**Greece**

The history of Greece can be traced back to Stone Age hunters. Later came early farmers and thecivilizations of the Minoan and Mycenaean kings. This was followed by a period of wars and invasions, known as the Dark Ages. In about 1100 BC, a people called the Dorians invaded from the north and spread down the west coast. In the period from 500-336 BC Greece was divided into small city states, each of which consisted of a city and its surrounding countryside.

There were only a few historians in the time of Ancient Greece. Three major ancient historians, were able to record their time of Ancient Greek history, that include Herodotus, known as the 'Father of History' who travelled to many ancient historic sites at the time, Thucydides and Xenophon.

Most other forms of History knowledge and accountability of the ancient Greeks we know is because of temples, sculpture, pottery, artefacts and other archaeological findings.

NEOLITHIC PERIOD (6000 - 2900 BC)

According to historians and archeological findings, the Neolithic Age in Greece lasted from 6800 to 3200 BC. The most domesticated settlements were in Near East of Greece. They traveled mainly due to overpopulation. These people introduced pottery and animal husbandry in Greece. They may as well have traveled via the route of Black sea into Thrace, which then further leads to Macedonia, Thessaly, Boeotia etc. The second way of traveling into Greece is from one island to another and such type of colonies has been found in Knossos and Kythnos... more »

EARLY BRONZE AGE (2900 - 2000BC)

The Greek Bronze Age or the Early Helladic Era started around 2800 BC and lasted till 1050 BC in Crete while in the Aegean islands it started in 3000 BC. The Bronze Age in Greece is divided into periods such as Helladic I, II. The information that is available today on the Bronze Age in Greece is from the architecture, burial styles and lifestyle. The colonies were made of 300 to 1000 people... more »

Minoan Age(2000 - 1400 BC )

Bronze Age civilization, centring on the island of Crete. It was named after the legendary king Minos. It is divided into three periods: the early Minoan period (c.3000-2200 B.C.), the Middle Minoan period (c.2200-1500 B.C.) and the Late Minoan period (c.1500-1000 B.C.).

\* Middle Minoan Crete

\* The Minoans

\* The History of The Minoans

Mycenaean Age (600 - 1100 BC)

Period of high cultural achievement, forming the backdrop and basis for subsequent myths of the heroes. It was named for the kingdom of Mycenae and the archaeological site where fabulous works in gold were unearthed. The Mycenaean Age was cut short by widespread destruction ushering in the Greek Dark Age.... more »

The Dark Ages (1100 - 750 BC)

- The period between the fall of the Mycenean civilizations and the readoption of writing in the eigth or seventh century BC. After the Trojan Wars the Mycenaeans went through a period of civil war, the country was weak and a tribe called the Dorians took over. Some speculate that Dorian invaders from the north with iron weapons laid waste the Mycenaean culture. Others look to internal dissent, uprising and rebellion, or perhaps some combination.

\* The Greek Dark Ages

A chapter on the history and culture of the Greek Dark Ages.

\* The Dorians

one of the three main groups of people of ancient Greece, the others being the Aeolians and the Ionians, who invaded from the north in the 12th and 11th centuries BC.

Archaic Period (750 - 500 BC)

The Archaic Period in Greece refers to the years between 750 and 480 B.C., more particularly from 620 to 480 B.C. The age is defined through the development of art at this time, specifically through the style of pottery and sculpture, showing the specific characteristics that would later be developed into the more naturalistic style of the Classical period. The Archaic is one of five periods that Ancient Greek history can be divided into; it was preceded by the Dark Ages and followed by the Classical period. The Archaic period saw advancements in political theory, especially the beginnings of democracy, as well as in culture and art. The knowledge and use of written language which was lost in the Dark Ages was re-established.

Classical Period (500-336 BC) - Classical period of ancient Greek history, is fixed between about 500 B. C., when the Greeks began to come into conflict with the kingdom of Persia to the east, and the death of the Macedonian king and conqueror Alexander the Great in 323 B.C. In this period Athens reached its greatest political and cultural heights: the full development of the democratic system of government under the Athenian statesman Pericles; the building of the Parthenon on the Acropolis; the creation of the tragedies of Sophocles, Aeschylus and Euripides; and the founding of the philosophical schools of Socrates and Plato.

