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▲ Map of the ancient Greek world

ANCIENT GREECE

Greece is located on the southern tip of Europe. It borders the Aegean (ih-JEE-uhn), Adriatic (ay-dree-AT-ik), and Mediterranean (MED-uh-tuhr-RAY-nee-uhn) seas. Greece is made up of a large mainland surrounded by many smaller islands. It is a hot, dry country with many mountain ranges.

The ancient Greeks produced great writing. And, they created visual and dramatic arts. Greek **philosophy** (fuh-LAW-suh-fee), **politics**, and sports all developed during ancient times. These live on in our society today. Greek **civilization** (siv-uh-luh-ZAY-shuhn) reached its peak in Athens in the fifth century B.C.

The Greeks created a very rich **culture** thousands of years ago. Over the centuries, this culture has had a huge impact on Western civilization. The progress of the Greeks in ancient times continues to affect us even today.



Learning from the Language

Greek historians learn a lot about ancient Greece from writings. They read plays from the time period. Those give them information. But, they also read Greek inscriptions left in the ruins of ancient cities.

The First Jacks

A favorite game in ancient Greece was knucklebones. The knucklebones were made from the ankles of small animals, such as pigs. The game was very similar to the modern game of jacks.

▼ Ancient Greeks playing knucklebones

