Ideas Across Borders

How Greek places, conflicts, and ideas shaped later societies

SS24.7.14 "Summarize cultural contributions and legacies of Classical Greece, including architecture, arts, intellectual life, literature, politics, and science. 14a Explain the development of the polis and analyze how geography affected the process..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details showing how geography shaped Greek city-states, circle details about who made political decisions, and number the steps that carried Greek culture beyond Greece.

From City-States to an Empire

1 In ancient Greece, steep mountains separated valleys, and the sea offered routes for trade. Communities grew into independent city-states called poleis, each with its own laws and government. Athens, near the coast, became a busy trading center. Sparta, in a fertile inland valley, relied on farming and conquest of nearby lands. Their differences shaped political life. Sparta had two kings and a council of elders. In Athens, power moved from nobles toward a democracy in which male citizens voted directly on laws. Women, enslaved people, and foreigners could not vote.

2 Greek city-states sometimes united against Persia, an outside empire that invaded Greece. Later, Athens and Sparta fought each other in the Peloponnesian War, which weakened Greek city-states. Meanwhile, thinkers asked how a good society should work. Socrates questioned people in public to test their beliefs, leaving a model for careful questioning. His student Plato wrote dialogues and argued that wise rulers should govern, an idea later thinkers debated. Greek builders raised stone temples with columns, while playwrights used tragedies to explore choices and power. Greek scientists also sought natural explanations for the world.

3 After Greece's city-states lost strength, Philip II of Macedon conquered much of Greece. His son Alexander built an empire reaching Egypt and Asia. After his death, generals divided it into Hellenistic kingdoms. Greek language, theater, and art spread and mixed with local traditions. Rome later conquered Greek lands, yet Romans borrowed Greek styles for temples and studied Greek writing. Athens also left a political legacy. Its male citizens voted directly on laws, while voters in many modern representative governments elect lawmakers to vote on their behalf.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did geography help Athens and Sparta develop different ways of making a living? Name one difference between their governments.

2. How does voting in the Athenian democracy described here differ from voting in many modern representative governments?

3. How did the Persian invasion and the Peloponnesian War affect Greek city-states differently?

4. What was one lasting result of Socrates' approach and a different lasting result of Plato's ideas?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum label explaining how Alexander's empire helped spread Greek culture and influenced Rome. Include the Hellenistic kingdoms, an example of culture spreading or mixing, a Roman borrowing, and a comparison to how geography shaped one earlier Greek city-state.

ANSWER KEY

Ideas Across Borders

GRADE 7 · SS24.7.14

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline details showing how geography shaped Greek city-states, circle details about who made political decisions, and number the steps that carried Greek culture beyond Greece. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did geography help Athens and Sparta develop different ways of making a living? Name one difference between their governments.	**Athens' coastal location supported trade, while Sparta's inland valley supported farming. Sparta had two kings and a council of elders, while male citizens in Athens voted directly on laws.**
2	How does voting in the Athenian democracy described here differ from voting in many modern representative governments?	**Male citizens in Athens voted directly on laws. Voters in many modern representative governments elect lawmakers to vote for them.**
3	How did the Persian invasion and the Peloponnesian War affect Greek city-states differently?	**The Persian invasion sometimes brought Greek city-states together. The Peloponnesian War set Athens and Sparta against each other and weakened Greek city-states.**
4	What was one lasting result of Socrates' approach and a different lasting result of Plato's ideas?	**Socrates left a model for testing beliefs through careful questioning. Plato's argument that wise rulers should govern became an idea later thinkers debated.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

After Alexander died, his generals divided his empire into Hellenistic kingdoms. Across these kingdoms, Greek theater spread and mixed with local traditions. Romans later borrowed Greek styles for temples after conquering Greek lands. Earlier, Athens' coastal location supported trade, but Alexander's empire carried Greek culture across Egypt and Asia.

Accept other accurate contrasts and examples supported by the passage. For the museum label, look for four sentences that connect Alexander's empire to cultural spread, identify a Roman borrowing, and compare that spread with geography's effect on Athens or Sparta.