of simply writing "Eat," you should add a detail that describes a possible meal, so you might write "Eat a midday meal of bread with a little cheese." Refer back to your readings to help you determine a detail for each part of the day that would be historically accurate.

The following things should be included somewhere on your schedule (ideas for the kinds of details you might provide are in parentheses):

- Meals (possible foods and how they might have been prepared)
- Education (subjects/topics studied either in school or at home or the differences in education for boys and girls)
- Recreation (toys, games, or recreational activities)
- Work (parents' work or how the child might assist parents with their work)
- Waking/sleeping (your home, its furnishings, and its layout to describe where you start and end each day; also clothing that a child might put on upon waking)

With a parent's permission, you may want to explore one or both of the following web sites to help you with this project.

Education Scenes on a Drinking Cup
www.movingbeyondthepage.com/link/8866/ This artifact shows various scenes providing details about boys' education.

Coming of Age in Ancient Greece
www.movingbeyondthepage.com/link/8867/ This page provides details about some games Greek children played. Click the School, Family, or Ceremony links to learn more about those aspects of children's lives.

Activity 3: Famous Ancient Greeks

Ideas and art forms that emerged in ancient Greece are still a part of modern world culture. In this activity, you'll learn more about some of the influential writers, leaders, scientists, and philosophers of ancient Greece and choose one as the focus of today's activity.

You will read summaries of 5-6 of the following people (at least one from each category), all of whom are famous leaders, philosophers, writers, or scientists from ancient Greece. Then you will choose the one who interests you most to complete the activity. Page numbers are provided for people mentioned in *Ancient Civilizations*.

- **Literature and History:** Aeschylus, Aristophanes, Euripedes, Homer, Sappho, Sophocles

- **Science/Medicine:** Archimedes, Euclid, Hippocrates (p. 44), Pythagoras
- **Politics/Military:** Alcibiades, Pericles, Leonidas I (p. 43), Thucydides, Themistocles (the video "Building the Navy" from Lesson 2, Activity 3, Option 2 discusses Themistocles in detail)
- **Philosophy:** Aristotle (p. 44), Plato (p. 44), Socrates (p. 44)

The website at the following web link allows you to read a brief summary of each person. Remember to read a summary for 5-6 people from the list. Then choose the person who interests you most to learn more about. Both of the following websites are useful for learning details about the person you choose.

List of Ancient Greeks
<p>www.movingbeyondthepage.com/link/8991/</p> <p>Find the person in this alphabetical list and hover your mouse over his or her name. A pop-up will provide basic information about the person. Click the link learn more (the Wikipedia entry that opens is detailed, so you may want to skim it to find the information you need).</p>

The Ancient History Encyclopedia
<p>www.movingbeyondthepage.com/link/8992/</p> <p>Type the name of the person you chose into the Search bar at the top and then skim the article about the person's life and achievements.</p>

Once you have chosen an ancient Greek for this activity, complete the "Famous Ancient Greek" activity page. Ask a parent which option you should complete.

Wrapping Up

In the next lesson, you'll learn more about the rise of Macedonia and the legacy of the ancient Greeks.



VOICES OF THE GREEK GODS



Instructions: Imagine that you are writing a Greek play that incorporates one of the Greek gods or goddesses. You plan to include a monologue in which one of the gods/goddesses introduces himself or herself and tells a bit about his/her story. Use the template below to fill in the details of your monologue based on your reading.

I am _____, god/goddess of _____.

Humans say I am _____ and _____.
Descriptive Word *Descriptive Word*

This is my story:

You may know me by my symbols, which are

A KID'S DAY IN ANCIENT GREECE

Instructions: Use the schedule below to map out a day in the life of a child about your age in ancient Greece. For each activity on the schedule, be sure to add at least one historically accurate detail to provide a fuller picture of Greek life.

Early Morning	
Mid Morning	
Late Morning	
Noon	
Early Afternoon	
Mid Afternoon	
Late Afternoon	
Evening	
Night	

FAMOUS ANCIENT GREEK

OPTION 1

NAME: _____

DATES OF BIRTH AND DEATH (if known): _____

BEST KNOWN FOR: _____

THREE QUESTIONS I WOULD LIKE TO ASK IF I HAD THE ABILITY TO TALK TO THIS PERSON:

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

FAMOUS ANCIENT GREEK

OPTION 2

NAME: _____

DATES OF BIRTH AND DEATH (if known): _____

BEST KNOWN FOR: _____

WHY THE PERSON WAS IMPORTANT TO ANCIENT GREECE:

WHY THE PERSON'S IDEAS/CONTRIBUTIONS ARE IMPORTANT TODAY:

Parent Overview

Lesson 3: Everyday Life in Ancient Greece

Getting Started

? Big Ideas

- What is life like for different people in a society?
- What roles do stories, myths, and legends play in a culture?
- How do cultures endure over time?



