

The Glory of Ancient Greece





❖ Greece a peninsula jutting out into the Mediterranean Sea consisting of the mainland & islands



❖ Because Greece was so mountainous, it developed into separate city-states, which are like provinces.



❖ City-states did not unite. Not only were they separate because of their geography (mountains), but they each had their own laws, rulers, military, money, customs, and fierce local.

Ancient Greece



In spite of their differences, the Greek city-states eventually banded together to combat an invasion by the mighty Persian Empire. The alliance they formed was called the Delian League. The League's members supplied muscle (fighting men) or money. Athens became the leader in charge of the naval fleet and the Treasury. United, the Greek-city states were able to defeat the Persians. Because Athens lay in ruins after the Persian attack, their leader PERICLES used the Delian League money to rebuild his city and navy. The now rich Athens became the dominate power in Greece.



What followed was 100 years of Greeks fighting Greeks in the **PELOPONNESIAN WARS**. Eventually the constant warfare weakened the city-states so much that the **Macedonians** **invaded and conquered Greece**. These foreign invaders controlled Greece until the Roman armies over-threw the Macedonians & added Greece to their expanding Roman Empire.

ANCIENT GREEK LIFESTYLE

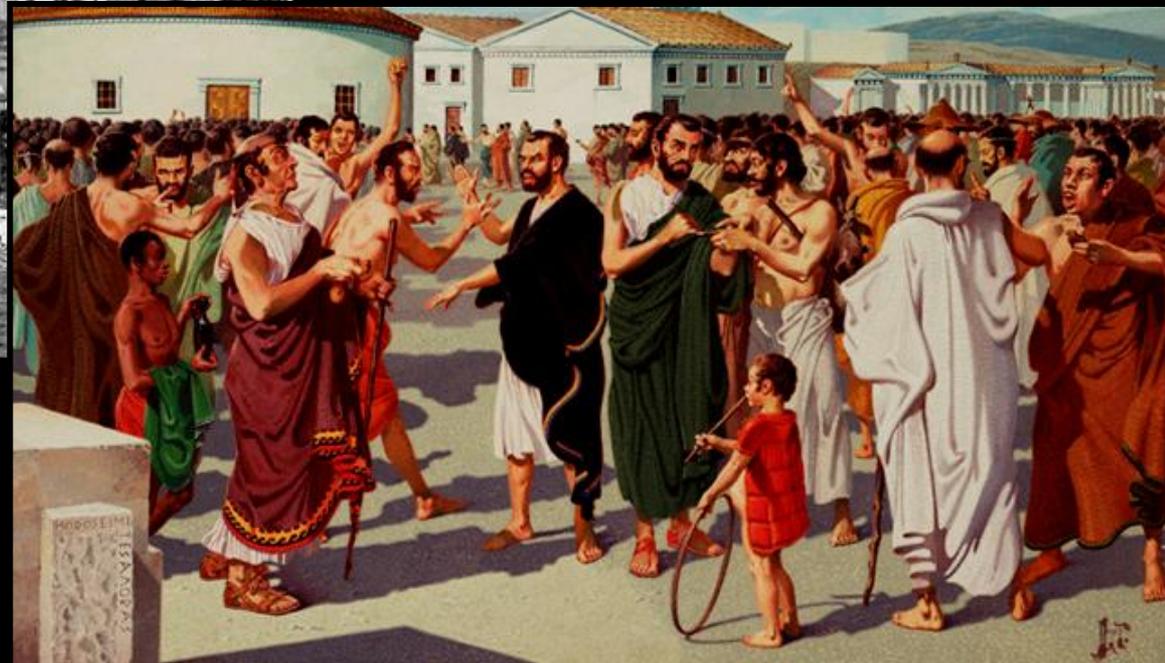


Downtown...Greek style

The AGORA: an open-air market & gathering place in Greek cities & towns.

Included: Shops, law courts, government building, libraries, & other businesses.

It was the place where people met to hear the latest news, listen to *orators* (public speakers) & discuss current events.





Greek clothing was fashioned out of lots of folded and draped cloth.

The Greek society was **male** dominated – only males could be citizens and only upper-class males enjoyed a formal education. Women had few political rights and were expected to **stay at home and take care of children**. More than one quarter of the population was made of **slaves**, usually prisoners captured during the many wars.

