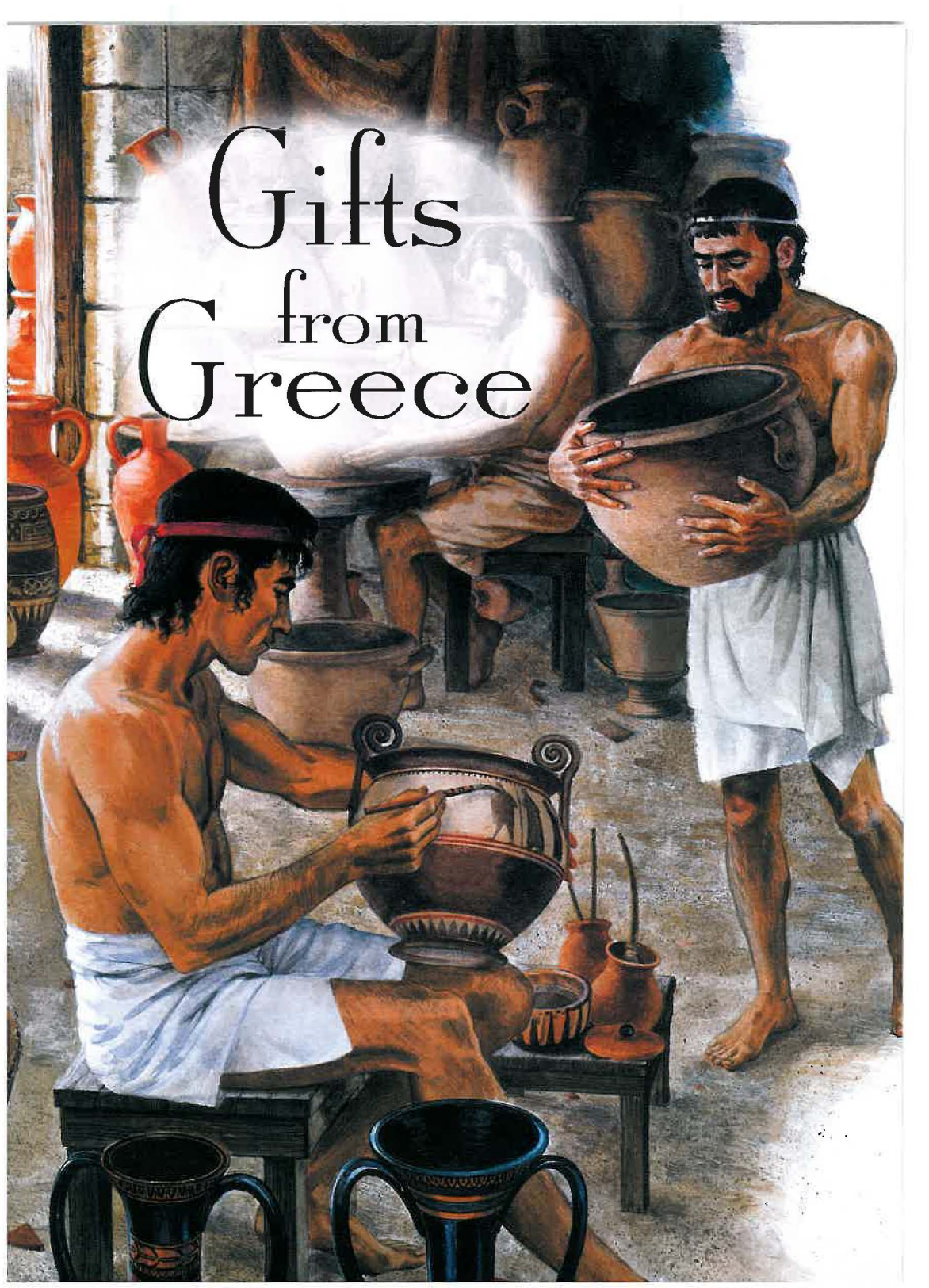
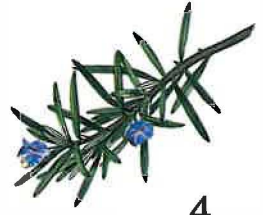


