

ANCIENT GREECE

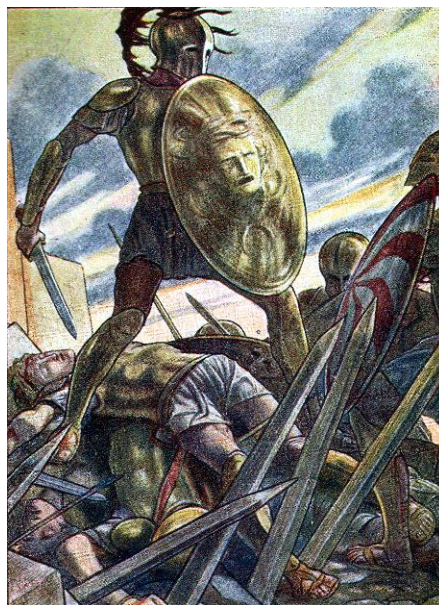
LEGENDARY TO 300 B.C.

TROJAN WAR TO ALEXANDER THE GREAT

ERA SUMMARY – ANCIENT GREECE

The Ancient History division of the Young Readers collection focuses primarily on Greek and Roman history because these civilizations are essential to understanding Western Culture. They are also especially appealing to young people, when presented at an age-appropriate level. Greek History is especially attractive to children because it is rich in mythology and some of its more romantic conflicts, including the [Greco Persian Wars](#) and [Macedonian Conquest of Persia](#) are especially interesting to young readers.

The Ancient Greece division of the Young Readers collection is mostly composed of fables, fiction, and mythology rather than authentic history, although Lemon's [Stories from Greek History](#) introduces a handful of important Greek characters, including [Solon](#), [Themistocles](#), and [Alexander the Great](#). Greek folklore is especially interesting to very young children, and Milo Winter's beautifully illustrated [Aesop for Children](#) has been a childhood favorite for nearly 100 years. Children's versions of the [Stories from the Iliad](#) and [Stories from the Odyssey](#) are simple enough to hold younger student's interest as well, while Lemon's [Stories from Greek History](#) provide a very short introduction to Greek history for older students. Lemon's short history along with select stories from Baldwin's [Famous Stories](#) series, are the source for most of the Young Readers [Study Questions](#) having to do with Ancient Greece.



EPAMINONDAS AND PELOPIDAS

Once students are ready to start learning comprehensive history, we recommend they begin with Greek history. The Ancient Greece [Academy Course](#) features many more stories of Greek myths and heroes that are always favorites of young readers. But more importantly, Greek history, along with the Biblical stories of Israel, it is truly the foundation of Western Civilization and it is important that students understand where the unique ideas and attitudes of Western civilization arose.

CHARACTERS – ANCIENT GREECE

GREEK HEROES

Jason	~ 2000 BC	Led a voyage of 'Argonauts' on a quest to recover the Golden Fleece.
Perseus	~ 2000 BC	Legendary hero who killed Medusa, a monster so ugly it turned people to stone.
Theseus	~ 2000 BC	Legendary hero, who killed the Minotaur. Ancient King of Athens.
Hercules	~ 2000 BC	Greatest of Greek demigod heroes. Succeeded in twelve labors.
Achilles	~ 1200 BC	Greatest Warrior on the Greek side in the Trojan War. Invincible except for his heel.
Odysseus	~ 1200 BC	Greek hero of the Trojan war, famous for his wiles and craft. Central character of Homer's <i>Odyssey</i> .
Penelope	~ 1200 BC	Faithful Wife of Odysseus. Kept suitors at bay for twenty years, as she awaited his return.
Helen	~ 1200 BC	Wife of Greek Menelaus, who ran off with Paris of Troy. This insult caused the Trojan War.

HISTORICAL CHARACTERS

Solon	638–559 BC	Rewrote the laws of Athens to better protect poor citizens from the rich.
Pisistratus	605–527 BC	Tyrant of Athens. Respected Solon's laws. Established festivals, and promoted culture.
Themistocles	525–462 BC	Athenian hero of the <i>Battle of Salamis</i> . He masterminded Athenian naval supremacy.
Xerxes	520–465 BC	Raised an enormous army for Persian invasion of Greece. Defeated at <i>Battle of Salamis</i> .
Leonidas	d. 480 BC	Spartan King whose whole army died defending the pass of Thermopylae.
Pericles	499–429 BC	Athenian statesman during Golden Age of Athens. Made Athens cultural center of Greece.
Socrates	469–399 BC	First moral philosopher, immortalized by Plato.
Demosthenes	d. 413 BC	Important Athenian general in the Peloponnesian War. Perished at Syracuse.
Aristotle	384–322 BC	Renowned scientist and philosopher. Cataloged all types of knowledge. Tutor to Alexander the Great.
Philip of Macedonia	382–336 BC	Used statesmanship as well as military force to bring Greece under sway of Macedonia.
Alexander the Great	356–323 BC	Greatest general of ancient times. Conquered Persian Empire with 40,000 soldiers.

TIMELINE – ANCIENT GREECE

- 1000 [Homer](#) writes **The Iliad**, an account of the [Trojan War](#).
- 700 Laws of **Sparta** established by [Lycurgus](#).
- 600 Laws of **Athens** established by [Solon](#).
- 490 First [Persian War](#)—Battle of **Marathon** (Greek Victory)
- 480 Third [Persian War](#)—Battles of **Thermopylae** (Persian victory) and **Salamis** (Greek Victory)
- 450 Golden Age of **Athens**, building of the **Parthenon**.
- 430-404 [Peloponnesian War](#)—Sparta defeats the Athenian Empire.
- 401 [Retreat of the Ten Thousand](#) Greeks from Persian territory, under [Xenophon](#).
- 399 Philosopher [Socrates](#) is forced to drink hemlock.
- 371 [Epaminondas](#) of Thebes defeats Sparta at the **Battle of Leuctra**.
- 334 [Alexander the Great](#) leads [Macedonian Conquest of Persia](#).

RECOMMENDED READING – ANCIENT GREECE

Winter - Aesop for Children	<i>entire book</i>
Lang - Stories from the Iliad	<i>entire book</i>
Lang - Stories from the Odyssey	<i>entire book</i>
Lemon - Stories from Greek History	<i>entire book</i>
Cowles - Our Little Spartan Cousin	<i>entire book</i>
Cowles - Our Little Athenian Cousin	<i>entire book</i>
Perkins - Spartan Twins	<i>entire book</i>