\* Archaic and Classical Greek History

Hellenistic Period (336-146 BC) - period between the conquest of the Persian Empire by Alexander the Great and the establishment of Roman supremacy, in which Greek culture and learning were pre-eminent in the Mediterranean and Asia Minor. It is called Hellenistic (Greek, Hellas, "Greece") to distinguish it from the Hellenic culture of classical Greece.

\* Hellenistic Greece

\* Hellenic and Hellenistic Societies

Chronology sites:

\* Greek Chronology Greece 1200 - 300 B.C

\* Chronology: Greece

C. Greece became an extraordinary power

1. Greek culture flourished (Language spread)

a. Called Hellenism

b. Throughout the known world

c. Knowledge of the Greek still prevalent today

2. Controlled the known world

(By N.T. times Greek was the street language even in Rome)

III. THE GRECIAN EMPIRE DIVIDED

Four generals took over after Alexander’s death. We will study the two that affected the Jews. Daniel saw in vision this four-way division of this empire. Dan. 11:3-4

A. Ptolemy (Plotlemies) – succession of rulers

1. Centered in Egypt. – Alexandria its capital

2. Dominated Palestine for 120 years

3. The Jews fared well during this period

4. Cleopatra who died in 30 B.C. was the last of the Ptolomaic dynasty

[Under Ptolemy Philadelphus 72 Jewish scholars translated the Hebrew O.T.

into Greek – the Septuagint]

B. Seleucid

1. Centered in Syria – Antioch its capital

(Located between Egypt and Syria, Palestine became a victim of rivalry

between the Ptolomies and the Seleucids)

2. Antiochus III (Antiochus the Great)

a. An anti-christ

b. Hated the Jew

c. Replaced the high priest

[Replaced Onias III with Onias’ brother Jason – A Hellenizer who wanted

to turn Jerusalem into a Greek city state]

d. A gymnasium was built in Jerusalem (Under Jason)

1) Jewish young men exercised nude in Greek fashion

2) Track races opened with invocations to pagan gods

3) Many Jewish priests attended these events

e. Replaced Jason with Menelaus, another Hellenizer who offered Antiochus

higher tribute for the office.

Jews who opposed the paganization their culture were called

Hasidim or Hasideans – “pious people.”. These pious Jews resented the

selling of this sacred office to the highest bidder.

f. Launched an invasion of Egypt

1. Rome intervened

Outside Alexandria (the capital of the Ptolemies) a Roman envoy

drew a circle around Antiochus and demanded that before he step out of the circle he promise to leave Egypt with his troops. Antiochus, who had been a hostage for twelve years in Rome, withdrew his men not wanting to face the wrath of the powerful Romans.

# Herodotus

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Herodotus** | |
| **Born** | [c.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Circa) 484 BC [Halicarnassus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Halicarnassus), [Caria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caria), [Asia Minor](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Anatolia) |
| **Died** | c. 425 BC (aged around 59) [Thurii](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Thurii), [Calabria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Calabria) or [Pella](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pella), [Macedon](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Macedon) |
| **Occupation** | Historian |

**Herodotus** ([Greek](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Greek): Ἡρόδοτος *Hēródotos*) was an ancient Greek [historian](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Historian) who lived in the 5th century BC ([c.](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Circa) 484 BC – c. 425 BC). He was born in Caria, Halicarnassus (modern day [Bodrum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bodrum), [Turkey](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkey)). He is regarded as the "Father of [History](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History)" in Western culture. He was the first historian known to collect his materials systematically, test their accuracy to a certain extent and arrange them in a well-constructed and vivid narrative.[[1]](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Heroditus#cite_note-0) He is exclusively known for writing [*The Histories*](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Histories_(Herodotus)), a record of his "inquiry" (or ἱστορία *historía*, a [word](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History#Etymology) that passed into Latin and took on its modern meaning of *history*) into the origins of the [Greco-Persian Wars](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Greco-Persian_Wars) which occurred in 490 and 480-479 BC—especially since he includes a [narrative](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Narrative) account of that period, which would otherwise be poorly documented;

General history sites:

\* The History of Ancient Greece

\* History of Macedonia

\* The unknown Ancient Hellenic History

\* Internet Ancient History Sourcebook Greece and Hellenism

[**3300**](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-3300)**-**[**1000 BCE**](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-1000)**: Greece -** The earliest known prehistoric civilizations occupy the Aegean world. This period marks the rise and fall of the [MINOAN](http://argos.evansville.edu/search.cgi?minoa*) and [MYCENAEAN](http://argos.evansville.edu/search.cgi?mycenae*) civilization.