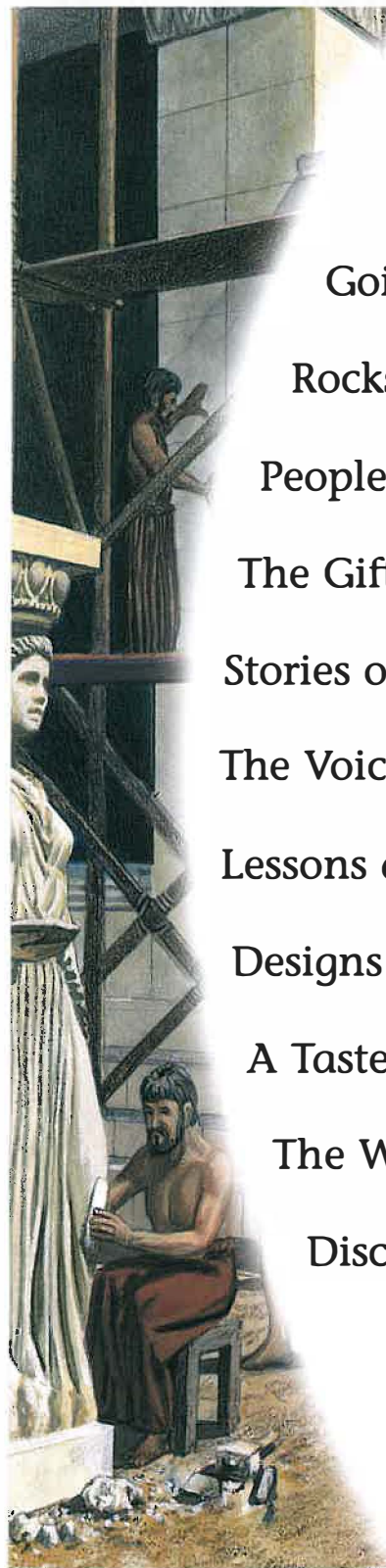
Gifts from Greece



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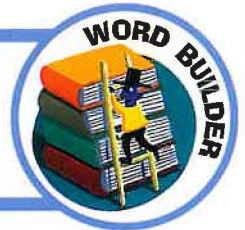
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Features



You're about to touchdown at Athens International Airport. Turn to page 5 to discover fast facts about Greece.



And you thought you were speaking English! Learn how Greek words form the building blocks for many words in English.



This ancient storyteller spun tales about animals that act like humans. Turn to **The Voice Behind Famous Fables** on page 14.



What do you get when you put ripe tomatoes, feta cheese and tasty olives together? Enjoy **A Taste of Greece** on page 20.

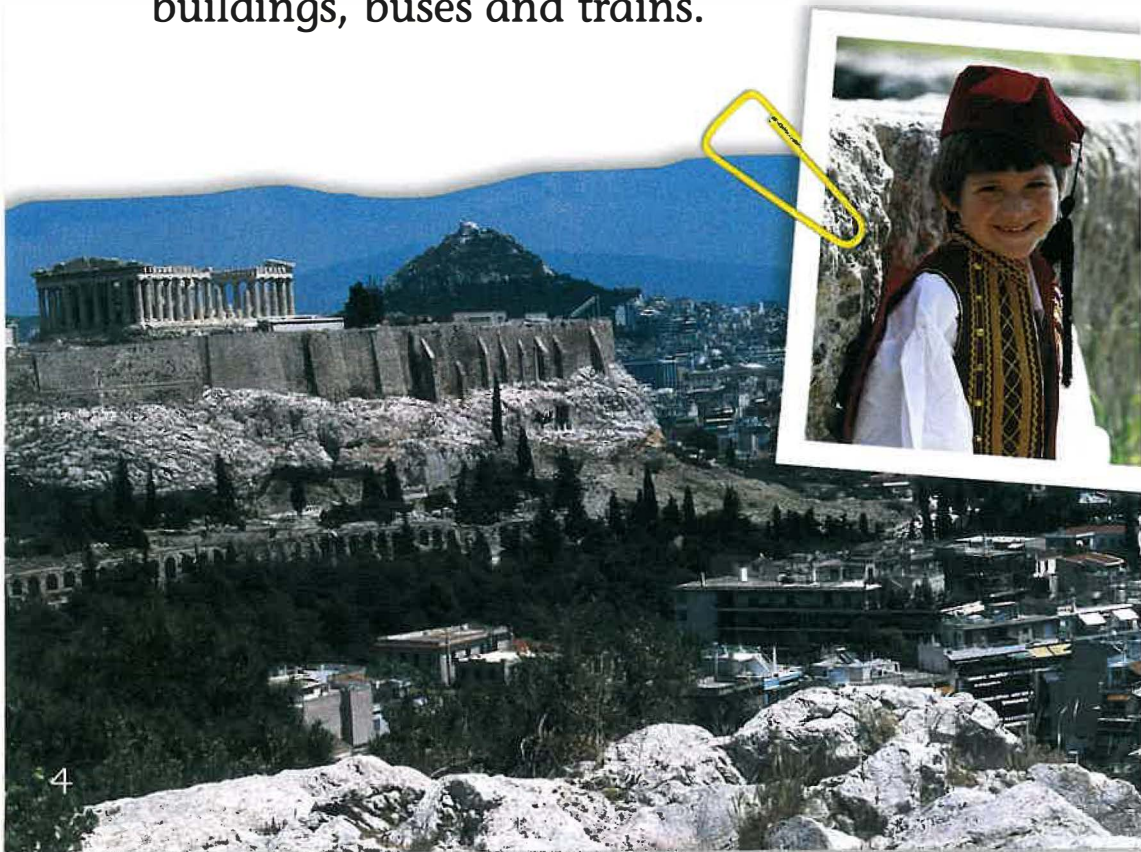




Going to Greece

Greece is a small but important country in Europe. Long, long ago it was a very powerful nation and home to many of the world's greatest thinkers and inventors.

Athens is the capital city of Greece. It is one of the oldest and most famous cities in the world. Today it is a busy place with modern shops, high-rise apartment buildings, buses and trains.





Greece

- Population: 10,573,000
- Capital: Athens
- Money: euro
(100 cents = 1 euro)
- Language: Greek
- Highest point: Mount Olympus, 2,917 metres
- Food products: corn, cotton, grapes, raisins, olives



There are many islands in Greece. Boats and fishing are an important part of Greek life.



