

People Who Shaped Greece

Trace how Greek leaders, thinkers, and conquerors changed their world.

SS.6.W.3.6 "Determine the impact of key figures from ancient Greece."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each key figure's name. Next to each figure, write a number and circle the words that tell what the figure changed or influenced.

Four Greek Figures and Their Impact

- ① In the early 500s BCE, Athens faced serious conflict between rich landowners and poor farmers. The leader Solon changed several laws to ease this tension. He canceled many debts that had forced Athenians into slavery and ended debt slavery for citizens. Solon also allowed more male citizens to take part in courts and the Assembly, though wealthy men still held many offices. His reforms did not create full democracy, but they reduced the power of a few families and helped Athens move toward broader citizen participation.
- ② About a century later, Pericles guided Athens during much of its Golden Age. As a leading statesman, he supported paying jurors and some public officials. This payment made it easier for poorer male citizens to serve, rather than leaving public work mainly to people with wealth and free time. Pericles also supported building projects, including the Parthenon, which employed workers and showed Athenian devotion to Athena. His actions strengthened direct democracy for eligible citizens, while excluding women, enslaved people, and resident foreigners.
- ③ Socrates did not write books or lead an army. Instead, he questioned people in Athens about ideas such as justice, courage, and knowledge. He asked follow-up questions that pushed listeners to examine their beliefs carefully. This method influenced later philosophers, especially his student Plato, and it remains a model for discussion and critical thinking. Alexander of Macedonia had a different impact. Through military conquest, he built an empire stretching from Greece to parts of Egypt and Asia. Greek language and customs spread across these lands, mixing with local traditions in the Hellenistic world.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did Solon's reforms change the role of ordinary male citizens in Athens?

2 How did paying jurors and public officials affect democracy under Pericles?

3 How did Socrates influence people after his lifetime?

4 What cultural impact followed Alexander's conquests?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose Solon, Pericles, Socrates, or Alexander. Write a 4-sentence claim explaining which figure had the most lasting impact. Use two accurate details from the passage and explain how each detail shows impact.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each key figure's name. Next to each figure, write a number and circle the words that tell what the figure changed or influenced. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Solon's reforms change the role of ordinary male citizens in Athens?	They allowed more male citizens to take part in courts and the Assembly, reducing the power held by a few wealthy families.
2	How did paying jurors and public officials affect democracy under Pericles?	It made public service possible for poorer male citizens, not mainly for wealthy people with free time.
3	How did Socrates influence people after his lifetime?	His questioning method influenced later philosophers, including Plato, and became a model for discussion and critical thinking.
4	What cultural impact followed Alexander's conquests?	Greek language and customs spread into Egypt and parts of Asia, where they mixed with local traditions in the Hellenistic world.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I think Socrates had the most lasting impact. His follow-up questions taught listeners to examine their beliefs carefully, showing that his method changed how people discussed ideas. His method influenced Plato and later philosophers, showing that it lasted beyond his own life. People still use questioning for critical thinking today.

Accept answers that identify a supported impact and explain a connection between the figure's action and its result. For the open response, accept any figure if the student gives a clear claim, two accurate details, and explanations of impact.