Contributions to Modern World

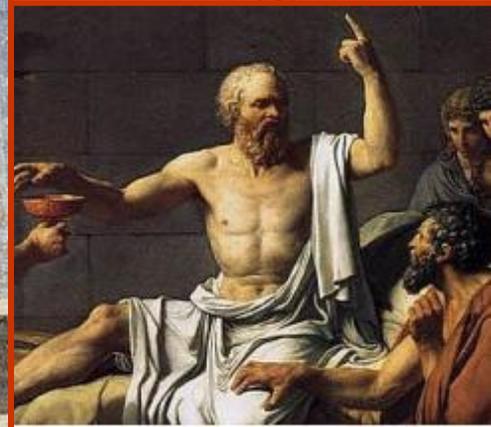
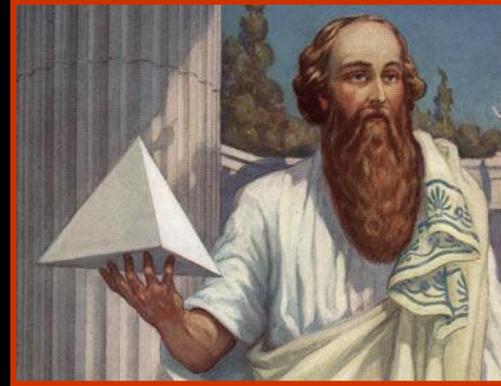
MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE & PHILOSOPHY

ART & ARCHITECTURE: BALANCE, PROPORTION, HARMONY & BEAUTY were the key Greek IDEALS

DEMOCRACY: The ancient Athenians developed a government that is ruled by the people through their votes. Only the Athenian male citizen had the right to vote.

THE OLYMPICS: The Ancient Olympic Games were an athletic and religious celebration held in the town of Olympia (near of Mount Olympus) from 776 BC to 393 AD.

DRAMA: Greek theatre history began with festivals honoring the god, Dionysus. Tragedy and comedy plays were the theatrical forms that eventually grew out of these religious festivals.



Ancient Greek Religion

☐ Religion was a very important aspect of Greek society and culture. The Greeks worshipped many gods, creating a **polytheistic** society.



☐ The gods were admired and feared, being distinguished from humans by their immortality.

☐ The Greeks thought that the gods controlled natural and social forces and resided on **Mount Olympus**.

