

## Religion, Philosophy, and Art in Ancient Greece

- I. The Golden Age of Athens
  - A. Period from 479 to 431 B.C.
  - B. Sources of wealth
    1. Trade
    2. Silver
    3. Tribute
  - C. Pericles
    1. Powerful in Athenian politics
    2. Supported democracy
- II. Ancient Greek religious beliefs
  - A. Gods and goddesses
    1. Twelve great gods led by Zeus
    2. One god was honored by each city-state
  - B. The Oracles
    1. Sacred sites where gods spoke
    2. Heads of state often sought advice there
- III. Science and philosophy
  - A. Philosophers Thales and Democritus tried to understand nature
  - B. Sophists cleverly debated topics in public
  - C. Socrates asked questions that made people think about what they believed, but was condemned to death
  - D. Plato distrusted democracy
  - E. Aristotle believed reason should guide the pursuit of knowledge
- IV. Visual and dramatic arts
  - A. The Parthenon
    1. Temple to the goddess Athena
    2. Most magnificent work of Greek architecture
  - B. Dramas
    1. Athenians were first to write dramas
    2. Greek tragedies were famous
    3. Tragedies were performed as part of religious festivals
  - C. Comedies
    1. Made fun of well-known citizens and politicians
    2. Because of the freedom in Athens, people accepted the humor and jokes