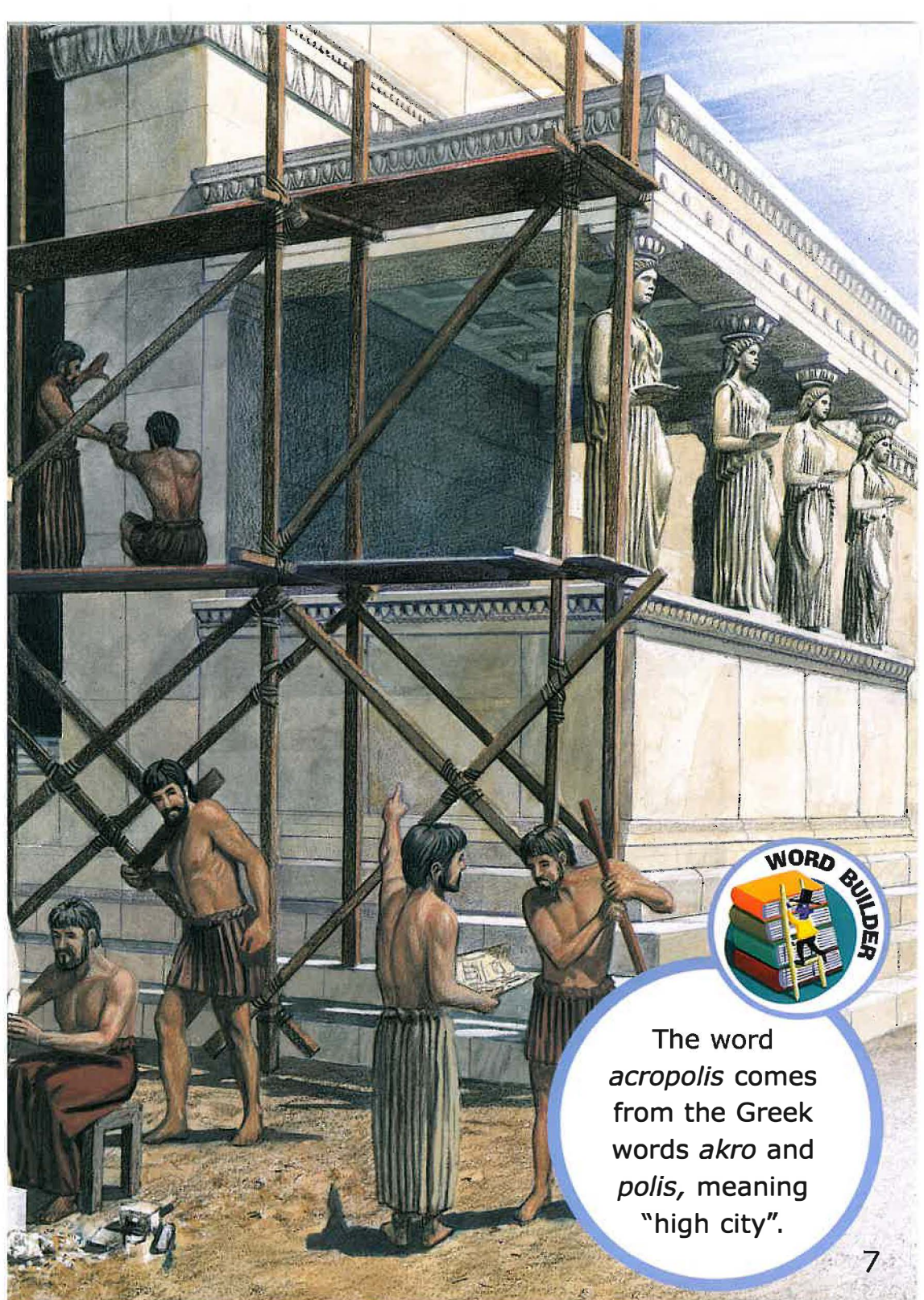
Rocks and Ruins

The ruins of ancient Athens still stand on the rocky hill above the city. This part of Athens is called the Acropolis. The ancient Greeks built temples and great buildings there more than 2,500 years ago.

Many of the temples had huge carved columns and were decorated with giant statues. People still use Greek column designs in buildings today.

Many tourists now visit the ancient ruins in Athens.

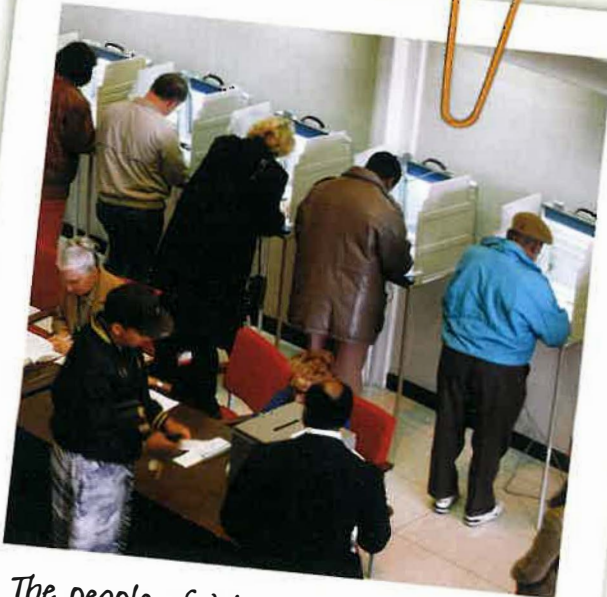




The word *acropolis* comes from the Greek words *akro* and *polis*, meaning "high city".