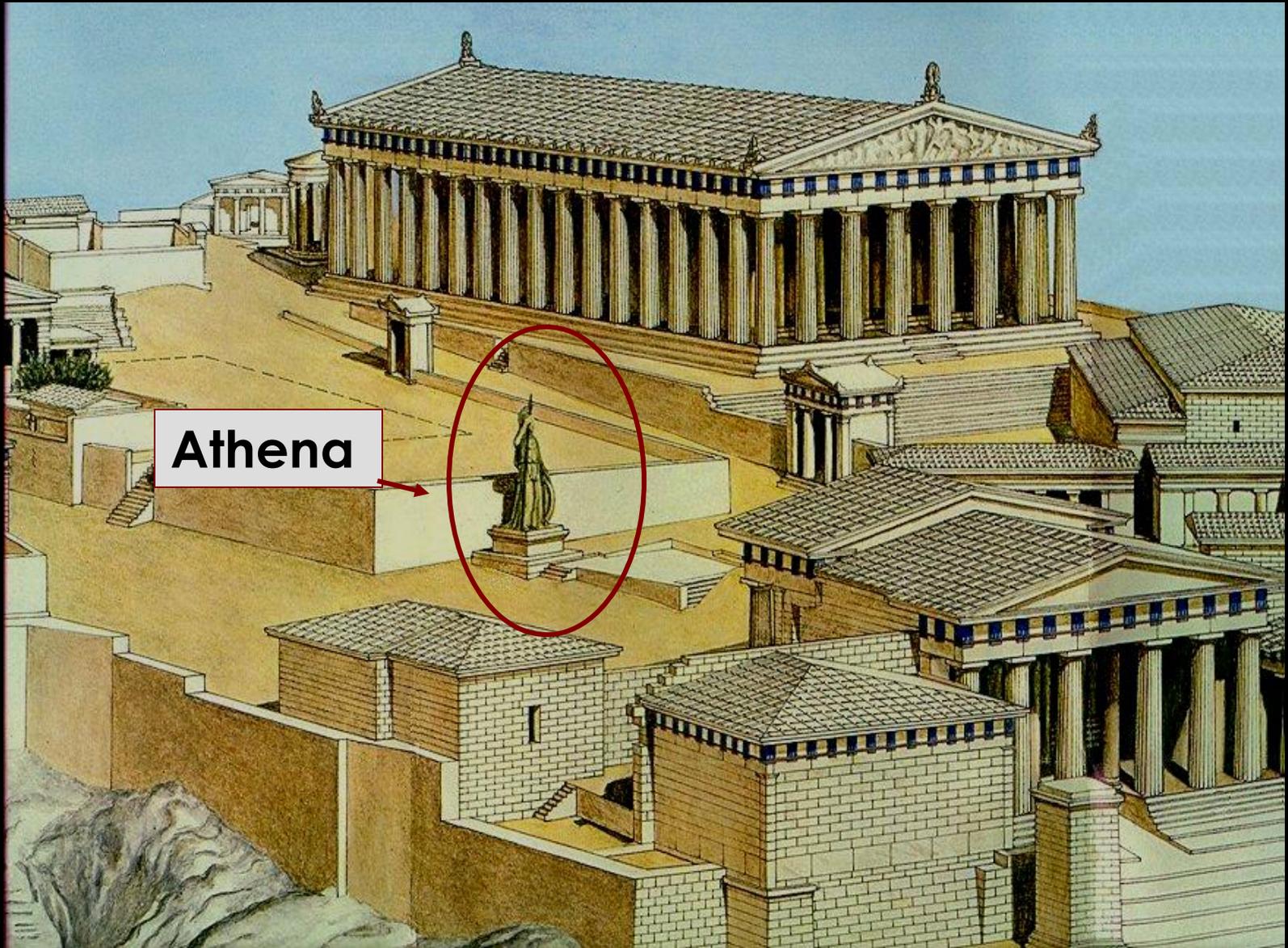


Temples



Most Greek communities built a fort on top of a large hill called an **acropolis**. It was the religious center of the city-state where temples honouring the city state's chief gods

The **PARTHENON**: Main temple of the Acropolis.
Dedicated to **ATHENA**, goddess of **wisdom and warfare**
and the protector of Athens.



Greek temples,
like Egyptian temples,
used basic **post-and-lintel**
construction.



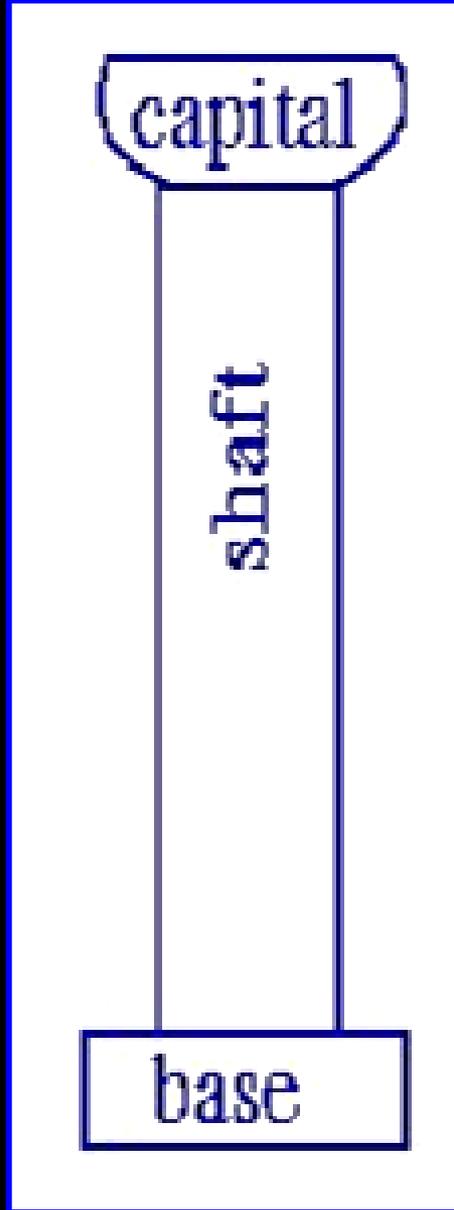
LINTEL

POST

POST

Uprights or
columns bear
the weight of top
portions of the
building
including the
roof.

