

The Ancient City: Life in Classical Athens & Rome Study Guide

The Ancient City: Life in Classical Athens & Rome by Peter Connolly

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Plot Summary

The ancient cities of classical Athens and Rome are described and explored in the book, "The Ancient City, Life in Classical Athens and Rome." Although there is some mention of wars and conflicts and the defeat and victories of some of their rulers, the main emphasis of this book is daily living, the mores and laws of the time and the religious practices of the cultures. One of the major topics found in the sections about both cities, is the architectural design and constructions of buildings—from the simple homes of residents to the spectacular monuments and famous structures that are familiar to everyone worldwide.

The book begins with the golden years of Athens in the fifth century BC. A description of the battle to survive as a culture—their struggle to defend the city and provide adequate food and water to the large population of Athenians—begins the story of the classical culture. The infant democracy of the culture is described and defined as the cradle of democracy for the entire world. The daily life, occupations and religious practices are described in great detail. A section is devoted to the origin of the Olympic games that explains its initial religious connection. A large section is devoted to Greek theater, one of the greatest cultural gifts the Greeks give the rest of the world for all time to come. Athens loses prestige through the years but once Greek wins its independence in 1821, it becomes the capital city of Greece and returns to a city of prestige and importance.

Many of the subcategories in the section covering ancient Rome parallel those in the section about Athens. This section begins with the origin of Rome—its growth from a group of small settlements on the Tiber River to the great city it becomes. In fact, it ultimately became the center of the Great Roman Empire. There are subsections that cover its government, a form of democracy; the daily life of its residents—where they lived, what they ate, what they wore; the religious practices of Romans and the emergence of Christianity; and, Roman theater, how it was similar to Greek theater and how it differed. A large section is devoted to the building of the Colosseum and the gladiatorial games for which it was built. The construction of many of the other famous buildings and monuments in the city are also described in detail.

The last portion of this section describes the decrease in construction in Rome after the death of the emperor Hadrian. Emperors following him reduced their own powers, making way for a more democratic government. The emperor Constantine is credited with issuing a decree that recognizes Christianity as an acceptable religion and building the first Christian churches in Rome.



Part I: Athens, Pages 9 through 47

Part I: Athens, Pages 9 through 47 Summary and Analysis

Athens

Athens is the crown of the ancient world. It is famous for its beauty and its wise and talented residents like sculptor Phidias, the philosophers Socrates and Aristotle, playwrights Sophocles and Euripides and historian Thucydides, among many others. Socrates is a teacher and has a future philosopher, Plato, as a student. Ancient Athens is the first democracy in history—a true democracy where everything is decided by vote (but women and slaves are not allowed to vote). The liberal society, however, is kind to its slaves. Like many third-world countries today, women lead sheltered lives and stay at home to raise their children. Some of the forward thinking men of ancient Athens do advocate more rights for women. Although Socrates is sentenced to death for some trumped up crime, the courts decide to allow him to live in exile. His stubborn love and loyalty of Athens disallows him from leaving, ultimately costing him his life.

The Golden Years

The first king of Athens is Erechtheus who establishes worship of the Greek gods. Mycenaean civilization collapses in Greece in 1200 BC, causing widespread strife. This period is often referred to as the Dark Age of Greece. The Athenians overthrow their monarchy in 950 BC. For centuries there is a power struggle between the aristocracy and the lower class that eventually leads to a limited democracy. In 560 BC Pisistratus becomes dictator of Athens. It is during this time that the Parthenon is built.

In 480 BC a huge army under the Persian king Xerxes attacks Athens. Although they take Athens, Xerxes' army is later defeated at sea by the Athenians. Greek remains in conflict with Persian for a lengthy period of time until they finally retake Athens although it has been devastated by the Persians. To stave off further attack, the Athenians build a wall around their city. Eventually, the Persians give up their designs on Athens and grant it independence.

Sparta, a region to the south of Athens, is ruled by the upper class. The ideologies between the two regions eventually clash and the two factions go to war. The war lasts for nine years and in 405 BC, the Athenian fleet is captured by the Spartans. The Corinthians insert themselves in the spoils of war by insisting that, in their tradition, all Athenian men be killed and all women and children be placed in slavery. The Spartans disagree, demanding that the Athenian walls be dismantled, that Athens be allowed to have only a small navy and that they accept the oligarchic government of thirty aristocrats who are supporters of Sparta. These aristocratic leaders come to be known as the Thirty Tyrants.



The Keys to Survival

The population of ancient Athens is difficult to measure. There is evidence that the total Athenian military strength is around 45,000 soldiers. The families and the soldiers and alien residents add close to another 300,000 people. The number of slaves is unknown. The food supply for Athens depends on the farms located on the nearby islands like Attica. Water is supplied to most houses through their own wells—the sources for additional water are the public fountains where women gather water each morning. There is evidence that drainage channels are constructed to serve as the major water suppliers. Ancient walls securing the city are believed to have been built in both 6th and 5th century BC. The walls are maintained and rebuilt several times throughout the centuries. There are approximately fifteen main gates throughout these walls.

To protect its food supply shipped from outlying islands, it is necessary for Athens to have a strong navy. The architect of the Athenian navy is Themistocles. By 480 BC, Athens' naval fleet numbers around 200 warships. Themistocles convinces the leaders to fortify a rocky region of Athens known as Piraeus that has three natural harbors. Remnants of ship-sheds that are used to shelter and repair the ships are found in all three harbors. Most of the equipment for the fleet, including weapons, is stored in large storehouses. The best known such storehouse is the Arsenal of Philon. The Athenians, learning from the weaknesses of other cultures, build Long Walls to provide a shield against future attacks. In 404 BC, the Long Walls are demolished in a peace agreement but later partially rebuilt in the 4th century.

The Cradle of Democracy

5th century Athens is a democracy in which everything is decided by vote of the citizen assembly or the ekklesia. The goal of the democracy is to limit the power of any one person or faction. Most public officials are chosen by lot. The Agora is similar to the main street of a modern city—it contains government buildings, courts and markets. Men gather in the Agora to discuss current issues. Much of the Agora is destroyed by the Persians, as evidenced by modern archeological digs which find many abandoned foundations. A new main gathering place, the Painted Stoa, is erected in the Agora. The portico is called the Painted Stoa due to all the paintings hung on its walls. Two more stoas are erected later also in the same Doric style—one is dedicated to Zeus and the other is called the Stoa of the Herms.

The philosopher Aristotle records the details of the Athenian constitution that provides insight into its democracy. In 487 BC the first signs of the Athenian's fledgling democracy emerges—a law is passed that leaders be chosen by lot rather than elected. This serves to limit the power of the aristocracy. Later legislation shifts the power from the wealthy, allowing for the poor to participate equally in politics. A boule, or legislative assembly, of 500 representatives serves for one year. The term limits for these representatives is held to two years. The legislative body meets in the Bouleuterion that is in the Agora. A monument of the Eponymous Heroes that honors fallen soldiers is also built in the Agora.