[**2200 BCE**](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-2200)**: Greece -** Indo-European invaders, speaking the earliest forms of Greek, enter the mainland of Greece, and the [MYCENAEAN CIVILIZATION](http://argos.evansville.edu/search.cgi?mycenae*) (named after the leading Greek city on the peninsula from [1600](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-1600)-[1200 BCE](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-1200)) emerges.

[**2000**](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-2000)**-**[**1500 BCE**](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-1500)**: Greece -** [MINOAN CIVILIZATION](http://argos.evansville.edu/search.cgi?minoa*) (named after the Cretan ruler Minos) reaches its height with its central power in Knossos on the island of Crete. This culture is apparently more female-oriented and peaceful than others at the time.

[**1400 BCE**](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-1400)**: Greece -** [MYCENAEAN CIVILIZATION](http://argos.evansville.edu/search.cgi?mycenae*) replaces [MINOAN CIVILIZATION](http://argos.evansville.edu/search.cgi?minoa*) after the destruction of Knossos. Bronze weapons, war-scenes on art, Cyclopean defence walls, and the fact that male warriors were buried with their weapons provide evidence for the claim that the Mycenaeans were militaristic. The horse-drawn chariot emerges around this time. The Mycenaeans dominate the Aegean world for about 200 years.

[**1250 BCE**](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-1250)**: Greece -** Though this is disputed, some scholars believe that the [MYCENAEANS](http://argos.evansville.edu/search.cgi?mycenae*) wage war with the Trojans of western Asia Minor and are successful. By [1100 BCE](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-1100) they are overtaken by barbaric Dorian invaders who are using iron weapons. From this point, Greek culture enters the so-called Dark Ages, characterized by the disappearance of writing and a decline in architecture and other aspects of material culture. The period lasts until about [800 BCE](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-800). The two Homeric epics, [*The Iliad*](http://classics.mit.edu/Homer/iliad.html) and [*The Odyssey*](http://classics.mit.edu/Homer/odyssey.html), are often used by scholars as evidence of the traditions and institutions in place during this time. However, such use is strongly contested.

[**800 BCE**](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-800)**: Greece -** Increase in trade and the establishment of governmental defense fortifications allows for the emergence of Greek city-states from tribal communities. These grow up around marketplaces and include [ATHENS](http://argos.evansville.edu/search.cgi?athens), Thebes and Megara on the Greek mainland. The Greek city-states are considered the most famous units of Greek political life to develop in this society.

[**800**](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-800)**-**[**500 BCE**](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-500)**: Greece -** This period, often referred to as the Archaic period, marks the developments of literature and the arts, politics, philosophy and science. The Peloponnesian city of Corinth, [SPARTA](http://argos.evansville.edu/search.cgi?sparta) and cities along the coast of the Aegean Sea flourish. For the most part, the Greek city-states are similar in their political evolution, with the exception of Sparta's elite dictatorship. Most begin their political histories as monarchies, evolve to oligarchies, are overthrown during the age of the tyrants ([650](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-650)-[500 BCE](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-500)) and eventually establish democracies in the sixth and fifth centuries. Of the Greek city-states, [ATHENS](http://argos.evansville.edu/search.cgi?athens) and Sparta were the two most important.

[**700 BCE**](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-700)**: Greece -** [HESIOD](http://argos.evansville.edu/search.cgi?hesiod), Greece's second poet (after [HOMER](http://argos.evansville.edu/search.cgi?homer)) and the first poet to name himself, is composing his poetry. His most important works are [*The Theogony*](http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/OMACL/Hesiod/theogony.html) and [*Works and Days*](http://sunsite.berkeley.edu/OMACL/Hesiod/works.html).

[**640 BCE**](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-640)**: Greece -** Sparta's form of government, which is adapted from the Dorians, is heavily influenced by militarianism. The Messenian wars initiate Sparta's fear of change. They remain an isolated people, primarily by banning trade and discouraging travel outside of Spartan territory. Alcaeus, Greek lyric poet, is born in Mytilene on the island of Lesbos. His lyrics expound on contemporary politics, love, hymns to Apollo and Hermes, and include some drinking songs.

