Chapter Guide #5: Ancient Greece

**CONTEXT:**

**“Man is the measure of all things.”—Protagoras**

Greek art addresses the search for ideal mathematical proportions in the figure and in architecture. It is in the Greeks that we see the most drastic change in how humans perceive the human figure.

**CONCEPTS:**

1. GEOGRAPHY: Isolation of Greek city states along coast line and island = self-reliance, emphasis on the individual

2. RELIGION: Greeks believe that their gods are idealized humans including passions and ambitions = the perfection of the human body was thought to be the manner in which they most resembled the gods

3. HUMANISM: Greeks attempted to understand what it is to be a human being and to understand the individual’s relationship with the world around them = introspective culture of ideas as well as action (Sophocles)

4. IDEALISM: Plato believed that the world of visible forms was just a reflection of perfect truth, beauty, and goodness, which exists in a world of ideas = attempt to make art ideal/perfect (Plato)

5. RATIONALISM: The belief that the intellect is the highest human faculty, that the universe was founded on rational (harmonic) principles, and that through knowledge (investigation) one could decode the logic of the universe (Pythagoras). This filtered directly into art making and architecture.

**TIMELINE:**

**776 BCE 1st Olympic games**

**469-406 BCE Sophocles**

**480 BCE Greeks defeat the Persians**

**469-399 BCE Socrates**

**454 BCE Delian League transferred to Athens**

**431 BCE Greeks lose the Peloponnesian War**

**429-347 BCE Plato**

**384-322 BCE Aristotle**

**146 BCE Greece becomes a Roman province**

**ART WORK CARDS: 3D (Yellow)**

Mantiklos Apollo Aphrodite of Knidos

Lady of Auxerre Hermes and Infant Dionysos

New York Kouros Apoxyomenos

Calf Bearer Farnese Hercules

Anavysos Kroisos Dying Gaul

Peplos Kore Nike of Samothrace

Temple of Aphaia sculpture Barberini Faun

Kritios Boy Seated Boxer

Charioteer Old Market Woman

Riace Warrior Laocoon and his Sans

Zeus

Diskobolos

Doryphoros

Parthenon sculpture

Nike Adjusting Her Sandal

**ART WORK CARDS: Architecture (Green)**

Temple of Hera I at Paestum

Temple of Artemis at Corfu

Temple of Aphaia, Aegina

Temple of Hera II at Paestum

Acropolis at Athens

Parthenon

Temple of Athena Nike

Erechtheion

Altar of Zeus at Pergamon

**ART WORK CARDS: 2D (Red)**

Dyplyon Vases

Francois Vase

Andokides’s Achilles and Ajax

**VOCABULARY:**

**General:** Humanism

Classicism

kouros

contraposto

encaustic

diskobolos

doryphoros

kore

peplos

acropolis

meander

lost wax

**Architecture:** cornice

ranking cornice

pediment

entablature

frieze

architrave

column

capital

shaft

stylobate

anta

antis

cella

perpteral

promaos

**Doric Order**

abacus

echinus

necking

shaft

metope

triglyph

**Ionic Order**

volute

**Corinthian Order**

acanthus leaves

**KEY IDEAS:**

* Greeks are interested in the human figure the idea of **perfection**.
* Greek Temples provide a foundation for European architecture and reflects the idea of obtaining perfection with **mathematical ratios**.
* The Greek time period starts at around 900 BCE, about 200 years after the collapse of the Mycenaeans.
* In the **5th century, the Greeks defeated the Persians**, though it left Athens in ruins (rebuilt by Pericles) = Start of the Classical time period
* **Polykleitos's canon of proportions**: The head should be 1/7 of the body. The **chiastic stance** that expresses the alternating relaxed and stressed muscles.
* The Peloponnesian War in 432 BCE (lasted about 27 years) devastated and crushed Athens by the **victorious Spartans**= Start of the Hellenistic
* Alexander the Great took over and united the Macedonians with the Greeks in the 4th century and after his death, his empire gave into Roman rule.

**CONTEXT CARDS: Blue**

Geometric Orientalizing

Archaic Severe/Early Classical

High Classical Late Classical

Hellenistic