

Who were important cultural figures in Athens?

- **Philosophers** translates to “lovers of wisdom”
- Greeks explored many subjects like math and music
- They used **logic** or rational thinking
- Athenians debated questions about governments and the standards of human behavior
- Sophists were a group of people that questioned ideas
 - They developed skills like **rhetoric**, or the language of skillful speaking
 - However many people thought this undermined athenian culture
- An outspoken critic was **socrates**, he was a stonemason and philosopher
 - He didn't write things down, he would take to people in the town hall
- The **socratic method** he would ask passing people questions and have them examine the value of their answers
- However when he was 70 he was put on trial for corrupting the youth and failing to respect the gods
 - He got the death sentence
- Plato was another philosopher big in Athens, he opened an academy in Athens
 - He emphasized ideals like reason
 - He did not like democracy, he thought that the state should control every aspect of its citizens
 - He thought that society should be divided into three classes: workers, soldiers, and philosophers
 - He thought men were better than women generally
- One of plato's students was named **Aristotle** who came up with his own principles
- He was also very suspicious of democracy, and he preferred a monarch
- He also set up a school that taught a variety of subjects like ethics and science
- Many works even today are based on of aristotle

How did art and architecture affect Athens?

- Architects wanted to convey balance and harmony in their work
- Famous greek structure is the **Parthenon** which was a temple dedicated to the goddess Athena
- Many buildings today take from elements that were used in the Parthenon to make buildings
- Greeks changed sculpture from a rigid form to a more natural flowing form.
- It represented the ideal humans and gods
- Pottery was also big, the stuff written on the pottery told a story and was one of the few things that survived

What was Greek Literature?

- One of the origins of Greek literature came from poets like Homer
- The greeks were the first ones to invent drama
- Most of the plays were made up of a few people and the greek chorus that would sing and say things
- Playwrights like Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides, they all wrote **tragedies** or plays about human suffering that usually ended with everyone dying
- The purpose of these tragedies was to experience emotions like pity and fear
- The plays conveyed deep messages about life and how you should live your life
- In one play the Antigone, they explore an individual's moral duty
- Plays after the peloponnesian wars, say that gods were not the cause of our suffering, but people were
- There were not only tragedies, but **comedies**, funny plays that mocked people or customs