Essential Questions

Why was the leadership of Pericles important to the development of Athenian life and Greek culture?

What were some contributions of Greek culture to Western civilization?

Pericles (c. 495-429 BC)

Future ages will wonder at us, as the present age wonders at us now.

Thucydides

What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others.

(Pericles)
Main Ideas

Pericles developed Athenian life and Greek culture through *strengthening democracy*, strengthening the Athenian empire, and glorifying the city of Athens.

Cultural influences to Western civilization will be coming out of Athens through their accomplishments and educations.
After the Persian wars, Themistocles became a hero. He was supported by the Athenian lower class. However, he was enemies with the Athenian nobility. His goals were to build up the Athenian navy and fortify the city of Athens. He was voted into exile because the Athenians feared he was gaining too much power and would try to rule all of Greece.
Themistocles eventually fled to Persia after his exile where he served under the son of Xerxes, whom he defeated during the Persian Wars.
Freedom is the sure possession of those alone who have the courage to defend it.

~ Pericles
What did Pericles do for Athens?

Pericles so dominated Athenian life and improved it that the length of time he was a politician is often referred to as the Golden Age.

Had 3 Major Skills

Influential Statesmen

Orator (Great speaker)

General
1. Strengthen Athenian Democracy
2. Strengthen the Empire
3. Glorify the city of Athens

Accomplishing these goals helped Athens enter into the Golden Age.
1. Strengthen Athenian Democracy

Plan of Action:

- Increased the number of paid public officials because this allowed the poor to participate.

Promoted a *direct democracy* in which citizens voted directly on issues rather than relying on a representative to vote for them.
2. Strengthen the Empire

Plan of Action

Used money to make the Athenian navy the strongest in the Mediterranean, which then increases the safety of the empire.
3. Glorify the City of Athens

Plan of Action

Wanted to make Athens the envy of the entire world

Over the course of 15 years, Athens would become the center of commercial, social, and political life in the Mediterranean.
Pericles’ Big Project: The Parthenon
The Parthenon

Built on top of the Athenian Acropolis

One of the Seven ancient wonders of the world

Replaced an old temple that was destroyed by the Persians

Dedicated to Athena

Place of worship, ritual, and ceremony
Inside the Parthenon?

Giant statue of Athena with gold clothing and ivory skin
Greek Architecture: The Columns

Doric

Ionic

Corinthian
Doric

The simplest of the Greek columns. It has 20 sides and no base.
Ionic

This column is a little bit more decorative than the Doric column.

It has 24 carved lines from top to bottom, two scrolls at the top, and a base at the bottom.

The column is narrower at the top and bottom but fatter in the middle.
Corinthian

The most decorative of the columns. Like the Ionic column it has 24 carved lines going up and down as well as a base.

There are 4 scrolls up top as well as two rows of leaves.
Pericles and the Arts
Pericles’ Impact on the Arts

**Theater**: The first theaters were built in the west by the Greeks.

**Drama**: The Greeks invented drama

**Tragedy**: A serious drama about common themes such as love, hate, betrayal, war. Highlighted the dangers of hubris or excessive pride.

  - Famous tragedians: Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides

**Comedy**: Contained scenes filled with slapstick situations and crude humor. Often poked fun at a particular subject.
The Delian League -

Who: An alliance amongst the Greek city-states lead by Athens

What: Formed to protect Greece from invasions (especially from Persia)

Members of the Delian League paid tribute to the league treasury. In return they were promised protection.

Where? Pericles convinced the league to move meetings and treasury to Athens.