

Welcome!

Grade 2, Unit 2

Ancient Greeks: Life, Tradition, and Government

Dear Family Member,

In this unit, students will be introduced to an ancient civilization whose contributions can be seen in many areas of our lives today.

What's the story?

Students will explore how **Greece contributed to democracy** and how its ideals are still used in many governments today, including their own.

What will my student learn?

Students will learn about mythical **gods** and **goddesses** of the **ancient Greeks**, explore places like **Sparta** and **Athens**, and be introduced to philosophers such as **Socrates** and **Plato**.

Students will work to **collect** and **synthesize information** as they read, and they will work independently to **write an opinion piece** based on what they have read. They will also explore **fictional writing** as they use the writing process to **develop a piece of their own**.

Conversation starters

Ask your student questions about the unit to promote discussion and continued learning:

1. What is a civilization?
Follow up: How did the land affect how the ancient Greek civilization developed?
2. Name one of the mythical gods or goddesses you have been reading about.
Follow up: What is he/she the mythical god/goddess of? What adjectives would you use to describe him or her?
3. What events were included in the first Olympic Games?
Follow up: Which event would you have participated in? Why?
4. You learned about the word *democracy* in this unit. What is a democracy?
Follow up: How did Athens come up with the idea of democracy?