Column Construction



☐ In the post & lintel construction, **COLUMNS** provide **STRUCTURAL SUPPORT** for roofs, ceilings and the upper parts of buildings.

☐ The Ancient Greeks desired beauty, harmony and balance in their lives & in their architecture.

Most COLUMNS consist of three part:

- ☐ **Capital**
- ☐ **Column (shaft)**
- ☐ **Base**

NOTE: Columns were NOT one solid piece but made up of DRUMS that shacked on top of each other



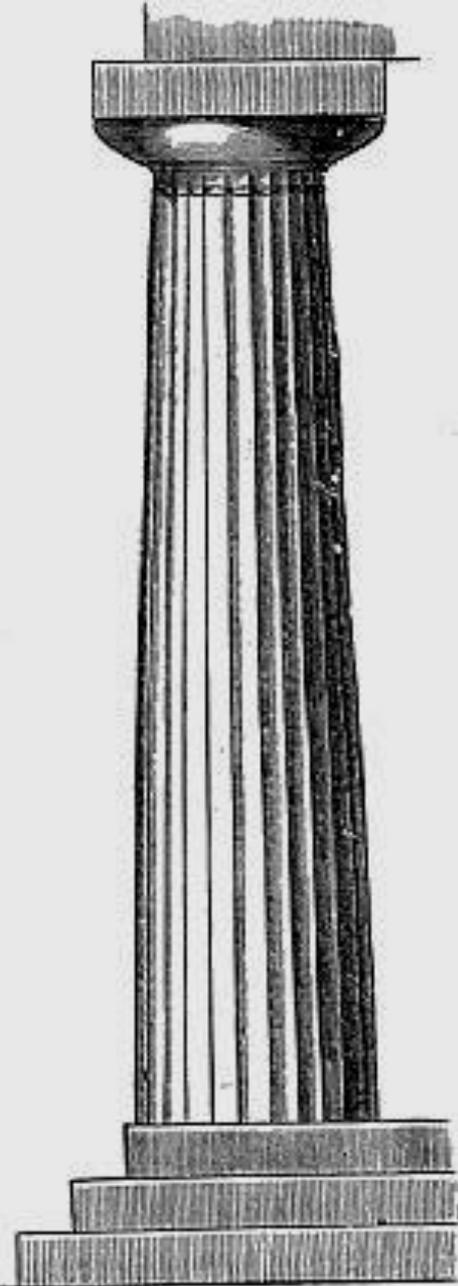
The Greek DORIC order, is the oldest and plainest order style.

Capital: big, plain, disc-like

Shaft: simple, sturdy, tapers toward top

Base: NO base

1. DORIC ORDER



Doric Column from the Temple of Neptune at Paestum.

More DORIC Temples



2. IONIC ORDER



Capital: shaped like a double scroll or ram's horns

Shaft: taller and more delicate, slender

Base: looks like stacked rings



3. Corinthian Columns



Corinthian Columns were the slenderest and most ornate of the three classical Greek columns, including tallest base.

