Ancient Greece

- Ancient Greece formed the first democracy
- Democracy - a government where citizens make political decisions
- Between 5000 - 3000 BC, groups of people began settling on Peloponnesus - a mountainous peninsula in southern Europe
- Almost 2000 small islands surrounded the peninsula
- Villages were isolated
- Isolated - cut off or separated, from each other
- The rugged terrain and remote islands made it difficult to unite the villages under one government
- Many people settled in Greece and began to set up city-states
- City-state - a political unit made up of a city and surrounding villages
- Most people were farmers and herders, but the land was rocky and the soil was poor
- Other people made their living on the sea by fishing, sailing, and trading with other city-states
- Most city-states were monarchies at first
- A monarchy is ruled by a king or queen
- Other city-states were ruled by tyrants
- Tyrant - someone who took power illegally
- Athens and Sparta were the largest city-states, but they had different types of government
- Sparta was an oligarchy
- Oligarchy - a system ruled by a few powerful and rich individuals
- Sparta was also a military state

- It had a large slave population that farmed the land, and many of the free men served in the army
- Spartan boys began receiving military training at age 7
- After serving in the military for many years, they could become a free citizen at age 30
- Athens was governed by kings at first also
- In the 6th century, Athens became a limited democracy
- All people were allowed to vote, but only free males were called citizens
- Women, slaves, and foreigners were not allowed to be citizens
- Athens became a center for Greek culture
- It attracted the best scholars, artists, and philosophers from all over Europe

Classwork questions:

1) Where did we get our form of government, democracy, from?
2) What made the villages and islands in Greece difficult to form one single government?
3) What is a city-state?
4) What were the 2 largest city-states in Greece?
5) How did most people in Greece make their living?
6) Why do you think most city-states became democracies instead of monarchies?
7) How do you know that Sparta was a military state?
8) Which people were only allowed to become citizens in Athens?
9) What is the Peloponnesus?
10) Do you agree with Sparta's ways of becoming a citizen?
11) Why did Sparta need slaves?