[**612 BCE**](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-612)**: Greece -** [Sappho](http://www.earthlight.co.nz/users/spock/sapphoi.html), Greek lyric poet of Lesbos, is born. The most famous female poet of the ancient world, Sappho is inscribed in the *Palatine Anthology* among the Muses, rather than among the great lyric poets, in the second century BCE. Her lyric poetry includes the exploration of female sexuality, female values in a male dominated society, and love.

[**594 BCE**](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-594)**: Greece -** Solon, the great elegiac poet, is appointed chief magistrate of [ATHENS](http://argos.evansville.edu/search.cgi?athens). His reforms include both political and economical adjustments which lead to dissatisfaction in the upper and lower classes.

[**585 BCE**](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-585)**: Greece -** In Miletus, the founding city of philosophy, Thales predicts a total eclipse of the sun. The founder of the Melesian school, Thales, teaches that all things are composed of moisture; he is the first to put forth a rational explanation of the cosmos. By the end of the sixth century, philosophers begin to question the metaphysical nature of the cosmos with inquiries into the nature of being, the meaning of truth, and the relationship between the divine and the physical world.

[**546 BCE**](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-546)**: Greece -** The first of the Athenian tyrants, Peisistratus, replaces Solon as ruler.

[**530 BCE**](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-530)**: Greece -** [Pythagoras](http://www.utm.edu/research/iep/p/pythagor.htm) and his followers found the city of Croton and combine philosophy and literature with political activity as the foundation of their community. Pythagoras, mathematician and philosopher, is credited with the Pythagorean theorem and the Pythagorean table of opposites (the "dualism" that underlies Greek thought).

[**525 BCE**](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-525)**: Greece -** Greek drama grows out of the Dionysian festivals. The plays of [AESCHYLUS](http://argos.evansville.edu/search.cgi?aeschylus) are considered to be the beginning of this long history of tragic drama. His stories are drawn from conflicts between the individual and the cosmos.

[**518 BCE**](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-518)**: Greece -** Pindar, considered by some to be the greatest Greek lyric poet, is born in Cynoscephalae, Boeotia. Pindar's odes celebrate games held at the religious festivals of Greece. Athletic victory serves as the ground for his poetic fancy and his religious, moral, and aesthetic insights. He dies in [438 BCE](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-438).

[**515 BCE**](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-515)**: Greece -** [Parmenides of Elea](http://www.utm.edu/research/iep/p/parmenid.htm) is born. He is the founder of the Eleatic school in the Phocaean colony in southern Italy. He is the first to focus attention on the central problem of Greek metaphysics: the nature of being. For Parmenides, the laws governing the universe are stable. Change is merely an illusion.

[**510 BCE**](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-510)**: Greece -** Hippias, the son of Peisistratus, succeeds his father and is overthrown by a group of nobles with the help of [SPARTA](http://argos.evansville.edu/search.cgi?sparta).

[**508 BCE**](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-508)**: Greece -** Cleisthenes, the father of Athenian democracy, rules [ATHENS](http://argos.evansville.edu/search.cgi?athens). His reforms grant full rights to all free men of Athens.

[**500 BCE**](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-500)**: Greece -** The height of Greek sculpture begins with the work of Phidias. His masterpieces include the statue of Athena in the [PARTHENON](http://argos.evansville.edu/search.cgi?parthenon), the Parthenon reliefs and the statue of Zeus in the Temple of Olympian Zeus. The second most important sculptor, Myron, is renowned for his statue of the discus thrower.

[**490 BCE**](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-490%22)**: Greece -** Lasting until [479 BCE](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-479), the Greeks initiate war with Persia when Persia, at this time the strongest power in western Asia, establishes rule over Greek-speaking cities in Asia Minor. The [PERSIAN WARS](http://argos.evansville.edu/search.cgi?persian+war*) are commonly regarded as among the most significant in all of history. Darius the Great is defeated at the battle of Marathon in [490 BCE](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-490). The Greeks emerge victorious and put an end to the possibility of Persian despotism.

[**486 BCE**](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-486)**: Greece -** A contempoary of Darius the Persian, Heraclitus of Ephesus lives somewhere around this time. For Heraclitus, reality is flux which originated out of fire (as opposed to Parmenides' "stable" reality -- see [**515 BCE**](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/extract.cgi?-515+gr#anchor)). [PLATO](http://argos.evansville.edu/search.cgi?plato) credits Heraclitus for saying, "One cannot step into the same river twice." Heraclitus was also known as "the obscure."