Capital: Ornate, decorated with rows of leaves and curling organic shapes

Shaft: most slender

Base: tallest of the 3 orders

Temple Construction

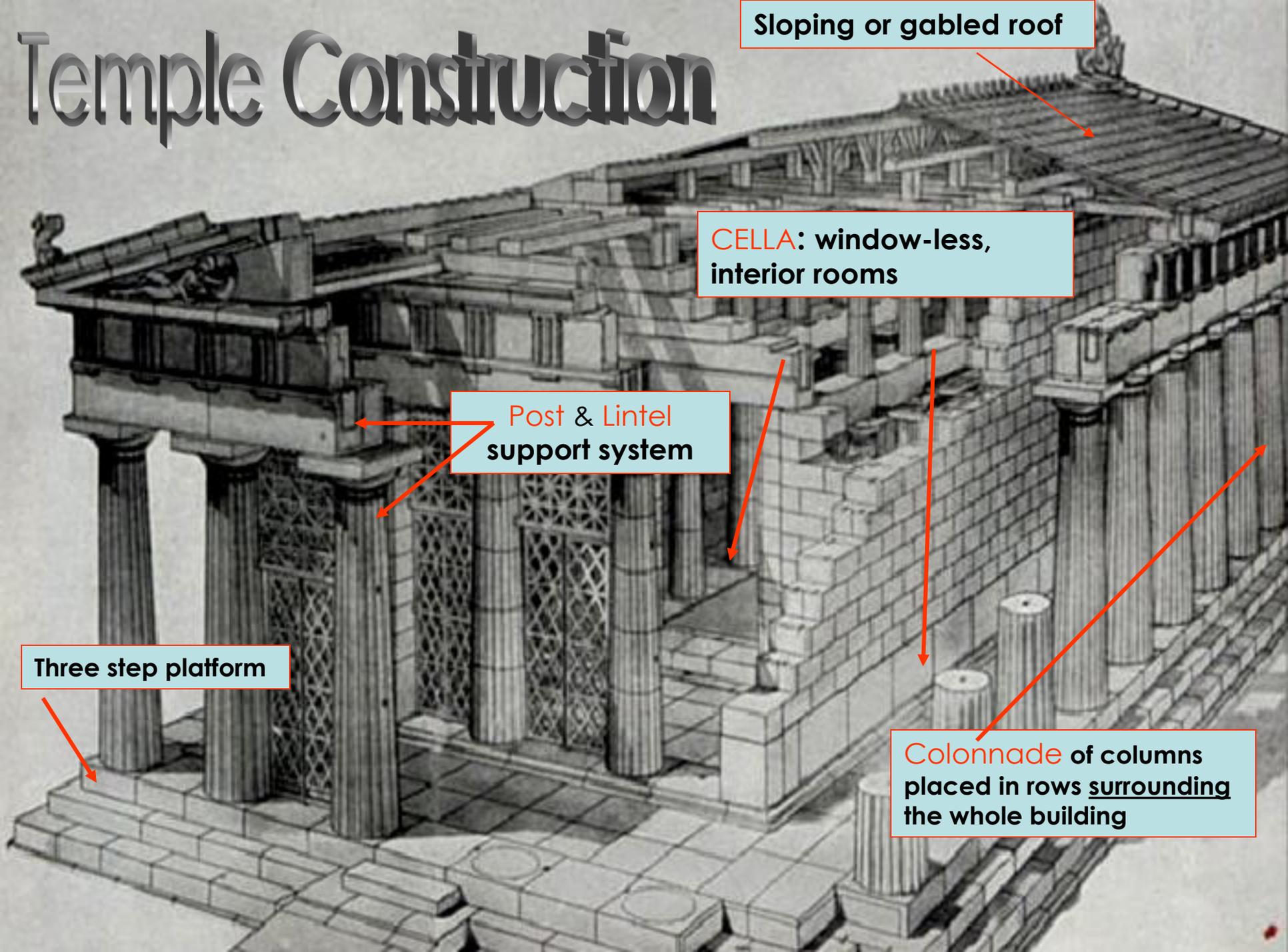
Sloping or gabled roof

CELLA: window-less, interior rooms

Post & Lintel support system

Three step platform

Colonnade of columns placed in rows surrounding the whole building



Pediment



Frieze

Painted relief sculptures were mainly placed around the top of the temple along the **FRIEZE** and in the triangular **PEDIMENT**

ERECHTHEUM, Acropolis, Athens



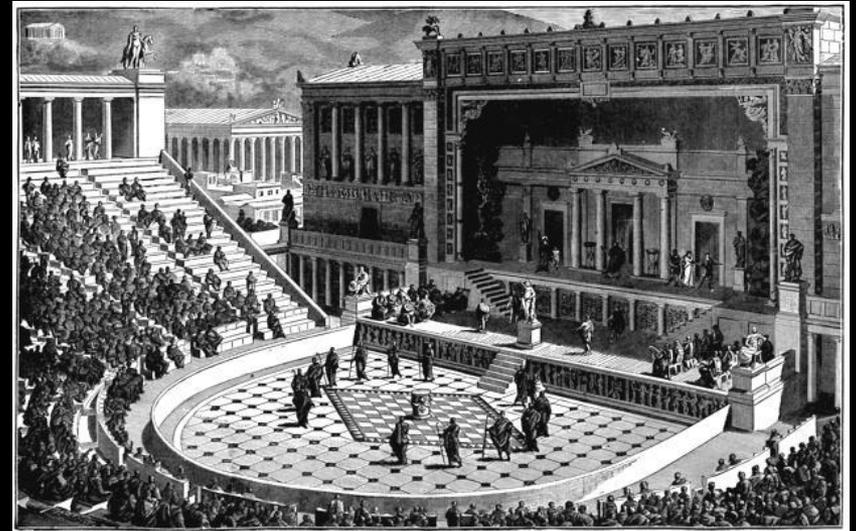
Directly across from the Parthenon is a large Ionic temple named the **ERECHTHEUM** after Erechtheus, a legendary Athenian king. An unusual feature of this temple are the six feminine figures called **CARYATIDS** instead of columns for support.

