

Geography and the Development of Democracy in Ancient Greece

Overview: In this lesson, students will be introduced to the geography of Ancient Greece as well as the concepts of citizen, arête, and democracy. Students will use Goode's Atlases and Pericles' Funeral Oration by Thucydides as primary source documents to find and then expand upon this connection.

Minnesota Social Studies Standard:

- V. Geography
- B. Essential Skills
- 1. The student will use maps, globes, geographic information systems and other databases to answer geographic questions at a variety of scales from local to global.
- Benchmark: 2) Students will make inferences and draw conclusions about the character of places based on a comparison of maps, aerial photos and other images.

Objectives: By the end of this lesson the student will be able to:

1. Analyze how geography impacted the development of Ancient Greece.
2. Decipher one of Western Civilization's most important pieces of literature.
3. Research and write on a topic pertinent to concepts of geography, citizenship, and/or democracy.

Grade Level: This lesson is intended for use in a 10th grade honors level class, however it can be used in grades 9-12.

Time: Three eighty-five minute blocks

Subject/Topic: World History; Geography; Civics; Humanities

Required Materials:

Goode's Atlases, internet access

Geography and Citizenship in Ancient Greece (powerpoint)

Pericles Funeral Oration - <http://www.wsu.edu:8080/~dee/GREECE/PERICLES.HTM>

Handout 1: Key Word Categorization

Handout 2: Insert Note Taking

Handout 3: R.A.F.T.

Suggested Procedure:

1. Introductory activity. In pairs or small groups, students will look at Mediterranean region maps in Goode's Atlas, pgs. 145-157 as well as 174-175 to come up with a list of geographic advantages and disadvantages of Greece as a whole and Athens in particular. The following thematic maps on these pages should be particularly helpful: Natural Hazards, Annual Precipitation, Vegetation, Environment, and Physiography. We will discuss findings as a whole class and review concepts of site and situation. These are terms all of our tenth graders will recognize from their ninth grade geography class.

2. Students will view the attached Powerpoint presentation that highlights connections between geography and the development of citizenship and democracy in Ancient Greece.
3. Hand out the Pericles Funeral Oration by Thucydides and assign Key Word Categorization (Handout 1) as the before reading strategy. Class discussion.
4. Homework assignment: Read oration and complete Insert Note Taking assignment (Handout 2). This is the “during reading strategy”.
5. Class discussion and clarification on reading.
6. Provide students with RAFT choices using R.A.F.T (Handout 3) for the after reading strategy and let students select categories. I will let them choose their own in consultation with me, if they would prefer not to do any of the options I’ve provided.
7. Allow the rest of class time to be spent in the computer lab so students can research and formulate their writing.
8. Conclusion, day 3: Share RAFT work with the class.

Grade Breakdown

10 points: Key Word Categorization

10 points: Insert Note Taking

30 points: RAFT - written work and sharing with the class. (Score will be based on factual accuracy, creativity and evidence of the importance of geography.)

50 points total.

Assessment:

Each of the individual assignments will be assessed and there will be a unit test that will include material from this lesson.

Suggested Extensions:

1. Students could compare Pericles’ Funeral Oration to famous speeches of modern times.
2. Students could use this topic as a starting point to a discussion on the Greek/Turkish population transfers and genocide.
3. Compare and contrast the role of geography in the development of other ancient cultures with Greece.

Credit: Leonore Heino Hoyt, Centennial High School, Circle Pines, MN

Key Word Categorization

Organize and categorize these terms.

soldiers

feats

lamentation

vainglorious

eloquence

honor

women

commonwealth

ancestors

toil

transgress

democracy

beauty

yield

city

recreations

Name _____

Pericles' Funeral Oration Insert Note-taking

For your homework please read Pericles' Funeral Oration. While reading, mark your text with two different colored highlighters. One color should be for passages that are understandable based on what you know already; the other color should be for things you don't understand or would like more clarification. When you've finished reading and marking your text, transfer the highlighted passages (or abbreviated versions of them) to this graphic organizer.

+ Things I Understand	? Need More Information

R.A.F.T.

ROLE	AUDIENCE	FORMAT	TOPIC
George Bush	American People	Funeral Oration	In the model of Pericles on the dead of the Iraq War
Underwater Archeologist	National Geographic Society	Funding request	Proving the importance of continued underwater exploration in the Aegean, Black, and/or Mediterranean Seas
Yourself	Mr. Breuning (school principal)	Letter	Explaining how concepts of citizenship, democracy and arête can be improved at CHS
Historian	Esteemed colleagues	Lecture	Analyzing both Greek and Turkish claims to the island of Cyprus
Greek Scholar	American public	Op-Ed Piece or political cartoon	Why should Macedonia change its name?
Macedonian Scholar	American public	Op-Ed Piece or political cartoon	Why should Macedonia not change its name?
City Planner	Local government.	Design and written explanation	The Greek model of an ideal city

Directions: Upon the completion of Pericles' Funeral Oration, Goode's Atlas analyses, teacher lecture, and class discussion, you are to choose and write on the topic you find most interesting. Or, you may choose your own in consultation with me. Everyone will share their writing with the class.

This 30-point assignment will be evaluated on factual accuracy, creativity, and evidence of the importance of geography.