Ostracism is a process used in ancient Athens whereby if a sufficient number of people believe a person to be guilty of a crime, that person can be banished for a certain number of years. For the assembly meeting to take place, a minimum of 6,000 citizens has to be present. Any citizen is allowed to express his opinion during these meetings. The Athenians are proponents of law and order and focus on creating a society that is fair and one that will abolish corruption. All law violators are tried by a jury of citizens. Juries are large, all having odd numbers to avoid ties. There are no official police; however, slaves are used to fill some law enforcement needs. The most famous Athenian trial is that of Socrates who loses favor with the Thirty Tyrants due to his liberal views. Socrates refuses exile and is forced to drink poisonous hemlock and die in a jail cell. Most punishments for law violators are mild. They include loss of property, loss of rights or exile.

Daily Life

Childbirth in Athens in the fifth century was ritualized. Among other traditions, the father's family smears tar around the house when the labor starts. Male babies are more desirable than females. Unwanted babies are either aborted or exposed to the elements until dead. Boys from wealthy families have their own personal slaves who serve as their tutors. Middle and upper class girls have a form of education and learn to read and write and play instruments. At eighteen, boys have to serve in the military for two years.

The basic piece of clothing is a tunic. Greek men wear a himation, a large shawl worn over the shoulder. A type of cloak is worn by soldiers. Women wear woolen or linen tunics, down to their ankles. They also wear shawls similar to the men. Women have long hair that is usually pulled back in a bun. Marriages are all arranged. Boys under 18 need their father's permission to marry. Girls are usually fourteen or fifteen when they marry.

After marriage, the man work outside the home while the woman stay at home. There are several religious festivals for women only, including the Thesmophoria, which is exclusively for married women. Some higher class women are allowed to attend the theater. Dinner parties are an important part of the social life of Athens; however, wives are not invited. Divorce is easy for men but next to impossible for women. A man can divorce a wife for no reason. If she commits adultery or is barren, he is expected to divorce her. Physical abuse is one reason a woman might be able to get a divorce. The father of medicine is Hippocrates who is born around 460 BC. His oath is taken by doctors to this day. Doctors, both public and private, are plentiful in ancient Athens. The Ancient Greek society respects their elders and male sons are expected to care for their aging parents and to give them proper burials upon their deaths.

Work

Over half of the people of the island of Attica are farmers. The main products are olives, grapes, wheat and barley. Athens is famous for its artisans and the high-quality products and artwork they produce. Slaves are common in Athens and are usually prisoners of war. Often slaves are accomplished people and although they live in squalor are



expected to perform those jobs for which they are trained or educated. Domestic slaves are often treated like members of families. They have good living conditions and are treated fairly. Some are artisans who play music for their families.

There are many merchants and tradesman located in the Agora who make their living selling and buying products. Some act as middle men, buying from factories or farmers and selling to retail dealers in the Agora. Since shop owners are not the most honest group, market inspectors are appointed in order to prevent the shop owners from cheating patrons. Bankers are part of the Agora, setting up their changing tables on the street. The drachma is the basic unit of Athenian currency.



Part I: Athens, Pages 48 through 102

Part I: Athens, Pages 48 through 102 Summary and Analysis

The Houses of Athens

The houses of Athens include semi-detached houses and hill houses. The semi-detached homes are large and two-storied and adjacent to other similar homes. Hill homes are homes literally cut into the sides of hills. Wall art is in evidence in the ruins via fragments of painted plaster and is a common practice going back to the Bronze Age. Bright colors may have been used on the wall in large areas, decorated with stripes of lighter colors. The House of Many Colors has fragments that indicate the plaster was molded into rectangular panels, an early example of the Masonry style that remains popular for many decades.

The dining room is where the symposion or drinking party is held in which only men participate. Food is served—like bread and soup—but more drinking than eating takes place. The men use these occasions to offer libation to Dionysus, the wine god. The kitchens are so small that they were often difficult to define in the ruins. Since cooking is done over an open fire, presumably much of it takes place outdoors. Small bathrooms are identified where baths from hot water pour from vessels and rudimentary showers take place. Lavatories consist of a seat and a bucket. Furnishings seem sparse and are built for their mobility as they are moved from room to room. Furniture is usually made of wood. Lighting is provided by lamps and braziers are used for heating.

Temples of the Gods

The focus of classical Greek religion is the sacrifice performed outside the temples or shrines erected to gods. Many of these structures are some of the finest constructed by man. Ancient Greek religion is polytheistic—twelve main gods are worshiped. The gods have both supernatural and human features so that no god is all good or all bad. There are minor deities that also have powers. The ancient Greeks do not conceptualize an afterlife. The king of the gods is Zeus and his wife Hera is the queen. Some of the other gods are Poseidon, god of the sea; Hades; god of the underworld; Apollo, god of prophecy; and, Athena, goddess of war and wisdom. Athena is the patron god of Athens. The Parthenon is erected in her honor.

An important religious center, the Apollo of Delphi, is located just outside Athens. The temple at Eleusis is erected in honor of Demeter and her daughter Kore. The rites performed there are called the Mysteries of the Eleusis which, unusual for Greek religion, makes references to the afterlife. Sacrifices are the most important aspect of Greek religion. Pigs, goats, sheep and poultry are used as sacrifices. Wild animals cannot be sacrificed, only domestic ones are used. A sacrifice is preceded by a procession to the altar. The priest cuts the hair of the animal and throws it in the altar



fire. The one chosen to slaughter the animal stuns it and then cuts its throat. After the animal is butchered, it is thrown on the fire until cooked. The meat is eaten by those participating in the ritual.

After the Acropolis lies in ruins for more than thirty years, the decision is made to rebuild the temple. This work begins in 447 BC and when completed, the structure is known as the most famous temple in the world, the Parthenon. In the Middle Ages the building is converted to a Catholic Church and still later to a Turkish mosque. The building suffers damage in an explosion in 1687 but much of it still stands in modern times. The great sculptor Phidias designs the overall appearance of the Parthenon. The structure is built with white Pentelic marble.

Each side of the structure has a different theme. The front features a mythological battle between gods and giants; the west side shows Greeks fighting Amazons; the north side features a scene from the Trojan war; and, a battle between men and centaurs is on the fourth side. The sculptures are all painted in vivid colors. By 487 BC, the exterior is completed. A huge statue of Athena resides inside, measuring 39 feet high. A few years later, Phidias creates a large statue of Zeus of Olympia that is considered one of the Seven Wonders of the World. In 420 BC, the Erechtheum is built, a shrine to honor all gods associated with the Acropolis. The temple is named after the first king of Athens, Erechtheus. There are still remains of these temples today.