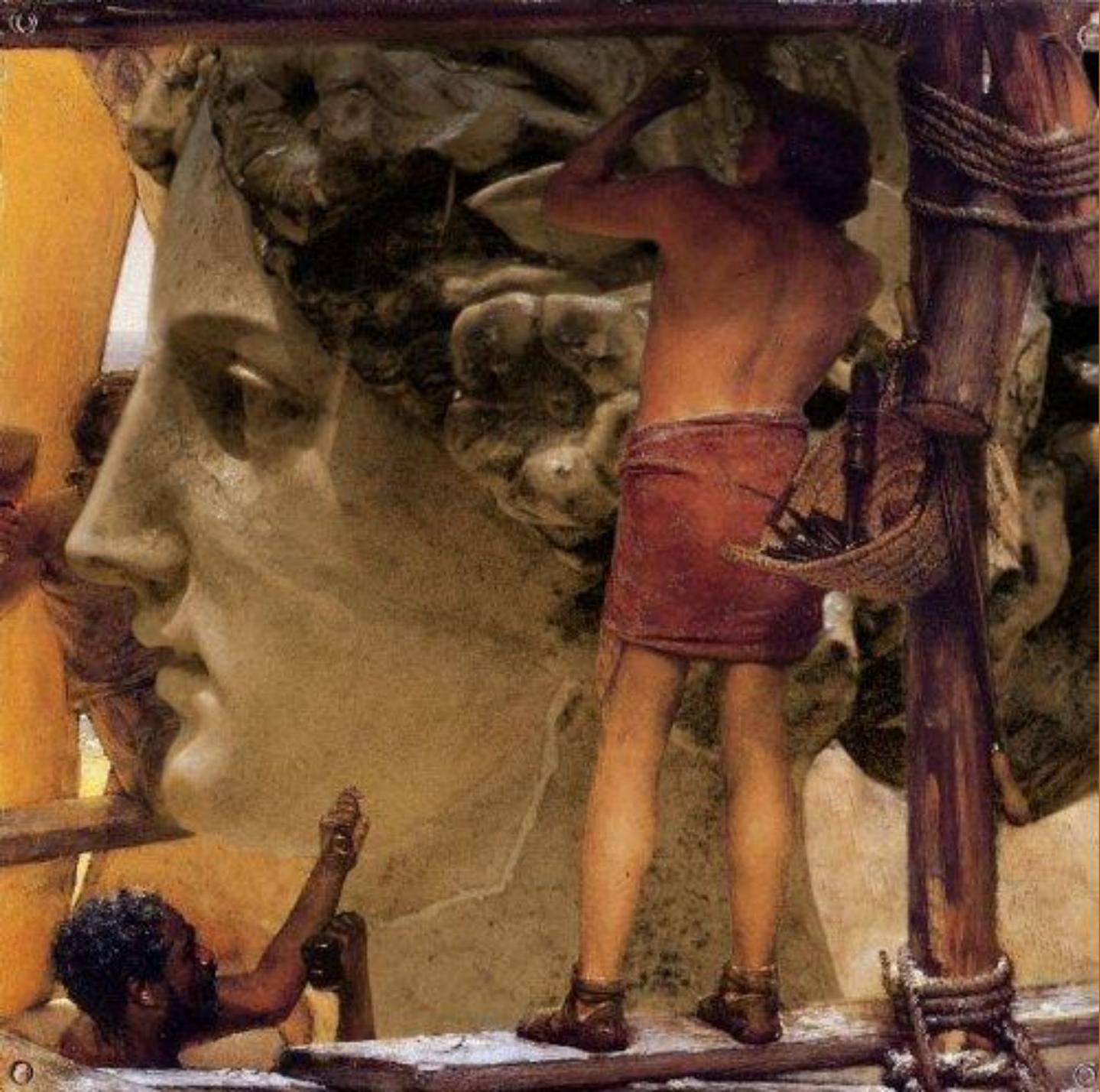
The **AMPHITHEATER**: a building designed for entertainment