People of Power

The ancient Greeks believed people should be free to express their ideas. They liked to question the old ways and were open to new ways. Their ideas were fresh and powerful. They changed people's understanding of government, science and medicine. Many of their ideas, or theories, are still used today.

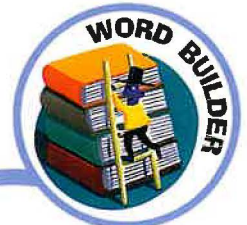


The people of Athens began a kind of government called democracy. Today many countries are democracies. The people can vote for their leaders.

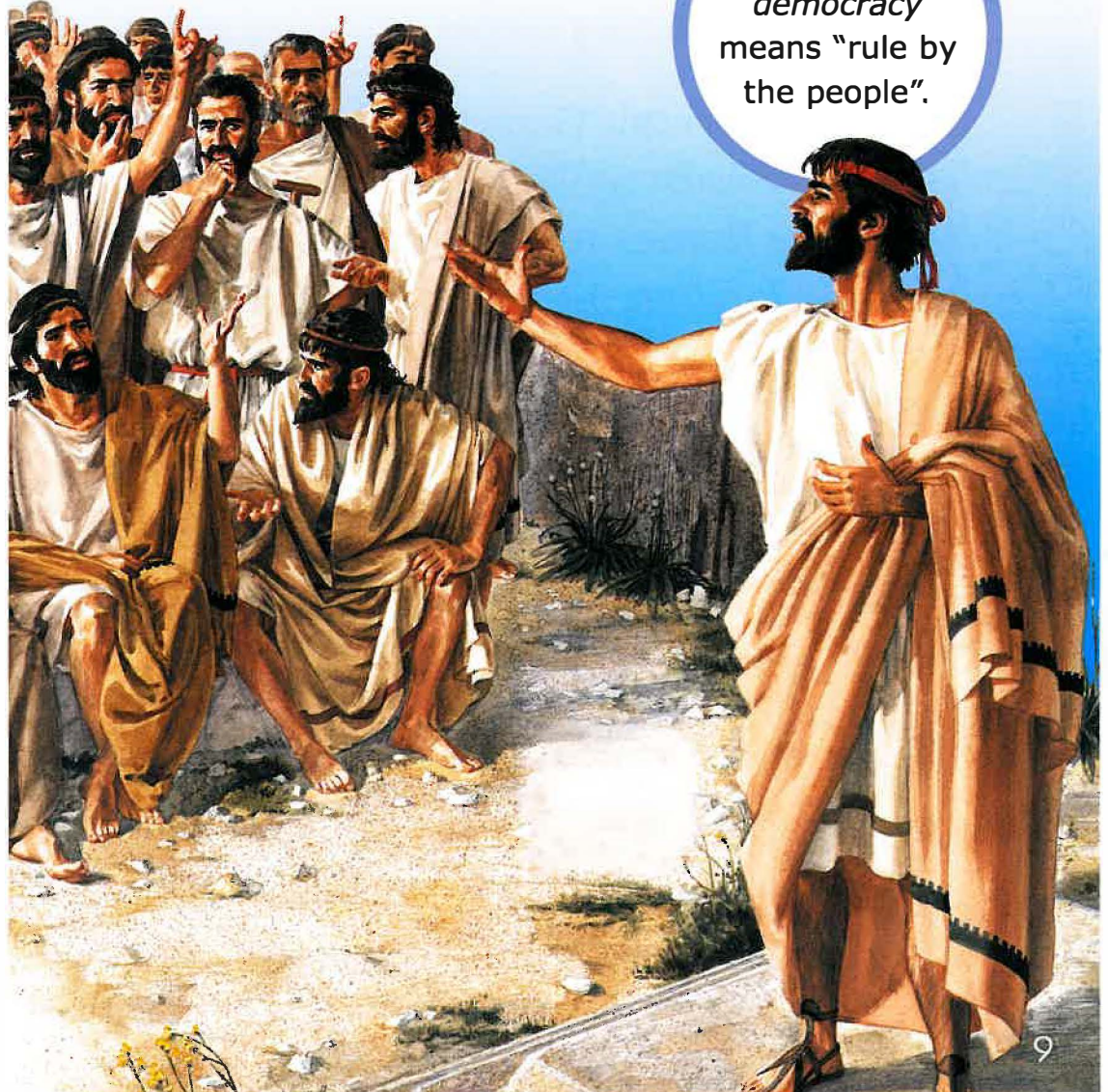




In ancient Greece only men were allowed to vote. They used voting tokens. In most countries today both men and women can vote.



The word *democracy* means "rule by the people".



The Gift of Games

The Olympic Games are a tradition that began in ancient Greece. Today the Olympic Games bring millions of people together as they watch great athletes compete in sporting events.