A Festival for Athena

The Panathenaea festival is held every summer. The Athenians celebrate Athena and in 402 BC show their gratitude to the goddess for the peace and prosperity they are enjoying. Sporting games are part of the celebration and every region holds their own—the most famous of which are the Olympic games at Olympia. The games are for men only—women cannot watch under risk of death. The games are initially intended to train men for war. The games include track events and the pentathlon, which consists of the discus, javelin, long jump, sprinting and wrestling. There are also boxing and equestrian events. Chariot races that are also part of the games are the sources of serious injuries and deaths. The final day is devoted to awarding prizes. A nocturnal festival is held on the closing night of the games.

The Theatre

One of the greatest gifts the Greeks give the world is theater. The Greeks are some of the best playwrights of all time and their plays are still performed to this day. Around the middle of the 6th century BC a festival for the deity Dionysus—who is the god of wine and also emotion—is held in which singing, dancing and dramatic scenes are featured. When a man called Thespis does a dramatic reading, the Greek drama is born. Around 500 BC, both dramas and comedies become popular. These performances are first held in the Agora but later moved to a slope near the Acropolis that naturally forms an auditorium. The shows become more and more elaborate with producers competing with each other. The performances are geared to the wealthy since the cost of a ticket is a day's wage for a slave. Pericles is the first to build an actual theater, which is



constructed with stone. Later remnants of a wood theater are also discovered. A fourth century theater is built around the temple of Dionysus. The Odeon, a large covered building, is erected for the Panathenaic Games when Pericles decides to include musical events in the festival.

Poets create tragedies based on well-known legends. The only trilogy to survive is the Oresteia, written by Aeschylus in 458 BC. Like many of his contemporaries, the playwright uses his trilogy to make political and moral statements. Sophocles and Euripides are considered the best of the Greek playwrights. Comedy is introduced into the Dionysus festival in about 442 BC. The comedy writers use their plays to poke fun at politicians and other personalities. Aristophanes and Euripides both create dramas with anti-war sentiments. The actors all wear masks and the use of scenery is introduced by Sophocles. The theater helps revive the prestige of Athens.



Part II: Rome, Pages 105 through 149

Part II: Rome, Pages 105 through 149 Summary and Analysis

Rome

Rome is at the height of its power in the early 2nd century AD. It is a technologically advanced culture that has aqueducts, paved roads and sewer systems. Rome grows from a number of small hill settlements on the Tiber to a formidable military and political power. Rome is strengthened by its geographic location on the Tiber River, a gateway to the Mediterranean. The innovation of Roman concrete makes way for the building of the Colosseum, the Baths of Trajan and the Temple of Venus, which are all built within 60 years following the great fire of AD 46. Some of Rome's greatest leaders are Cato, Cicero, Pompey and Julius Caesar.

The Site of Rome

Rome's position on the Tiber provides it with a great defensive posture. At the end of the sixth century BC, the first temple to Jupiter is built, part of which still remains today. At the end of the 6th century, the kings are overthrown and replaced with a republic ruled by oligarchy that is led by two leaders chosen from the aristocracy. Early power is in the hands of patricians who are considered to be of noble birth. The patricians are wealthy and own most of the land, an issue which enrages the plebeians. By the early 4th century, the plebeians gain power and authority and by 367 BC the first plebeian becomes a consul.

The Forum is where all public and political life are conducted. There are shops, government buildings, the Senate house and the Comitium, which is where the magistrates address the assembly. The House of the King located on the Forum is occupied by the chief priest, Pontifex Maximus. The Vestal Virgins also reside in this area. They are young aristocratic girls who are responsible for the sacred fire of Vesta, goddess of the hearth. If they break their vows of thirty years of celibacy, they face death. Rome is the leader of a league of Latin towns fighting the Etruscans to the north. Rome is attacked in 390 BC by the Senones, one of the Gallic tribes. Rome soon recovers and takes all of Italy south of the Po Valley by 275 BC.

Rome becomes engaged in two wars with Carthage. The Punic War (264-241 BC) is a battle for Sicily. In the second war (218-201 BC), Hannibal attacks from Spain and, for a short period, conquers most of southern Italy. However, ultimately Rome defeats Hannibal and regains its territory. Rome becomes the greatest power in the Mediterranean. As Roman power grows, so does the city that had been fortified with massive walls. At the end of the fourth century, Rome begins constructing roads, the most famous of which is the Via Appia. The rich live on the hills of Rome while the poor



huddle in the valleys. Two large basilical buildings are constructed on either side of the Forum in 170 BC.

A power struggle ensues during the 1st century BC between the Optimates, powerful conservatives, and the Populares, who are politically minded but lack influence and seek popular support. A bloody civil war takes place between Sulla and Mithridates, King of Pontus. Having seen the statue of Zeus in Athens, Sulla orders rebuilding of the great temple of Jupiter on the Capitoline in Rome. After Sulla passes away, Gaius Julius Caesar comes into power as a powerful military leader but is assassinated in 44 BC. Other civil wars follow and peace does not descend upon Rome until the defeat of Mark Anthony and Cleopatra in 31 BC at the Battle of Actium, after which Octavian, who is named Augustus by the Senate, comes into power.

The Imperial Capital

The physical appearance of Rome is transformed under Augustus. Augustus' forum is constructed to the north of the Forum Romanum. It is built to celebrate the victory over Caesar's assassins. The complex is large and mimicks some Greek architectural features. The Ara Pacis is built to celebrate the Emperor's victories in Spain and Gaul. Augustus' own home on the Palatine, while elegant, is considered modest. Wall decorations of the era are comprised of four Pompeian styles: Masonry, Architectural, colored panels and scenic images.

Succeeding Augustus is Caligula who many think mad because he believes he is descended from the gods. After a short reign, he and his wife and baby daughter are assassinated. He is succeeded by Claudius whose physical ailments lead enemies to think he is not very bright. Claudius is just and fair but his reign is short. Nero gains the throne in AD 54 at age 16. He is immature and strong-willed. He erects some beneficial structures like a new bridge but his insistence on building a large country estate in the middle of Rome baffles his critics. In AD 64, a fire breaks out at the Circus Maximus that rages for six days. Some suspect Nero orders the fire set since he immediately seizes the burned area for the construction of his estate. Nero's advisers put the blame for the fire on the Christians, many of whom are tortured to death for the deed.

