

The Golden Age & Peloponnesian War

"Crucible of Civilization" Video Questions

50pts

Name: _____

Period: _____

Directions: In this activity you will watch parts of a documentary called, "The Greeks: Crucible of Civilization." As you watch answer the following questions based off the video. The questions are basically listed in the order they appear in the film.

1. What was the name of the alliance that the Athenians created after the defeat of Persia? What was this alliance's purpose? How many city-states were part of it?
2. How did victory over Persia at Salamis affect Athens as a regional power economically and politically?
3. What was an "ostraca" and what happened to an Athenian whose name was placed too many times on it? Why did the Athenians do this?
4. Why did the Athenians ostracize Themistocles in 472 BC and what eventually happened to him? Who became the leader of Athens after Themistocles?
5. How was Pericles different than Themistocles in social class and what was his goal for Athens?
6. What building complex was the center of Pericles building program and how much money was Pericles willing to spend on it in today's terms?
7. What did Pericles' critics have to say when the Parthenon was complete? What did the Parthenon become the symbol of?

8. How long is the Parthenon Frieze? What was its subject or what was “heroized” in this frieze?
9. What was the occupation of Pericles' partner Aspasia? Why was her relationship to Pericles a scandal?
10. What were the favorite subjects of the Athenian theater, and what was the typical plot line of these stories?
11. How do historians know that Athens was the heart of a cultural revolution that spread across Greece?
12. What daring plan did Pericles present to the Athenians in the year 431 BC? Why did he do this?
13. What was Pericles' strategy to defeat the Spartans and how did this play to Athenian strengths?
14. What did Greeks do with the astronomical knowledge of the Babylonians?
15. Who was the first great Greek scientist? He wrote books on navigation and a method that measured the height of the pyramids using shadows?
16. What was Socrates' favorite subject of study? What does Socrates think people should make every decision based on?

- 17.** What did the Spartans do in 430 BC and what did the Athenians do?

- 18.** What additional cargo did the grain boats that fed the city of Athens bring with them at the end of the first year of war? How did this affect the city?

- 19.** What happened to Pericles in 429 BC? How does Donald Kagan explain the failure of Pericles' plans?

- 20.** What happened to the Athenian generals who could not pick up their men who had fallen overboard in battle? Who was the only Athenian who stood up to defend the generals?

- 21.** Why did the Athenians decide to defend the Greek colony on Sicily and attack Syracuse in 415 BC? How did it turn out for the Athenians?

- 22.** What did the Persians do to the Athenians after Athens' defeat at Syracuse?

- 23.** What did the Spartans use their navy and what did this do to the Athenians?

- 24.** What did the Spartans force the Athenians to do after they defeated them?

- 25.** Who did the Athenians use as a scapegoat for their defeat and what did they do to him?

Short Essay: *You have now watched part of a documentary that describes the rise and fall of Athens. The Greek contribution to Western Civilization is profound, and modern thought, language, art, architecture, science, and political systems have all been influenced by the ancient Athenians specifically.*

Despite their quick rise to power and brilliance, the Athenians found themselves utterly defeated in 415 BC.

Write a short essay of 2-3 paragraphs explaining how Athens came to power AND then explain how the cause of Athens greatness was also the cause of its downfall. *Write your essay in the blank space below!*****