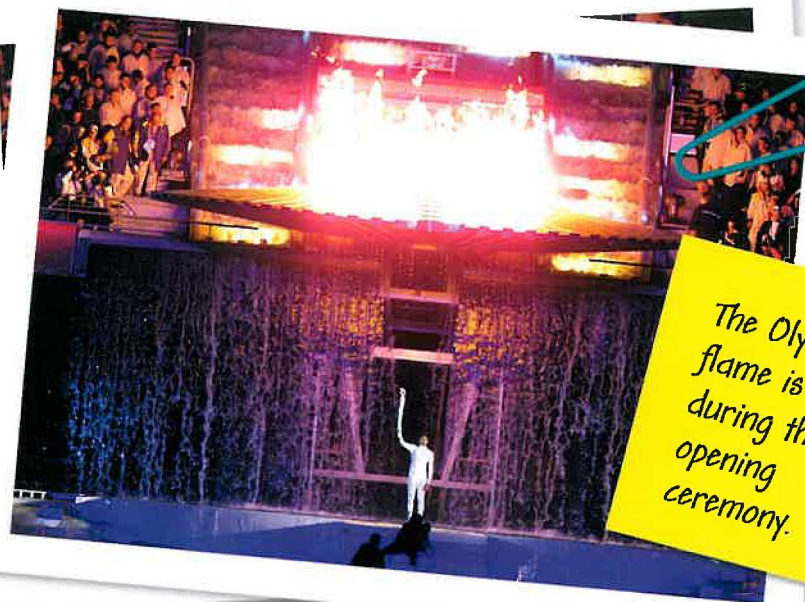
The early Olympic Games were held every four years at Olympia in Greece. Today the Games are held in different countries around the world.

To this day a fire is lit in Olympia using mirrors and the sun. Relay runners then carry the fire from Olympia to the city hosting the Games. They use it to light the Olympic flame.





The modern Games began in 1896 to help build world peace and friendship. The Olympic symbol is five coloured rings that fit together. The flag of every nation in the Games has at least one of these colours.

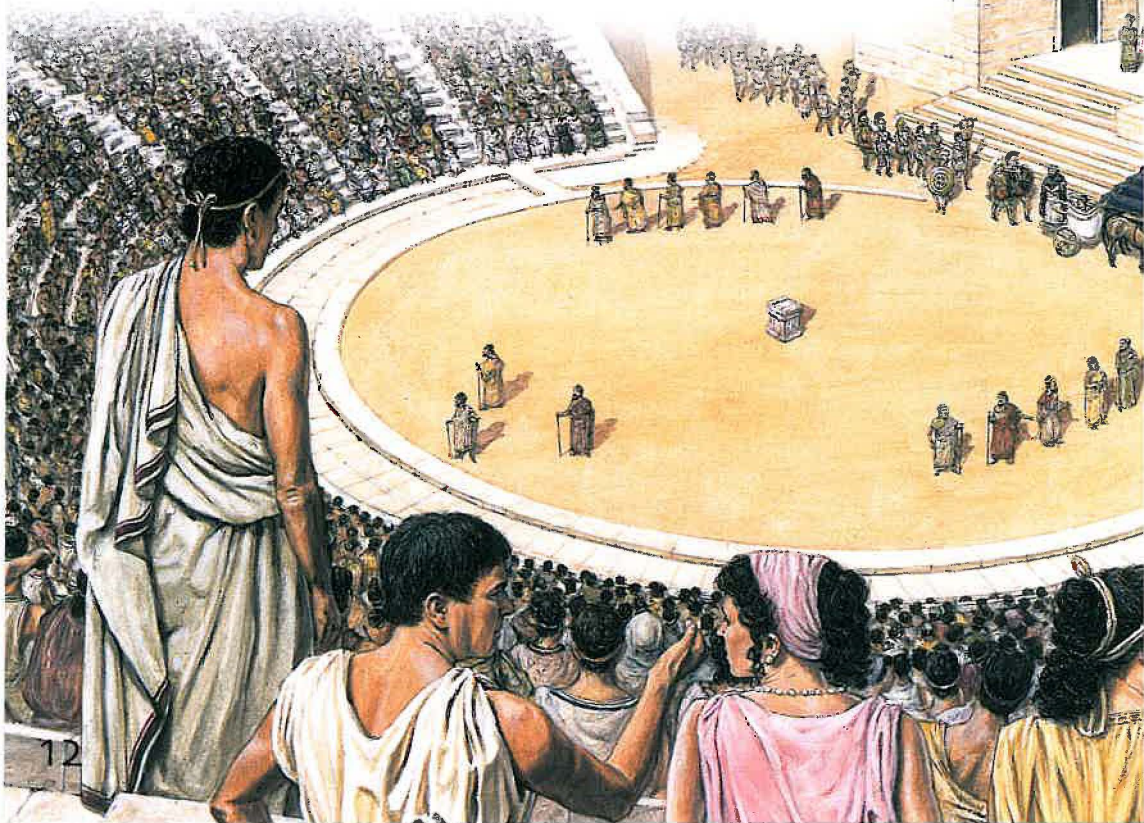


The Olympic flame is lit during the opening ceremony.



Stories on Stage

The Greeks gave the world drama as well as sports. The theatre was an important part of life in ancient Greece. Thousands of people gathered in stadiums to watch plays. People stopped work to watch. Prisoners were let out of jail to watch! Greek actors put on plays with happy endings, called comedies, and plays with sad endings, called tragedies.