Nero's estate, referred to as the Golden House, covers 125 acres and is constructed between AD 64 and 68. The Romans are not disturbed by the size and cost of the house, they are resentful that it is built in the center of Rome. When named an enemy of the public by the mutinous Praetorian Guard, Nero eventually kills himself. As Emperor, Vespasian's greatest triumph is the construction of the Colosseum. After Vespasian dies, Titus becomes ruler and is then succeeded by his younger brother, Domitian. Domitian is unpopular and assassinated in AD 96. Under the next two emperors, Trajan and Hadrian, Rome comes into its Golden Age.

The Government

Augustus sets the number of senators at 600. They can serve for life unless guilty of misconduct. Most are wealthy landowners. Prospective senators have to have



experience in both military and civilian posts and cannot become a senator before age 42. As Emperor, Augustus seizes all political powers he deems necessary to rule. Criminal trials are heard before magistrates and at the conclusion of the trials, the presiding magistrate gives his judgment that is binding to all parties. Punishments are meted out according to class. Upper class people are exiled or allowed a private execution. Poor people are given public beatings and executions.

Food and Water

Most historians agree that the population of Rome in the 2nd century AD is about 1,200,000. Providing enough food and water for such a population is a challenge. Much of Rome's food is imported from other parts of the Mediterranean; grain comes from Africa. Grain is distributed to the poor at no cost. Under Trajan's reign, a land-locked inner basin is built which is linked to the Tiber via a canal allowing for a large number of ships to bring supplies and food closer to Rome. In 312 BC, the first aqueducts are built in Rome; this allows for a reliable source of water for the Romans. Sewers carry away used water and waste by flushing them from the fountains. A portion of the most famous Roman drain, the Cloaca Maxima, is still in use today. Historical records indicate that there are 144 public latrines in Rome. Some private homes are equipped with their own latrines.

Houses and Apartments

Of the many roads in Rome, only two are wide enough to really be called streets—the Sacra Via and the Nova Via, both of which led to the Forum. The streets are dirty and unsanitary causing Julius Caesar to issue a decree ordering all households to clean up the fronts of their houses. The streets are dangerous and most are so narrow that all wheeled vehicles, other than those for official business, are banned. Streets are crowded and most people did not travel out at night due to the unlit streets and dangerous muggers.

The Etruscan atrium-style home emerges as the most popular one for the wealthy. Borrowing ideas from the Greeks, the homes feature colonnades and two stories. The poor often rent rooms above or behind their places of work. Some houses are converted to apartments or flats; however, there is physical evidence that some buildings are originally constructed as apartment buildings. Limestone, brick and concrete are typical building materials. During the reign of Trajan (AD 98-117), huge apartment blocks are built at the port of Ostia. These buildings consist of small and large apartments and shops. Apartment blocks are found throughout many areas of Rome which allows for population expansion. The apartment blocks of Ostia alone are thought to have housed in excess of a million people.



Part II: Rome, Pages 150 through 189

Part II: Rome, Pages 150 through 189 Summary and Analysis

Daily Life

Roman men work away from home and the women, unlike Greek women, are allowed to go out on their own and eat with the men. Ritual surrounds the birth of children to ward off miscarriage and death, which are common occurrences. Like the Greeks, the Romans can let an unwanted child die from exposure. Girl babies are named eight days after birth and boys, nine days after birth. In wealthy families, parents take a role in their children's education. Formalized education is based on the rote process. Poor children attend school until age fourteen while rich children are educated at home by tutors. Only sons of wealthy families receive what is considered a full education.

Between the ages of fourteen and nineteen, a young man celebrates his coming of age. When a son marries, he generally moves to his own home although he stays under the authority of his father as long as he lives. Sons are not required to serve in the military as the army is a professional, paid one. Sons of lower class families join the army. After retiring from the army, soldiers are given land and other benefits. Wealthy girls do not work while the daughters of poor families work in the family business. Marriages are generally arranged. Girls marry as young as twelve and boys as young as fourteen. Augustus deems that women of 20 and men of 25 who are not married should be penalized. The wedding ceremony contains rituals and celebratory feasts.

Men wear tunics that are often covered by the most famous form of Roman dress, the toga. Most men go to barbers who use wax to remove facial hair. Men usually wear their hair short. Women wear loose fitting tunics covered by a palla, a large rectangular shawl. A woman do not wear a toga as it is a sign of adultery or prostitution. Women's hairstyles become elaborate and ornate during Augustus' reign. In the 4th century, some men begin wearing trousers. The use of cosmetics and make-up is common among Roman women.

Women are responsible for household duties although wealthy women have slaves who do the chores. Unlike the Greek women, Roman women are free to shop and socialize outside the home. Divorces can be granted at the request of either man or woman. Children remain in the custody of their fathers. An adulterous woman forfeits half of her dowry when divorced. It is illegal for a man to marry a woman convicted of adultery. During Constantine's reign, adultery by men is made a crime. Wealthy landowners make money off their land. Businessmen engage in import and export. Guilds, similar to labor unions, are created to further the careers of craftsmen and small business owners. Craft trades include marble workers, goldsmiths, jewelers, leather workers and clothing manufacturers.



Under Augustus, many slaves are prisoners of war. A whole family of slaves—man, woman and children—is a commodity that can be purchased privately or be publicly owned. The publicly owned slaves are given specific civic duties to fulfill. Slaves can work their way to freedom. Doctors are important parts of the community due to the abundance of illnesses and diseases. Augustus awards citizenship to foreign doctors willing to serve in Rome. There are historical references about surgical procedures done quickly due to lack of any anesthesia. Wealthy men live to 50 or 60 while most of the poor do not live beyond 50. Death is followed by a display of the body, funeral procession and entombment. Cremation is outlawed. The size and design of the tomb is dependent upon the wealth of the family.

Shops, Bars and Restaurants

The Forum is the original center for shopping; however, in later times other commercial areas spring up where everything from livestock to produce is sold. Butcher shops and bread shops are plentiful. For shopping convenience, many shops are clustered together. Bars provide the opportunity for quick drinks as well as private rooms for gatherings. Drinking, eating and gambling are all activities done at bars. The upper class does not frequent bars as they consider them places of drunkenness. Many families eat out because they do not have proper kitchens—generally only lower class families eat out. Roman food is spicy and main dishes always contain meat or fish.

Many Gods

To Romans, religion is an vow between man and his gods. In order to stay on the good side of the gods, sacrifices are offered to the deities. Augustus popularizes the worship of the emperor and each emperor thereafter encourages emperor worship. In the household, guardian deities are worshiped to protect the home. Priests are usually important political men who are not solely devoted to their religious practice but can keep the position for a lifetime. Animal sacrifice is an important aspect of religious life in Rome. Male animals are offered to gods while female animals are offered to goddesses. After the animal is sacrificed, it is cooked and eaten by those participating in the ritual. Due to the conquest of the East, the Hellenistic cults and beliefs have an impact on Rome. The cults are secretive and limit membership to men. The Romans are suspicious about both Judaism and early Christianity which they consider to be mystery religions.

