**Meet Demosthenes--- the Greatest Ancient Greek Orator**

World History Edu present a complete life story of Demosthenes, a renowned Greek statesman and arguably the greatest orator of ancient Greek era.

[Demosthenes: the renowned Greek statesman and one of the greatest orators of all time - World History Edu](https://www.worldhistoryedu.com/demosthenes-renowned-greek-statesman-orator-biography-accomplishments/)

Demosthenes, the ancient Greek orator and statesman, is most famous for eloquently crafting his speech to whip up strong Athenian opposition to two great kings of the era – Philip of Macedon and his son Alexander the Great. It’s been said that such was his determination to excel in public speaking and oratory that he spent countless hours locked up in his room refining his skills, including his voice.

According to the famous Greek historian Plutarch, Demosthenes’ goal was to be the best orator of his era. Plutarch said that Demosthenes shaved half of his head as a way to prevent him from going out until he had fully mastered his craft.

**Biography**

Demosthenes was said to be born around 384 BC in Athens, ancient Greece. At the age of seven, he lost his father, a wealthy sword maker. The young Demosthenes was placed in the care of a guardian called Aphobus who is said to have denied Demosthenes a large chunk of his deceased father’s properties.

**Why Demosthenes became an orator**

Demosthenes stammered and was prone to being inarticulate as a child. Historians have noted that Demosthenes immersed himself in oratory and social and legal rhetoric as a means to compensate for his slight physical disability. He most likely took that path because he believed he could use those oratory skills to mount a strong legal challenge against guardians and family members who took away his inheritance.

He knew that his fragile body was not cut out for the traditional gymnastic education that Greek children engaged in. In addition to studying legal rhetoric, he studied logical reasoning and philosophy in general.

The biographer goes on to say that Demosthenes surmounted his stammering by deploying crafty techniques as well as years upon years of sheer practice. One technique that he used was placing stones/pebbles in his mouth and then practicing long speeches in his study. It’s also been stated that he benefited greatly from practicing in front of a mirror.

**Demosthenes’ lawsuits against his former guardians**

Bent on claiming his birth right and his deceased father’s estate, Demosthenes mounted a strong legal suit against his former guardians, including Aphobus, in 363 BC. His years of painstakingly practicing before the mirror had paid off as he won those lawsuits. His speeches in the court, which were nothing short of spectacular, helped establish his profile as a great orator.