Facts and Definitions

- Women and men had very different roles in ancient Greece.
- On a typical day, most ancient Greek people ate a simple diet of bread, porridge, supplemented with cheese, fish, eggs, vegetables, fruit, honey, and wine. Meat was typically eaten only during festivals or by rich people.
- A **monologue** is a lengthy speech by a single character in a play.

⦿ Skills

- Analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the early civilizations of ancient Greece. (SS)
- Explain the significance of Greek mythology to the everyday life of people in the region and how Greek literature continues to permeate our literature and language today, drawing from Greek mythology and epics, such as Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, and from *Aesop's Fables*. (SS)
- Describe the enduring contributions of important Greek figures in the arts and sciences (e.g., Hypatia, Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Euclid, Thucydides). (SS)
- State the key differences between Athenian, or direct, democracy and representative democracy. (SS)

Introducing the Lesson

In this lesson, your child will learn about ancient Greek beliefs, explore the daily lives of people in ancient Greece, and discover the achievements of some famous ancient Greeks.

Reading and Questions (Answers)

1. How would your education be different than it is today if you lived in ancient Greece?

- Answers will vary. Information about Greek education appears on the BBC website (click on the the images of the boy and the girl). In ancient Greece, school was for boys only, who started school at age 7. School was not free, so poor children were often not well educated. Girls could not attend school and would instead learn cooking and household chores from their mother.

2. What role did women play in ancient Greek life?

- Women looked after the homes (cooking, spinning, weaving), raised children, and often did tasks like fetching water and shopping. Your child may mention that women, especially wealthy women, did not get out into the community very much and could not leave the house without their husband's permission. Your child may also mention that female slaves worked in homes taking care of children, cooking, and cleaning. (On the BBC website, click on the images of the two women.)

3. Name one way in which a typical Greek home was like your home and one way in which it was different.

- Answers will vary. An image and description of a typical Greek home is shown on p. 45, and the BBC website supplies additional details.

4. Describe the type of clothing that Greeks wore.

- Your child may mention that men and women dressed similarly, wearing a tunic called a *chiton*. Women also usually wore a cloak called a *himation*. People were barefoot or wore sandals, and those who could afford it enjoyed wearing jewelry.

Outline of Activities and Answer Keys

Activity 1: Voices of Greek Gods

In this activity, your child will create a brief monologue from the perspective of a Greek god or goddess. He can choose from several different gods and goddesses; if you are using the *Greek Myths* unit, he can consult *D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths* by Ingri and Edgar Parin d'Aulaire. Web sites are also provided with information about each god and goddess. If he would like to, your child can perform his monologue in a homemade costume in front of an audience of family and/or friends.

Activity 2: Daily Life in Ancient Greece

In this activity, your child will imagine the daily life of a child about his age in ancient Greece. He will create a schedule that incorporates waking/sleeping, meals, education, work, and recreation. While we may not have a good way to know the specific times when children in ancient Greece did each of these things, the reading from today (and optionally, the web sites provided) should give your child a good sense of where and how these activities took place. Your child's schedule will vary considerably depending on his choices but should be faithful to the details he discovers from the readings/resources.

Activity 3: Famous Ancient Greeks

Your child will read brief biographies of 5-6 different famous people from ancient Greece. He will then fill in an activity page about him or her. Tell your child which option to complete. Both activity pages begin with basic information about the person, but Option 1 is then easier — your child will write three questions that he would ask the person if he could. In Option 2 — which involves more thought and writing — your child will describe why the person was important to ancient Greece and why his or her ideas/contributions are important today.

A web link provided allows your child to view the short biographies. He can skim the Wikipedia link or the Ancient History Encyclopedia webpage (or another resource) to learn more about the ancient Greek he chooses.

Wrapping Up

Questions to Discuss

- Tell me about the Greek god you learned about in today's activities.
- How did the home and daily life of a Greek child differ from your own? How was it the same?
- For the famous ancient Greek person you learned about in Activity 3, who would you compare him to? What other figure in history or modern times impacted or is impacting society in a similar way? (Answers will vary.)
- Have you seen the Greek god or goddess you chose used in modern stories or popular culture? If so, how? (Answers will vary. Your child should understand that the myths of the Greek gods have been retold and adapted over time. For example, your child may be familiar with the Percy Jackson book series.)

Things to Review

- Review your child's answers to the questions about today's readings.
- Review your child's "Voices of Greek Gods" activity page.
- Review your child's "A Kid's Day in Ancient Greece" activity page.

- Review your child's "Famous Ancient Greeks" activity page.