A Day at the Races

The most exciting games in Rome are the chariot races held year round. The races are held in large stadiums like Circus Maximus and Circus Flaminius. Circus Maximus holds an estimated 385,000 people. The viewing stands are supported by the substructures of the arena. There are twelve starting gates for the chariots. The charioteers originate mainly from lower class families or are freed slaves. Successful charioteers are paid well and idolized by the public. Scorpis, who earns large sums of prize money and wins over 2,000 races, is killed in a race at age 22. Each race begins with a procession and



spectators place bets on their favorites. A full-day's program includes as many as twenty-four races.

The Theatre

Although the Romans steal some ideas for theater from the Greeks, their plays have their own unique style that focuses largely on farce and parody. The Romans offer a large variety of performances due in part to the large population they have to satisfy. They eventually take on an unsophisticated tone that is sometimes bawdy and vulgar. Two types of comic performances evolve. The Phlyakes involve the actors wearing masks that give them grotesque appearances. Some of these plays are often based on mythology. The Atellan farces often parody tragedy and feature stock characters who are ridiculous and absurd. Some of the most popular performance genres are mime and pantomime. Mime shows featured sex and violence. The most sophisticated performance art in ancient Rome is pantomime, which combines acting, music and dance. Early Roman comedy is based on Greek plays. By 100 BC, Roman comedies come into their own. The most renowned Roman comedy writers are Plautus and Terence.

Initially, the government views theaters as decadent and they are banned by the Senate. Pompey changes all that by dedicating a theater in 55 BC in his name. Before that, all theaters are temporary structures. Some substructures of the Theatre of Pompey still exist. The theater is made of concrete and seats 27,000. The Theatre of Marcellus is constructed during Augustus' reign and seats some 14,000. The only surviving Roman dramas, or tragedies, are those written by Seneca. These plays later become popular in Elizabethan England. Many actors who appear in Roman plays are slaves or freed men. Upper class men do not act in Roman plays as it is not considered a respectable profession.



Part II: Rome, Pages 190 through 251

Part II: Rome, Pages 190 through 251 Summary and Analysis

The Colosseum

The huge arena constructed for the gladiatorial games is the Colosseum. Gladiatorial games originate from aristocratic funeral games. There is a morphing of the deaths of aristocrats with the sacrifice of human blood, which is thought to benefit the souls of the dead. The first gladiator presentation is in 264 BC. At the funeral of Marcus Pera three sets of gladiators fight it out to the death. In 65 BC, Julius Caesar orders 320 pairs of gladiators to battle during his father's funeral. Most gladiators are slaves or prisoners of war. Spartacus leads a gladiator revolt in 73 BC that lasts two years. The shows eventually lose any connection to funerals. When opponents are beasts or criminals, a death usually results. However, when gladiator faces gladiator, death is not always the outcome.

Before the Colosseum is built, gladiatorial performances are held in Circus Maximus and other arenas. The Colosseum is constructed during the reign of Vespasian. It is initially known as The Flavian Amphitheatre in honor of Flavius. The northern half of the Colosseum survives to modern times. Concrete and travertine are the main materials used to build the structure. Marble is used for seating up to the third level. It is assumed that wood is used for the floor of the arena. The Colosseum has a complex access system that includes substructures; scores of corridors, chambers and passageways; multiple stairwells; and, dozens of entrances. Seating is divided into five levels, the lowest level providing ringside views. Colorful stucco decoration adorns the walls with images of the gods and deities as well as animals and mythological creatures. There is a huge canvas awning to protect the viewers from the sun. The gladiators and the animals are kept in subterranean chambers in readiness for the events.

The first gladiator training school is in Capua. Later, four such training centers open in Rome. The principal training school, the Ludus Magnus, is in Rome. Since gladiators make money for the proprietors and directors of the schools, they are well fed and taken care of. An underground tunnel connects Ludus Magnus directly to the Colosseum. The "hunting" displays with animals are some of the most popular events. To add excitement, the producers of the show continually bring in more and more exotic animals. Elephants, hippos, rhinos, crocodiles, lions and leopards, among other animals, are featured in the shows. Near the end of the 2nd century AD, ostrich hunting is introduced and becomes a popular event. The emperor Commodus fights in the arena himself and is said to decapitate a hundred ostriches. Hunters are trained in a similar fashion as the gladiators. Hunters are typically not given any protective armor and fight the animals only with spears.



Gladiators have to swear an oath of obedience. No higher class men become gladiators as it is considered beneath them. Early on, a few women become gladiators but they are banned from fighting by 200 AD. There are some twenty different types of gladiators including the provocateur, the Samnite and the Gaul who are all lightly armed. The Thracian is more heavily armed and the retiarius has only a fisherman's net, a trident and a dagger with which to defend himself. The secutor is armed with a sword and protected with a shield and helmet. Due to attrition, new recruits are always in demand. Newly recruited gladiators are called tiros. The Colosseum opens in the summer of AD 80. The shows begin with a procession of the gladiators led by trumpeters. Beast displays and hunting events are staged in the morning with the gladiators closing the show. Prisoners are executed by wild animals at lunch time. After a kill, an official prods the dead gladiator to make sure he is dead. The corpse is dragged out of the arena by large hooks.

A New Palace

The emperor Domitian builds a great palace complex on the Palatine Hill in Rome near the end of the 1st century AD. In addition to the Emperor's residence, the complex includes public and private buildings. There is a stadium and areas for recreation. People marvel at the complex that is an architectural triumph and luxurious in style and decoration. The Domus Flavis is the official suite of the emperor where he holds audiences with visitors. The suite of rooms includes a chapel to the gods and a throne room. The throne room, the Aula Regia, is the largest room. The decor is opulent and intended to impress, emphasizing the emperor's majesty. The emperor's private residence, the Domus Augustana, is a two-storied villa that is richly decorated with columns, imported marble, mosaics and wall paintings.

The Age of Apollodorus

Architect Apollodorus of Damascus is a key figure in the innovations in design and construction methods that occur during the reign of Emperor Trajan in the first century AD. The fundamental style features concrete faced with brick. The mortar for the brick is made from lime and volcanic sand. Changes that are brought about by this new style includes rooms of differing shapes, vaulted ceilings and domed or semi-domed rooms. One of Trajan's most extensive building complexes is his Forum. It features an open piazza where a huge statue of Trajan on horseback is placed. The Basilica Ulpia, the largest such building ever built by the Romans, is opposite the entrance to the complex. The complex also features two large libraries, a great hall and four levels of shopping.

