

Section 2

Religion,
Philosophy,
and the
Arts

The Golden Age of Athens

- 479bc- 431bc
- Athens got rich from trade and silver mines
- Tribute (payments from neighboring allies) added to its wealth
- Pericles- extremely smart and powerful- cared for his city
 - An aristocrat, but supported democracy
 - 460 bc- became the leader of a democratic group- lots of reforms
 - Made city pay officials- let poor people hold office
 - Saw the construction of Parthenon (447-432 bc)- built to honor Athena

Ancient Greek Religious Beliefs

- Gods and Goddesses
 - Temples to the gods all over Greece
 - Had human characteristics
 - Main difference- gods were immortal (lived forever) and had power
 - Led by Zeus- lived on Mt. Olympus
 - Also worshiped heroes (like Achilles)
 - Each city-state honored one of the 12 patron gods
 - Ex: Athena for Athens
 - Held festivals , sacrificed animals, offered food
 - All city-states came together every four years to honor Zeus- Olympics

Ancient Greek Religious Beliefs

- The Oracles
 - People wanted advice from their gods
 - Went to oracles (shrines where ppl believed gods or goddesses spoke)
 - Answer came thru dreams or a riddle spoken by a priest believed to be able to speak with the gods
 - Heads-of-state often went to the Oracle at Delphi-Apollo

The Search for Knowledge

- Greek Science and Philosophy
 - Thales- one of the first philosophers
 - Water was basic material of the world
 - Democritus- 400s bc
 - Everything made of tiny particles- atoms