**Ancient Greek Architecture**

The earliest buildings built in Greece in the New Stone Age are small houses or huts with wooden walls around them for protection. Later bigger houses were built and stone walls were constructed around the villages. By the Early Bronze Age, there was one bigger house in the middle of the village and fancier, bigger stone walls surrounding the village In the Late Bronze Age, under the influence of Western Asia and the Minoans on Crete, there are palaces and big stone tombs, as well as paved roads, bridges, and dams (and more stone walls). During the Greek Dark Ages, the palaces were burned and the roads, bridges and dams fell apart. At the end of the Dark Ages, however, with the beginning of the Iron Age and the Archaic period in Greece, a new type of building emerged: a temple for the gods. There are houses, but no more palaces. Roads, bridges and stone walls begin to be rebuilt. In the Classical Period, there are more temples that are bigger with new design ideas. The Parthenon is built in the 440's BC. Democracy prevents the Greeks from building palaces or big tombs, because politically all men are supposed to be equal, so it would look bad to have a big palace, even if you could afford it. Instead, the Greeks built public buildings where men could meet and talk. By the 300's BC, in the Hellenistic Period, there are some new architectural types. Less time is spent on temples and more time is spent on the new form of architecture: the theater. Many theaters were built all over the Greek world. There was also new interest in town planning during this time. Streets began to be laid out in straight lines, instead of just developing naturally. With the conquests of Alexander the Great, architecture became an important way to spread Greek culture and show who was in charge in the conquered countries. Once the Romans conquered Greece, around 200 -100 BC, they too used architecture to show that they were in charge. As a result, there were many buildings in the Roman style. About 400 AD, the Greeks converted to Christianity and begin to build churches and monasteries. During the Middle Ages, parts of Greece were taken over by the Normans. They built castles. The other parts of Greece that were still controlled by the Byzantine Empire built in a more West Asian style of architecture. In 1453 AD, the Byzantine Empire was taken over by the Turks, so Islamic mosques began to be built in Greece.

**The Ruins of Ancient Greek Architecture**

Athens, a city in southeastern Greece, is the capital and largest city in the country. It dominates the economic, cultural and political life of Modern Greece. Athens is often called the “Cradle of Western Civilization” because of its historic cultural achievements during the 5th and 4th centuries BC. The city still holds the ruins of ancient buildings and monuments, as well as works of art from the Classical Age of Ancient Greece. The city’s most famous feature is the Acropolis, a flat-topped hill capped with the ruins of ancient temples, monuments and works of art. The ruins include The Parthenon and the Temple of Athena Nike. The southern slope of the Acropolis was once the cultural center of the ancient city. It includes the ruins of the Theater of Dionysus. Below the Acropolis are remains of the agora, the ancient market and public meeting place. All of these ruins date to the 5th century BC and each is considered a masterpiece of classical Greek architecture.

**Greek Sculpture**

Very few pieces of Greek sculpture survived for people to see today. Being made mostly of limestone and marble, one might think the sculptures would have survived. Both limestone and marble, however, can be burned and turned into lime, one of the ingredients used to create cement. During the Middle Ages, most Greek statues were not valued. As a result, they were burned in lime kilns to make cement, which was seen as more valuable than the statues. Almost all archaeological sites in Greece found medieval lime kilns in the middle of them. Some Greek sculpture is known because of the Roman copies that survived. It is known that Greek sculpture has been divided into seven main periods. It is difficult, however, to know exactly which period a statue belongs in.

**Greek Painting**

Although we know, from written sources, that the Greeks painted pictures from the Bronze Age through the Roman Conquest and beyond, most of the paintings have been destroyed. More older paintings survived than the more recent ones. This is because some of the Bronze Age paintings were buried by volcanoes (i.e. Pompeii) and others were buried by earthquakes. They were preserved under the ash, so archaeologists were able to uncover them. Later paintings that survived did so safely because many of them were painted on the walls of underground tombs. The earliest real paintings we have from the Greek world are from the Minoan Culture on the island of Crete. They were painted on the walls of palaces where the rulers of Crete lived around 1700-1400 BC. When the walls were plastered, the paint was brushed onto the wet plaster, so that the paint soaked into the plaster as it dried. This is called fresco painting. The Minoans were very interested in nature and loved to paint life-like plants and animals. The Minoans also painted pictures of their employers, their friends and slaves. When the Mycenaeans destroyed the palaces around 1400 BC, some of the pictures survived because they were buried under the ruins of the palaces.

**Greek Pottery**

Very few Greek painted pictures have survived the 2500 years since they were painted. So, most of what we know about Greek art comes from the pictures they painted on pottery. Pottery, even if it gets broken, can be put back together, and a good deal of it has even survived whole, mostly in Etruscan tombs. A lot of the Athenian pots were for made for funerals. When people died, their relatives put these pots in their graves or used them as grave markers. Often these pots had funeral scenes on them. Other vases and pieces of pottery had scenes from Greek mythology, historical events, battles, warriors and athletes pictured on them.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Ancient Greek Arts and Architecture Directions: Read the information on Ancient Greek Arts and Architecture and then answer the questions below.

1. What types of buildings were built during the Classical Period in Ancient Greece? During the Hellenistic Period? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. What were most of the Ancient Greek sculptures made of and what happened to most of them during the Middle Ages? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. Most Ancient Greek paintings were destroyed. Where have archaeologists found the few paintings that have survived? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. Where does most of what we know about Greek art come from? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5. When one country conquered another, what is one way they were able to extend their culture and show they were in charge? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_