The Pantheon is one of the most splendid buildings of the Roman Empire. It is built by Emperor Hadrian in 118 AD. The building still stands to this day and is remarkably well-preserved. The Pantheon is dedicated to all gods and is comprised of a portico with columns, a rectangular building and a rotunda. The floor is paved with marble and the walls are decorated with dark green and yellow marble and purple porphyry. Gilding and stucco decorations are abundant throughout. The domed rotunda is topped with a window that opens to the sky. Also built during Hadrian's reign and possibly designed by the emperor himself is the Temple of Venus and Rome. The building is enormous with



steps on all sides. Egyptian gray granite is used as one of the building materials. Apollodorus criticizes the design of the building and is exiled by Hadrian. Trajan's Column survives to modern times and is a monument that is recognizable to most visitors.

The Great Baths

Baths are an important part of Roman life—a bath is a luxury and a necessity. In 33 BC, there are 170 small public baths in Rome and by the 5th century there are 856. Large baths, called imperial baths, are first built during Trajan's reign. These large baths allow for a large number of bathers at one time.

The City in Late Antiquity

After Hadrian's passing, construction slows until the reign of emperor Constantine, AD 312-337. By then, Christianity has taken a foothold in Rome and much of the construction is focused on churches and religious monuments. When Marcus Aurelius is emperor, he focuses on wars more than on construction. His victorious campaigns are honored by the construction of the Column of Marcus Aurelius that still stands. During the 3rd century, not much progress is made in Roman construction. At least 25 emperors reign in the chaotic time between 235 and 284. Most of these rulers are in battles with one another or with enemies of Rome and thus too busy to oversee any serious construction. The emperor Diocletian brings calm to the region and institutes a system of governing that reduces the power of the emperor. Diocletian restores many of the antiquated structures, rebuilds the temples of Saturn and Vesta and builds a massive bath complex. The emperor Constantine's finest contribution to the city is the construction of its first churches. He issues an edict in 313 recognizing Christianity as a respectable religion of Rome.

Under the last emperors, Rome diminishes in importance and prestige. Some of latter emperors spend all their time away from Rome, not even visiting it. Abandoned and neglected, Rome is vulnerable to barbarian attacks. The Western Empire is only a memory by AD 476. Athens suffers from attacks from barbarian tribes as well, becoming a part of the Ottoman Empire in 1456. It is not until the Greeks win their independence in 1821, that Athens becomes the capital of Greece.



Characters

Socrates

A famous philosopher of ancient Athens; Plato is one of his students. He is ordered out of the city, but chooses to remain and thus is condemned to death.

Augustus

Augustus is one of the great emperors of ancient Rome. After the defeat of Mark Anthony and Cleopatra in 31 BC at the Battle of Actium, Octavian, who is re-named Augustus by the Senate, comes into power. Augustus leaves his mark on Rome, which is greatly transformed under his orders. One of the first buildings that Augustus orders to be constructed is his forum, which is built to celebrate the victory over Julius Caesar's assassins. Augustus shows an interest in the arts when he orders the building of the Theatre of Marcellus, which has seating enough for 14,000 spectators. Although Augustus is renowned for the splendid buildings and monuments built during his reign, his own residence, while elegant, is considered rather modest.

Augustus is an ambitious, determined man. As Emperor, Augustus seizes all political powers he deems necessary to rule. Augustus is a ruler that literally has his fingers in "everything." He sets the number of senators at 600. Augustus deems that women of 20 and men of 25 who are not married should be penalized. Under Augustus, an inordinate number of prisoners of war are captured and made to serve as slaves. The citizens of Rome are beset by an above average incidence of illness and disease. To meet the needs of the people, Augustus awards citizenship to foreign doctors willing to set up practice in Rome. Augustus popularizes the worship of the emperor and each emperor following Augustus follows his lead.

Apollodorus

Apollodorus is a key architect who works under the reign of Emperor Trajan. Apollodorus is credited with the design of famous Roman structures including the Baths of Trajan and the Forum of Trajan. When Apollodorus criticizes a building designed by Hadrian, the emperor exiles him.

Sophocles and Euripides

Sophocles and Euripides are famous dramatists in the golden age of Ancient Athens. They are considered to be the best of the Greek playwrights.



Hadrian

Hadrian is an emperor during the Golden Age of Rome. Under his reign, one of the most renowned structures, the Pantheon, is constructed. The Temple of Venus is built during his reign as well.

Phidias

The great Greek sculptor Phidias designs the overall appearance of the Parthenon. The artist also creates the large statue of Zeus of Olympia, which is considered one of the Seven Wonders of the World.

Nero

Nero is an unpopular Roman emperor. He is stubborn and selfish and insists on building his estate in the middle of Rome. Many think that he orders the fire that burns for six days, as after it is finally put out, he grabs the land for his estate. After the mutinous guard name him a public enemy, he kills himself.

Constantine

The emperor Constantine is the first Roman ruler to recognize Christianity as an acceptable religion in Rome. He orders the building of the first Christian churches in Rome.

Erechtheus

The first king of ancient Athens is Erechtheus. In 420 BC, the Erechtheum is built, a temple built in the first king's honor.

Hippocrates

The father of modern medicine is Hippocrates, born in Athens around 460 BC. The Greeks make many advances in the field of medicine. The Hippocratic Oath is still taken by new doctors to this day.



Objects/Places

Greek Theater

Theater is one of the greatest cultural contributions made by the ancient Greek society. Greek dramas and comedies become popular and are even performed in modern times.

The Olympieion

The Olympieion is a temple built in Athens to honor Zeus. Ironically, it is the Roman emperor Hadrian who orders the temple to be completed in the second century AD.

The Colosseum

The Colosseum is the greatest structural triumph of the Roman Empire. It is built to showcase the popular gladiatorial games. It has five levels of seating and has a seating capacity of 87,000.

The Parthenon

The Parthenon is built on the Acropolis just outside of Athens. It is built in honor of the patron goddess of Athens, Athena. There is a huge statue of the goddess in the entrance area.

The Pantheon

The Pantheon is a masterpiece of Roman architecture. The structure still stands to this day. It survives through the ages due in part to Byzantine emperor Phocas giving it to Pope Boniface IV who converts it into a church.

Circus Maximus

Circus Maximus is the huge auditorium constructed in Rome to showcase the popular chariot races. The massive building reportedly seats 385,000 spectators.

The Statue of Zeus

The gigantic statue of Zeus is created by Greek sculptor Phidias. It is considered one of the Seven Wonders of the World.



The Temple of Venus

The Temple of Venus is the largest temple in Rome when it is constructed. It is built under the reign of Emperor Hadrian.