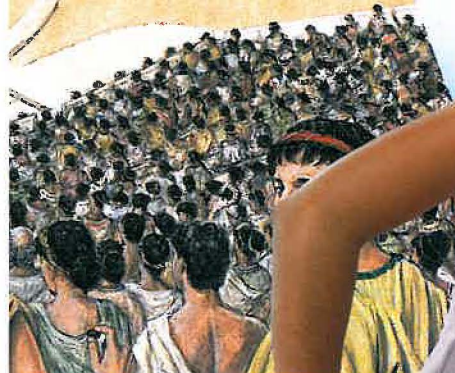


WORD BUILDER



The word *theatre* comes from a Greek word that means "a place for seeing".

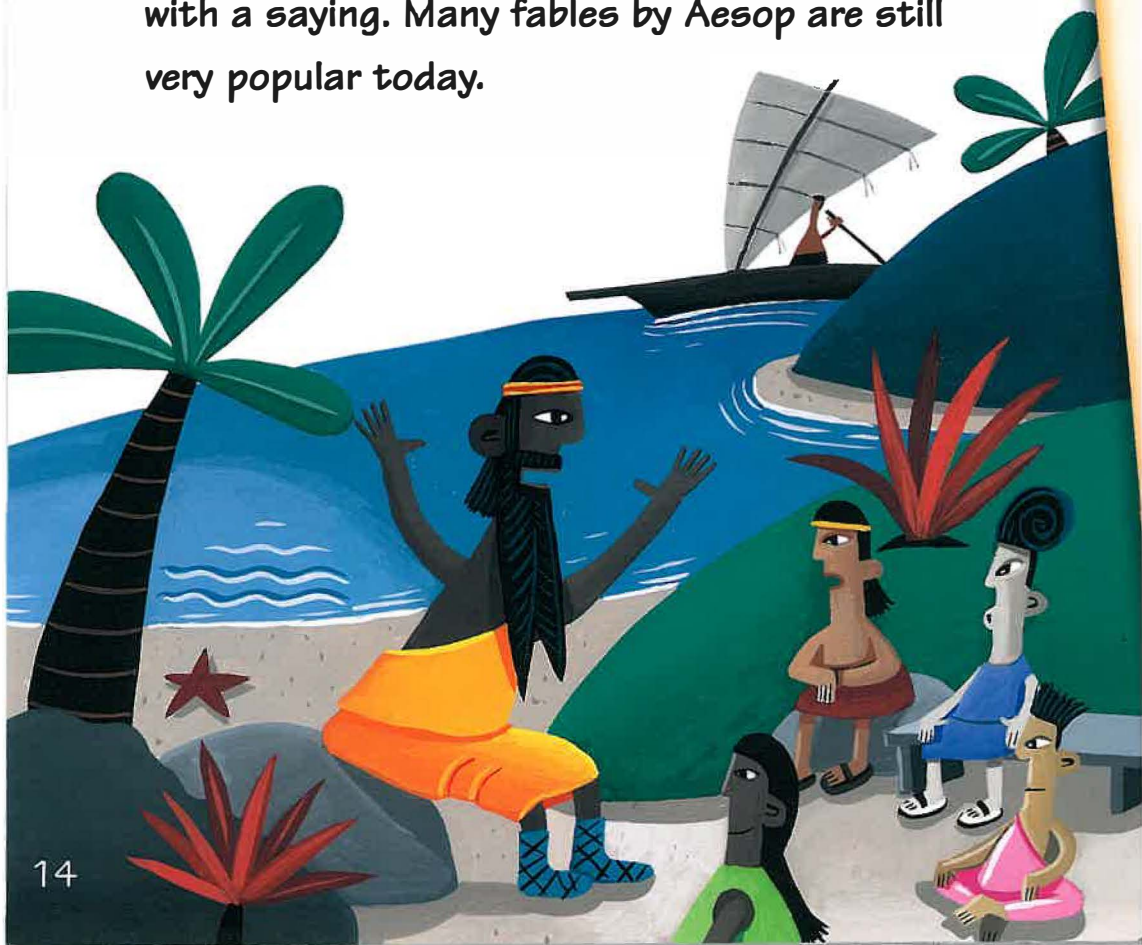
Greek actors often wore masks. The masks were used to tell the audience how the actor was feeling. People still use masks in drama today.

