Ideas That Last

Trace ancient Greek contributions into later life.

AWH.C.6.4 "Describe the lasting impact of major accomplishments of the ancient Greeks: Greek institutions: the lyceum, the gymnasium, the Library of Alexandria Mathematics: Pythagoras and Euclid Medicine: Hippocrates Science and Engineering:..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each Greek contribution in the passage, then circle a phrase that tells how it influenced later people.

From Ancient Ideas to Lasting Legacies

1 Imagine following ideas rather than people across the Greek-speaking world. At a gymnasium, young men exercised and studied; the practice linked physical training with education. At Aristotle's Lyceum in Athens, students studied subjects from nature to politics through organized inquiry. Later, the Library of Alexandria in Egypt gathered writings and supported scholarship. These institutions influenced later schools, research communities, and libraries, though each changed over time. Greek speakers also adapted the Phoenician script, adding clear vowel letters to create an alphabet that helped shape the later Latin alphabet.

2 Pythagoras and his followers studied number patterns, including a rule for right triangles. Euclid organized geometry into definitions and proofs, a model for mathematical reasoning today. Hippocrates and physicians linked to him stressed observation of illness rather than blaming gods; an oath associated with his name still shapes discussions of medical ethics. Archimedes studied levers and buoyancy, ideas used in engineering. Ptolemy built a mathematical model with Earth at the universe's center. Although incorrect, it guided astronomers for centuries.

3 Not every lasting contribution was a device or school. Homeric epics such as the *Odyssey* preserved stories of journeys and conflict, inspiring later literature. Herodotus collected accounts of past wars and investigated causes, helping establish historical inquiry, even though some reports were unreliable. Aeschylus wrote tragedies that explored choices and responsibility onstage, influencing later drama. Together, these works offered models for telling stories, studying the past, and debating human actions. Their survival also shows why collected texts and a flexible writing system mattered to later readers.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did one Greek learning institution and the Greek alphabet each help later people share knowledge?

2. How did the work of Pythagoras and Euclid leave different mathematical legacies?

3. How did Hippocrates, Archimedes, and Ptolemy each influence later work? Include a limit of one contribution.

4. How did Homer, Herodotus, and Aeschylus each influence a different field?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Choose two accomplishments from different areas in the passage. In four sentences, describe a new present-day situation where each legacy matters and explain how their effects differ.

ANSWER KEY

Ideas That Last

HIGH SCHOOL · AWH.C.6.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each Greek contribution in the passage, then circle a phrase that tells how it influenced later people. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did one Greek learning institution and the Greek alphabet each help later people share knowledge?	**The Library of Alexandria gathered writings for scholars. The Greek alphabet helped shape the later Latin alphabet, giving later readers a writing system.**
2	How did the work of Pythagoras and Euclid leave different mathematical legacies?	**Pythagoras and his followers studied a rule for right triangles. Euclid's system of definitions and proofs became a model for mathematical reasoning.**
3	How did Hippocrates, Archimedes, and Ptolemy each influence later work? Include a limit of one contribution.	**Hippocrates influenced observation-based medicine and discussions of medical ethics. Archimedes' work on levers and buoyancy informed engineering. Ptolemy's Earth-centered model guided astronomy for centuries, but it was incorrect.**
4	How did Homer, Herodotus, and Aeschylus each influence a different field?	**Homer's epics inspired later literature. Herodotus helped establish historical inquiry. Aeschylus' tragedies influenced later drama.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A school ecology club could follow the Lyceum's spirit of inquiry by observing trees near campus. Members could compare their notes before deciding which trees survived a drought. A podcast writer could draw on Homer's epics to tell a long journey story filled with setbacks and hard choices. The Lyceum's legacy shapes how the club investigates, while Homer's legacy shapes how the podcast tells a story.

Accept other accurate links between a contribution and its later impact. For Part 3, look for two different areas, two specific present-day situations, and a clear comparison in four sentences.