The Palace of Domitian

A luxurious and massive palace and complex is built by the emperor Roman Domitian at the end of the 1st century AD. In addition to the Emperor's residence, the Domitian complex includes public and private buildings, a stadium and recreational areas.

The Golden House

The Golden House is the massive estate built by Roman emperor Nero. The Romans do not complain about the size and cost of the estate; rather, they are disturbed that he chooses to build it in the middle of Rome.



Themes

Women in Ancient Athens and Rome

In both ancient Athens and ancient Rome, women are decidedly second-class citizens. In Athens, women basically have to stay home. They are not allowed to go out by themselves. They cannot go out to dinner, shop or socialize. They are not allowed to eat with the men even in their own homes. Baby girls are often not wanted and left exposed to die. Boys of wealthy families are educated but girls rarely are. A man can divorce a woman for any reason or even for no reason. A woman in Athens has a difficult time getting a divorce—the only acceptable reason is for physical abuse. If a man's wife commits adultery or is barren, he is expected to divorce her.

The women in Rome have it a little better than the Athenian women. They are able to go out and socialize and are invited to eat with the men. They are responsible for the chores at home, but well-to-do women have slaves to do the chores, leaving them free to leave and enjoy themselves. In Rome, divorces can be granted at the request of either a man or woman; however, women lose custody of their children to the man. It is illegal for a man to marry a woman who has been convicted of adultery. Although Roman women are always punished for adultery, during Constantine's reign, adultery by men is finally made a crime. The Romans also practice the cruel abandonment of baby girls that are not wanted by the family. Wealthy Roman girls receive only a minimal education.

Religion of the Ancient Cities

Erechtheus, the first ruler of Athens, establishes worship of the Greek gods. The main focus of classical Greek religion is the sacrificial ritual. Ancient Greek religion is polytheistic—twelve main gods are worshiped. The gods are characterized with both supernatural and human features in order to keep the gods balanced—no god is all good or all bad. In 420 BC, the Erechtheum is built, a shrine to honor all gods associated with the Acropolis. The Panathenaea festival is held every summer. The Athenians celebrate Athena and in 402 BC, celebrating their gratitude to the goddess for peace and prosperity.

To Romans, religion is an oath between man and the gods. To satisfy the gods, sacrifices are offered in rituals. Animal sacrifice is an important aspect of religious life in Rome. Sexism finds its way into these sacrifices, as participants are careful to ensure that male animals are offered to gods while female animals are offered to goddesses. Augustus encourages king worship and Caligula, who succeeds Augustus, believes he is descended from the gods. In the Roman household, Romans worship guardian deities every morning for the protection of their homes. The Romans have their suspicions about both Judaism and early Christianity, which they refer to as the



"mystery religions." One of the last great Roman Emperors, Constantine, is the first ruler to recognize Christianity.

Buildings and Construction in the Ancient Cities

During the Golden Years of both ancient Athens and ancient Rome, many complex and elaborate buildings and monuments are constructed. Many of these structures remain world famous landmarks to this day. The Agora is the main street of Athens where business and political debate take place. It is lined with shops, homes, courts and governmental buildings. The important main water reservoir for the residents is part of the Agora. For defense against attacks, protective fences are erected around the city. The Athenians build ship-sheds and huge storage facilities to provide housing and repair for their formidable navy. The Bouleuterion is constructed as the meeting house for the city council.

Many temples and monuments are erected to honor the gods and deities. The Telesterium, which is destroyed by the Persians, is rebuilt for the religious order known as the Eleusinian cult. The Acropolis, an elevated section of Athens, has been in ruins for years when in 447 BC the decision is made to rebuild it. The most famous building on the Acropolis is the Parthenon, erected in honor of the goddess Athena. A statue of Athena, 39 feet in height, is sculpted and placed in the entrance. The Olympeion, the temple dedicated to Zeus, is not completed until a Roman emperor, Hadrian, finishes the work in the 2nd century AD. To satisfy Greece's love of the theater, the Temple of Dionysus is constructed to showcase the performance art.

In Rome, towards the conclusion of the sixth century, the temple to Jupiter Optimus Maximus is constructed on Capitoline Hill. During the reign of Augustus, the Forum Romanum, a complex that contains many religious temples and monuments, is refurbished. Augustus sees to the construction of a new forum, appropriately named the Forum Augustum. The Golden House, a huge and opulent estate, is built for Nero—right in the middle of Rome. The greatest project under the emperor Vespasian—and perhaps the greatest construction achievement of any emperor—is the massive Colosseum that is built to house the popular gladiatorial games. The elaborate Curia Julia is built as the meeting house for the Senate. Circus Maximus is built to house the chariot races and has a seating capacity of 385,000.

The Romans are known for their innovations in architecture and design. They are among the first cultures to build roads, aqueducts and sewer systems. A portion of one of the main aqueducts is still in use in modern times. Considered decadent by other emperors, Pompey is the first ruler to order the building of a theater. The Theatre of Pompey is a massive theater with seating for 27,000. During Augustus' reign, the Theatre of Marcellus is constructed with a seating capacity of 14,000. Initially called the Flavian Amphitheatre, the Colosseum is the grand triumph of all Roman structures. It has five levels of seating and a seating capacity of 87,000. Part of the arena stands to this day. The Basilica Ulpia is built during the reign of Trajan and is part of the complex known as Trajan's Forum. Trajan's Column is the most recognizable structure that is still

standing from the complex. The Emperor Constantine is the first ruler to recognize Christianity and orders the building of churches.

Style

Perspective

"The Ancient City, Life in Classical Athens & Rome" is told in the third person narrative. The book is written by Peter Connolly who is not only the author but also an artist who contributes some of the illustrations to the book. There are hundreds of beautiful and intricate drawings that accompany the descriptions of the ancient cultures. Mr. Connolly is a well-known authority on the ancient civilizations of classic Athens and Rome and other cultures of antiquity.

Connolly is well-known as an expert and scholar in ancient cultures and his best-selling books are popular throughout the world. His credentials to write a book about these ancient cities are beyond reproach. Among other books written by Connolly are "The Roman Fort," "The Legend of Odysseus," and "The Jews in the Time of Jesus." Connolly is an Honorary Research Fellow of the Institute of Archeology in London and has studied at the British School in both Athens and Rome.

Connolly was assisted in writing this book. His co-author, Hazel Dodge, is an internationally recognized authority on Roman architecture and building. Connolly acknowledges the support of other experts and scholars in the field of ancient cultures and classical studies in amassing the material for the book.

Connolly's obvious expertise in and knowledge of the history of the ancient cities of Athens and Rome enable him to provide a compelling account of a wide range of aspects about these cultures in a form that is clear and understandable despite the many centuries that the book spans.