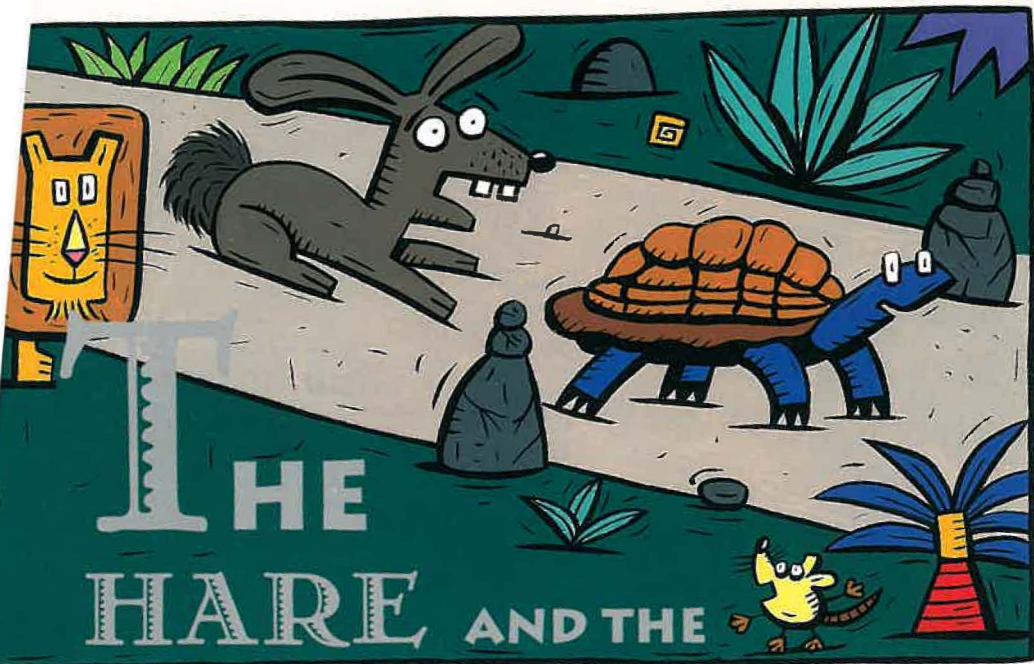




The Voice Behind FAMOUS FABLES

Some of the world's greatest storytellers came from ancient Greece. Aesop was a famous Greek storyteller who told special stories called fables. His fables are often about animals that talk and act like humans. Fables offer helpful advice, and each one ends with a saying. Many fables by Aesop are still very popular today.





THE HARE AND THE TORTOISE

There was once a hare who bragged about how fast he could run. He challenged any animal to beat him in a race. Tortoise said, "I accept your challenge, Hare." And so the race began.

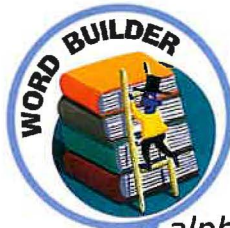
Hare raced off, but he soon stopped for a nap because he knew Tortoise was so slow. Tortoise plodded on steadily. He crossed the finish line just as Hare woke up. Tortoise won!

"Slow and steady wins the race".



Lessons and Letters

Not everyone in ancient Greece had the chance to become a great thinker or storyteller. Education was not free, and only boys were allowed to go to school. They learned reading, writing and maths. Some girls were taught to read and write at home, but many adults thought lessons in housework were far more important for girls.