[**485 BCE**](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-485)**: Greece -** Accompanying the high point of democracy in [ATHENS](http://argos.evansville.edu/search.cgi?athens) is a Greek intellectual revolution, with its beginnings in Sophism. The [Sophists](http://www.utm.edu/research/iep/s/sophists.htm) situate ethics and politics within philosophical discourse which, before, was limited to physics and metaphysics alone. The leading Sophist, [Protagoras](http://www.utm.edu/research/iep/p/protagor.htm), states his famous doctrine: "Man is the measure of all things." For him, all truth, goodness, beauty, etc. are relative to man's necessities and inquiries. Emerging in opposition to the Sophists are Socrates, [PLATO](http://argos.evansville.edu/search.cgi?plato) and [ARISTOTLE](http://argos.evansville.edu/search.cgi?aristotle), each of whom offers alternatives to the Sophists' relativism.

[**484 BCE**](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-484)**: Greece -** The father of history, Herodotus, is born. He is author of a nine-book [*History of the Persian War*](http://classics.mit.edu/Herodotus/history.html) and a book dedicated to his travels through Egypt. He dies in [420](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-420).

[**478 BCE**](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-478)**: Greece -** [ATHENS](http://argos.evansville.edu/search.cgi?athens) joins with other Greek city-states in the formation of the [DELIAN LEAGUE](http://argos.evansville.edu/search.cgi?delian+league). The League continues even after the end of the [PERSIAN WARS](http://argos.evansville.edu/search.cgi?persian+war*) and transforms into a naval empire with Athens as its leader.

[**469 BCE**](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-469)**: Greece -** [SOPHOCLES](http://argos.evansville.edu/search.cgi?sophocles) is born. He is the second Greek dramatist, following [AESCHYLUS](http://argos.evansville.edu/search.cgi?aeschylus), and is considered by some to be the greatest of the Greek dramatists. His works include *Oedipus Rex* and [*Antigone*](http://classics.mit.edu/Sophocles/antigone.html). He dies in [406 BCE](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-406). This year also marks the birth of Socrates, a philosopher of ethics who leaves no written philosophy. He is the major critic of popular belief in [ATHENS](http://argos.evansville.edu/search.cgi?athens) and is the protagonist of Plato's dialogues. He is condemned to death in [399 BCE](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-399) on the charges of corrupting the youth and introducing new gods into Greek thought.

[**461**](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-461)**-**[**429 BCE**](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-429)**: Greece -** During this "Age of Pericles," Athenian democracy reaches perfection, and the court systems are completed. A jury system is put in place with the jury serving as absolute authority in judicial matters.

[**448 BCE**](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-448)**: Greece -** [ARISTOPHANES](http://argos.evansville.edu/search.cgi?aristophanes), considered by some to be the greatest Greek comedy writer, is born. He dies in [380 BCE](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-380). Greek comedy, like Greek tragedy, originates out of the Dionysian festivals.

[**431**](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-431)**-**[**404 BCE**](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-404)**: Greece -** During the [PELOPONNESIAN WAR](http://argos.evansville.edu/search.cgi?Peloponnesian+War) between [ATHENS](http://argos.evansville.edu/search.cgi?athens) and [SPARTA](http://argos.evansville.edu/search.cgi?sparta), the political supremacy of Athens is ended. Athenian trade is destroyed. Athenian democracy is overthrown, and Athens is forced to surrender to Sparta as a subject state. Sparta assumes dominance over the Greek world and replaces many Greek democracies with oligarchies. The two major causes of the war are Athens' growth in imperialism and the economic and cultural differences between Athens and Sparta. Between [404](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-404) and [338](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-338), Sparta is not able to persist in the rule of Greece. Power over Greece shifts from Sparta to Thebes and then to numerous other city-states, none able to maintain rule over such a large empire.

[**427 BCE**](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-427)**: Greece -** [PLATO](http://argos.evansville.edu/search.cgi?plato), Socrates' most distinguished student, is born. He is a prolific writer and is considered by some to be the most important of all philosophers. Among his most noted works are *The Apology*, [*The Symposium*](http://www.evansville.edu/%7Etb2/plato/symp.html), [*The Phaedo*](http://www.evansville.edu/%7Etb2/plato/phae.html), [*The Phaedrus*](http://www.evansville.edu/%7Etb2/plato/phdr.html), and [*The Republic*](http://www.evansville.edu/%7Etb2/plato/rep.html). His written works are in dialogue form. He dies in [347 BCE](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-347).