Tone

"The Ancient City, Life in Classical Athens & Rome" is an historical account and in many ways is presented very much like a text book. The tome is educational and mildly academic, bringing enlightenment about the two antiquated worlds of classical Athens and classical Rome. The author, Peter Connolly, describes in great detail the daily lives of the citizens of these cultures, which both had aspects of democratic government. In fact, Athenian government is called the "cradle of democracy." Connolly artfully draws parallels not only between the two classical cultures but also with current Western society.

Through detailed description and beautiful illustrations, the daily lives of Romans and Athenians that lived centuries ago, come to life. The day-to-day lives of these people are presented with clarity and with enough detail that their struggles and joys are easy to understand and appreciate. In both sections, the treatment of women and slaves and the poor versus the rich and powerful is focused upon, providing relevant background for our own battles with discrimination and inequity.



Although the tome is not technical in nature, the author gently introduces a sprinkling of terms and phrases that are common to these ancient times, making the story more robust and increasing its depth. By describing the complexity of many of the beautiful buildings and monuments built by both civilizations, he brings realization of the effort and intelligence behind the design and ingenuity of these structures. Upon completing the book, it is obvious how much modern society is built on the backs of these two classical cultures.

Structure

"The Ancient City, Life in Classical Athens & Rome" is separated into two main sections: Ancient Athens and Ancient Rome. Both sections cover similar information about the two antiquated cities. The sections both touch upon the fledgling democracies that the ancient cultures are struggling to develop. In fact, in the Athens section, the city is referred to as "The Cradle of Democracy."

Of the nine sections devoted to Athens, the daily life, religious practices, the buildings and construction in the city and its culture, most interestingly, its creation of performance art, are given the most attention. The building of such famous structures as the Parthenon on the Acropolis, some of which still stands, is described in great detail. The building is dedicated to the goddess Athena—a 39 foot statute of her is erected in the entrance of the building. The Olympic games that originate in Greece initially have a religious connection.

The second main section, devoted to ancient Rome, has subsections that parallel many of those in the section about ancient Athens. Of the 15 subsections dedicated to Rome, much of the focus is also on the daily life, religious practices, living conditions and architecture and construction in the city. A large section is devoted to the Colosseum and the gladiatorial games that it is built for. Both sections provide many parallels to today's world and may answer many questions about the origin of many aspects of our own society.

Following the main sections is a glossary of terms, a bibliography and lastly an index and acknowledgments section.



Quotes

"Ostracism was a uniquely Athenian system. Recognizing that it would be difficult to prove before a court that a particular individual posed a threat to democracy, Cleisthenes devised a system by which, if a sufficient number of people believed it to be so, the individual concerned could be banished for ten years." (Ancient Athens, p. 28)

"While an Athenian father would normally bring up all his sons as a civic duty, he might dispose of an unwanted daughter. Killing a baby was unlawful, but exposing a new-born baby to die was not forbidden." (Ancient Athens, p. 32)

"The Greeks had great respect for old people, and sons were legally obliged to care for their aging parents. When parents died the sons were also compelled by law to give them a proper funeral." (Ancient Athens, p. 42)

"Ancient Greek religion was polytheistic. Twelve main deities (the pantheon) were familiar to all Greeks, but each of those was recognized in a wide variety of different aspects, often associated with a particular place, community or activity." (Ancient Athens, p. 56)

"The Panathenaic Games was only one of several great religious sporting events held in Greece. Other were the Pythian Games held at Delphi, the Isthmian Games held at Isthmia, the Nemean Games held at Nemea, and the most famous, the Olympic Games held at Olympia." (Ancient Athens, p. 80)

"The theatre was among the greatest of the Athenian's contribution to world culture. Athenian playwrights were long acknowledged to be the best in the world, and their plays are performed to this day." (Ancient Athens, p. 90)

"A struggle of power developed between the Optimates, the extremely conservative, power-monopolizing clique of the upper classes, and the Populares, other ambitious politicians from less distinguished families, whose only route to power was to appeal for popular support." (Ancient Rome, p. 109)

"The inhabitants of Rome lived in a variety of houses and apartment blocks, some of which were strikingly modern in concept and design. The wealthy enjoyed luxurious furniture and elaborate facilities at home, but all Romans faced squalor and lawlessness in the city's streets." (Ancient Rome, p. 134)

"Each household had its shrine (lararium) to the household gods (lares and penates) to whom an offering was made each morning. The lares were the spirits of the family' ancestors. The penates were the guardians of the family larder." (Ancient Rome, p. 144)

"The education of children in the Republic could be a very haphazard process. In richer and better-educated families the parents sometimes played a part in the early education of their sons, but the formal education of girls was very rare." (Ancient Rome, p. 151)

"Animal sacrifice was a regular feature of Roman religious life. The choice of an appropriate victim was laid down in religious law, and depended partly on the god involved and partly upon the reasons for the sacrifice." (Ancient Rome, p. 171)

"The Pantheon is one of the great masterpieces of Roman architecture, and is exceptionally well preserved. In AD 608, the Byzantine emperor Phocas gave the building to Pope Boniface IV to turn it into the church of Santa Maria ad Martyres, thus ensuring its survival." (Ancient Rome, p. 227)



Topics for Discussion

How was the treatment of women in ancient Athens similar to that in ancient Rome? How was the treatment of women different? What was necessary for a woman to obtain a divorce in Athens? In Rome? How was adultery treated by the two cultures?

What was the Colosseum built for? What stadiums were home to chariot races? How were gladiators recruited and trained? How many different types of gladiators were there? What was involved in "hunting" events at the Colosseum? What types of animals were used? What type of contests always resulted in a death? How did the Olympic games develop?

What types of homes were found in Athens and in Rome? What design and construction innovations were created by the Romans? What building materials were used for the construction of buildings in both ancient cities? How did the living conditions of the wealthy and poor vary? Who were important architects in both cultures?

What art form did ancient Athens give to the world? What types of performances were presented on Greek stages? On Roman stages? How did Roman performance art differ from that of the Athenians? What ancient plays became popular in Elizabethan England? Who were the most renowned playwrights from each culture?

What were the fundamental religion beliefs of the ancient Athenians and ancient Romans? What religious rituals were practiced in both cities? How were they similar? What buildings or monuments were constructed to honor the gods or deities in both cities? Who was the Parthenon dedicated to?

What type of religion was encouraged by the emperor Augustus? How did the Romans view Judaism and Christianity? What emperor decreed that Christianity was an acceptable religion and built some of Rome's first churches?

Choosing between ancient Athens and ancient Rome, which culture seemed to suffer from more disease? What did Augustus do to encourage doctors to open practices in Rome? Where did the Hippocratic oath taken by doctors originate? What could be done in both ancient Athens and ancient Rome with unwanted children?