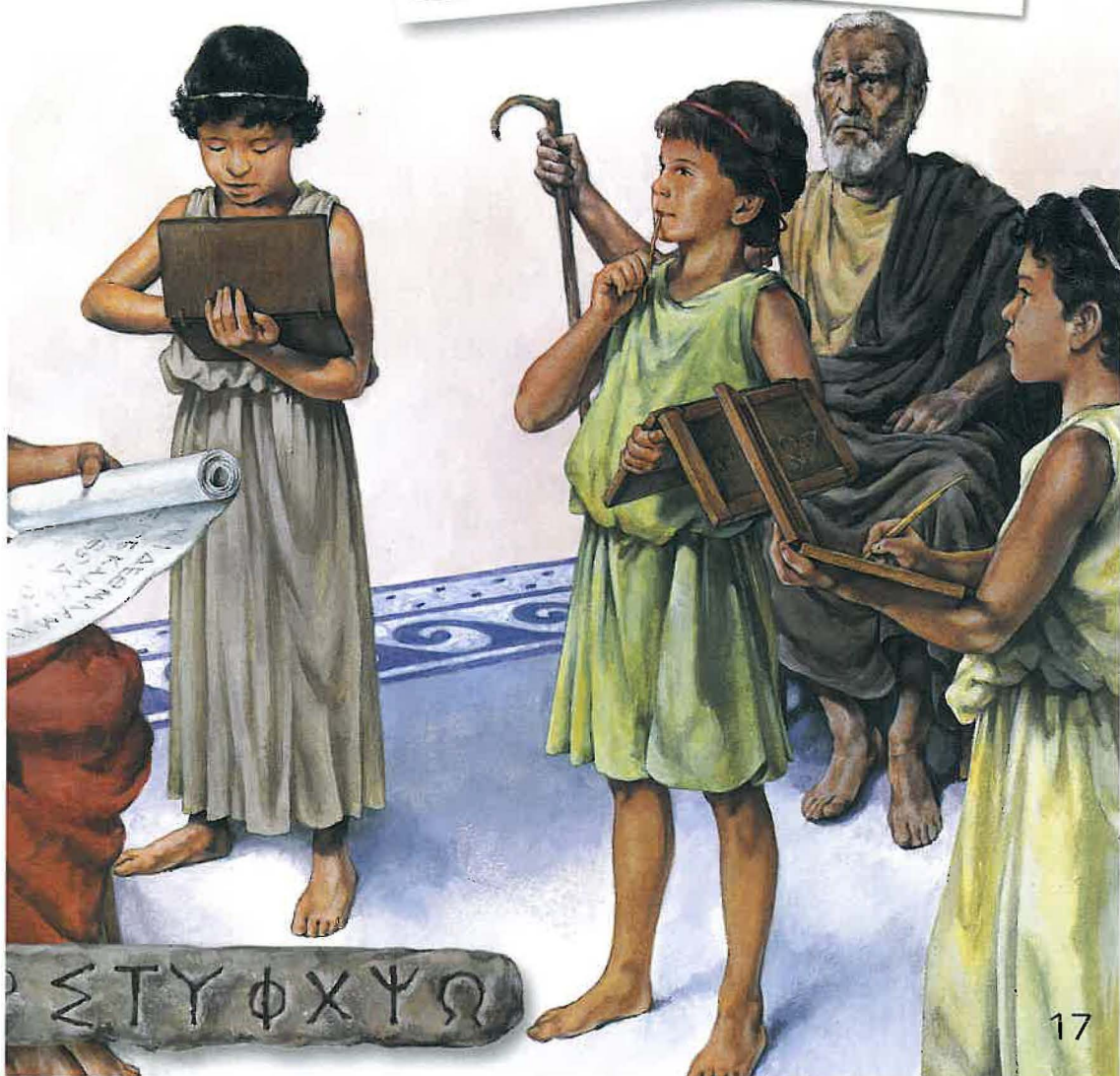


The word *alphabet* comes from the first two letters of the Greek alphabet, *alpha* and *beta*.

The alphabet that the ancient Greeks used helped form the alphabet we use in English today.



Today public schooling
in Greece is free.
All children between
the ages of 6 and 15
must go to school.



Designs for Living

Women took care of the house and family in ancient Greece. They often had unpaid servants, or slaves, to help them. Mothers taught their daughters how to weave cloth into wall hangings, rugs and clothes. The ancient Greeks liked having beautiful things. They often decorated their homes with painted pots and vases. Greek designs from the past are still very popular today.





An Ancient Greek House

- 1** Women wove cloth in the loom room.
- 2** Men entertained guests in the dining room.
- 3** Slaves collected water and prepared food in the kitchen.
- 4** Beds were made from wood.
- 5** Children played games in the living room.
- 6** Only wealthy people had a bathroom.



A Taste of Greece

You can make your very own gift from Greece. Here's what you need to make a delicious Greek salad.

Ingredients

- 1 red capsicum
- 1/2 green capsicum
- 1 cup cherry tomatoes
- 1 cucumber
- 1 red onion
- 100 grams feta cheese
- 1/2 cup black olives
- oil and vinegar

Greek Salad

Equipment

- a large salad bowl
- a small mixing bowl
- a small knife
(not too sharp)
- a peeler
- a stirring spoon

Do you know that onions can make you cry? Get an adult to help with all cutting and chopping!

Method

Wash, peel and chop!

Wash all the vegetables.

Carefully cut the capsicums in half, take out the seeds then chop the capsicums into chunks.

Peel and slice the cucumber and onion.

Cut the cheese into squares.

STEP

1



STEP

2



Mix it up!

Put the vegetables in a large salad bowl. Add the olives and mix all together.

STEP

3



Toss and serve!

Put a splash of oil and vinegar in a small bowl. Stir. Pour this dressing over your salad.

Serve and enjoy!



The Who's Who of Greek Greats



Alexander the Great was a mighty and fearless leader. He won many battles. His heroes were the ancient Greek warriors Achilles and Hercules.

Archimedes was a very clever mathematician and engineer. He invented the Archimedes screw, which is still used today.



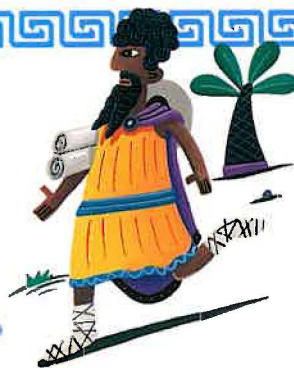
Aristotle was a great thinker and teacher. His ideas about science, mathematics and government helped shape our world today.



Euripides was a great writer of plays. He wrote many famous tragedies.



Herodotus is often called the father of history. He travelled far and talked with many people. He wrote down what he learned.



Hippocrates is often called the father of medicine. He was a famous doctor, teacher and writer.



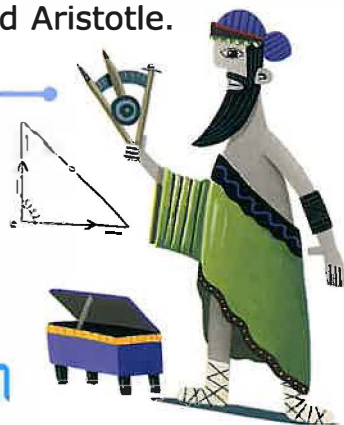
Homer was a great poet who told very long story poems called epics. His most famous epics were *The Iliad*—a story about a very long war, and *The Odyssey*—a great adventure story.



Plato was a great thinker and teacher. He worked with two other famous thinkers named Socrates and Aristotle.



Pythagoras was a famous mathematician. His method of measuring triangles is still taught in schools today.





Discussion Starters

1 The ancient Greeks gave the world many important ideas and inventions. Which gifts from Greece do you think are most important today?

2 The Olympic Games are the greatest sporting contests between countries of the world. How do you think they help bring people together?

3 Aesop told many famous fables. Which fables do you know? Look at the border illustration on page 15 for clues. Then see if you can retell a famous fable.