[**406 BCE**](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-406)**: Greece -** [EURIPIDES](http://argos.evansville.edu/search.cgi?euripides) dies. Born in [480 BCE](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-480), he is the last of the tragic dramatists. His contribution to the history of Greek tragedy is his creation of a drama that deals with situations analogous to human life.

[**384 BCE**](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-384)**: Greece -** Plato's most distinguished student, [ARISTOTLE](http://argos.evansville.edu/search.cgi?aristotle), is born. He enters [Plato's Academy](http://www.utm.edu/research/iep/a/academy.htm) at the age of seventeen. After spending several years as tutor to Alexander the Great, Aristotle returns to [ATHENS](http://argos.evansville.edu/search.cgi?athens) and founds the Lyceum. Among his writings are treatises on logic, metaphysics, ethics, politics, rhetoric and several on natural sciences. He dies in [322 BCE](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-322).

[**350 BCE**](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-350)**: Greece -** [HELLENISTIC GREECE](http://argos.evansville.edu/search.cgi?hellenis*) witnesses the new philosophy of the Cynics. Their leader, Diogenes, puts forth the first argument against conventional life. The Cynics believe that people should live naturally and strive for self-sufficiency.

[**343 BCE**](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-343)**: Greece -** The greatest dramatist of [HELLENISTIC GREECE,](http://argos.evansville.edu/search.cgi?hellenis*) Menander, follows the comedic genre put forth by [ARISTOPHANES](http://argos.evansville.edu/search.cgi?aristophanes) (the subject of which is romantic love).

[**338 BCE**](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-338)**: Greece -** Philip of Macedon, Alexander the Great's father, conquers Greece and is succeeded by his son two years later. At age twenty-two, Alexander begins his campaign to acquire new territory in Asia. Within four years, Alexander conquers the entire Persian Empire (including Asia Minor, Egypt, Persia, Syria and Mesopotamia). Alexander continues his campaign farther east and eventually returns to Persia in [323 BCE](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-323), where he dies of fever in Babylon. Before his death, Alexander was the ruler of the largest empire the world had seen. [HELLENISTIC GREECE,](http://argos.evansville.edu/search.cgi?hellenis*) a combination of Greek and western Asian cultures, lasts from Alexander's time until the beginning of the Christian era.

[**323 BCE**](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-323)**: Greece -** Alexander leaves no successors, and the highest generals engage in many wars which result in the decisive battle of Ipsus in [301 BCE](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-301). The empire is divided into four major states under the separate rules of Seleucus, Lysimachus, Cassander and Ptolemy. Greek cities revolt against Macedonian rule but to no avail. The next four hundred years witness the growth of large cities and Hellenistic international trade.

[**300 BCE**](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-300)**: Greece -** Epicureanism and Stoicism both originate in [ATHENS](http://argos.evansville.edu/search.cgi?athens). Both [Epicurus](http://www.utm.edu/research/iep/e/epicur.htm) ([342](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-342)-[270 BCE](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-270)) and Zeno, the Stoic (not to be confused with Zeno of Elea), believe in an individualistic and materialistic philosophy. Neither believe in spiritual substances. The soul is thought to be material. The Epicureans believe that pleasure is the highest good, and only by abandoning the fear of the supernatural can one achieve tranquillity of mind. The Stoics believe that tranquillity of mind is only achieved by surrendering the self to the order of the cosmos.

[**310 BCE**](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-310)**: Greece -** Hellenistic astronomy is founded by Aristarchus of Samos. His major contribution to Hellenistic thought is his theory that the earth and all other planets revolve around the sun, contrary to [ARISTOTLE](http://argos.evansville.edu/search.cgi?aristotle).

[**200 BCE**](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-200)**: Greece -** Under the influence of [Carneades](http://www.utm.edu/research/iep/c/carneade.htm), [Skepticism](http://www.utm.edu/research/iep/s/skepanci.htm) arises with doctrines closely tied to Sophism. They teach that because all knowledge is achieved through sense perception, nothing can be known for sure.

[**146**](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-146)**-**[**30 BCE**](http://eawc.evansville.edu/chronology/time.cgi?-30)**: Greece -** Between these years, nearly all Hellenistic territory becomes subject to Roman rule.