

The Fall of Ancient Greece

Name: _____

Throughout history, many great civilizations have gained massive power and then fallen. Not only did Ancient Greece expand throughout the Mediterranean, it also grew to include other parts of the world. The Greeks of this time period made many great advancements in science, democracy, medicine, and more.

Despite the size and the accomplishments, Ancient Greece was not strong enough to withstand the strength of Rome as it grew. Remember, Ancient Greece was never a united empire, instead it was a civilization. It was a collection of city-states that each had their own independent governments. They did not have a single government working toward a common goal.

Along with the fact that the city-states did not work together as one government, they also often fought among themselves. They were frequently at war, using resources and losing lives. This made them weaker when they were attacked from the outside.

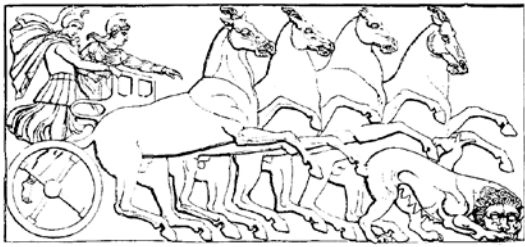
One example of fighting among the city-states is the Peloponnesian War. It was fought between the two most powerful city-states in Ancient Greece, Athens and Sparta. The war lasted for 28 years. There were many losses throughout the years on both sides but eventually Sparta won and Athens was forced to join the new Spartan Empire.

What was the author's purpose for writing this?

☐ Why is Greece during this time period often called a civilization and not an empire?

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For a short period of time, Alexander the Great ruled over the Greek Civilization. As king of Macedonia, he conquered much of Asia, Persia, and Egypt. This is the one period of time when Greece functioned more like an empire. However, it was short lived as he died at the age of 32 after ruling for only 13 years. At the time, the Greek Empire was the largest in the history of the world. However, without plans for a successor, the area was divided among Alexander the Great's advisors upon his death.

Not long after the Greek Empire is divided, the Roman Empire conquered many parts of the land. A little over a hundred years later, Athens was burned by Roman soldiers. Around 36 years after this, all of Greece is taken into the Roman Empire.

The loss of strength of the Greek civilization did not come as the result of a single event. Instead, it occurred over a period of time and was the result of a series of events.

If someone asked you with the Greek civilization declined, what would you say?

How can we infer that Alexander the Great did not expect to die so young?