The Greeks build their theaters on hillsides, using the flat, circular area called the *orchestra* as the stage area



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SCULPTURE

PURPOSE of GREEK SCULPTURE:

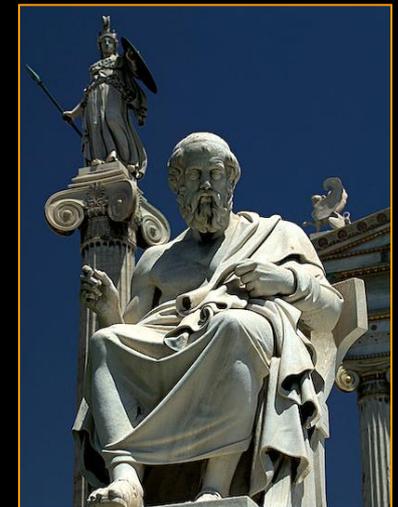
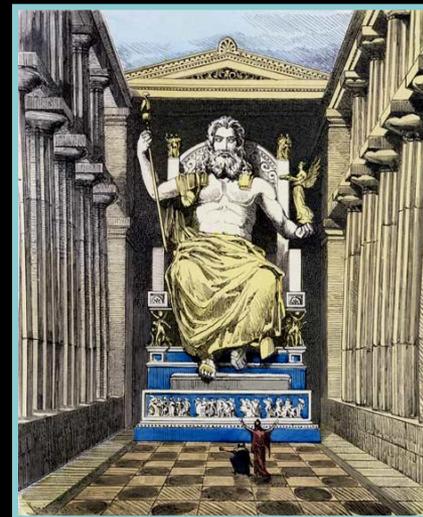
1. RELIGIOUS:

- a. Relief sculptures decorating the outsides of temples
- b. Statues of the gods & goddesses were placed in temples or shrines.



2. **GRAVE MONUMENTS:** statues of a god or the deceased or relief sculptures depicting the deceased.

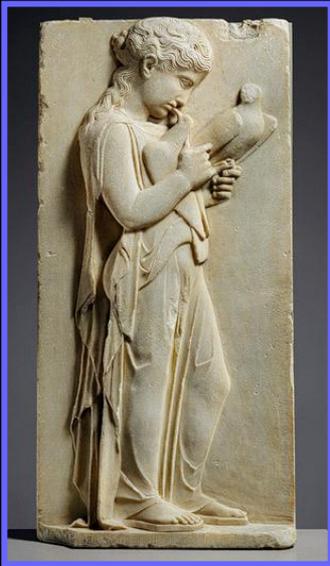
3. **COMMEMORATIVE SCULPTURE:** sculpture depicting athletic or military victories or famous people



The Three Periods of Greek Sculpture

Just as their architecture changed over time, Greek sculpture evolved through three distinct stages.

- THE ARCHAIC PERIOD - 650 B.C. to 480 B.C.
- THE CLASSICAL PERIOD – 480 B.C. to 300 B.C.
- THE HELLENISTIC PERIOD - 300 B.C. to 100 B.C.



1. ARCHAIC PERIOD

- ▣ Greek sculptors concentrated on carving large, freestanding statues. The Greek were the first artists to produce **freestanding** statues.
- ▣ The **subject matter** was mainly limited to figures of **young men and women**.
- ▣ The statues of young men were called **KOUROS** and the female figure was called **KORE** (meaning maiden, female)
- ▣ Archaic Greek statues were influenced by Egyptian sculpture but had many different style features.



GREEK



EGYPTIAN

Archaic Style Features

KOUROS:

- Idealized
- Nude
- Young male
- Representing god Apollo or ideal athlete
- Standing with left foot slightly forward
- Formal posture with arms held at the sides & fists clenched
- Frontal view



HAIR for both Kouros & Kore was a long mass of curls & ringlets.



Kore



ARCHAIC SMILE & BUGLING EYES



Zeus

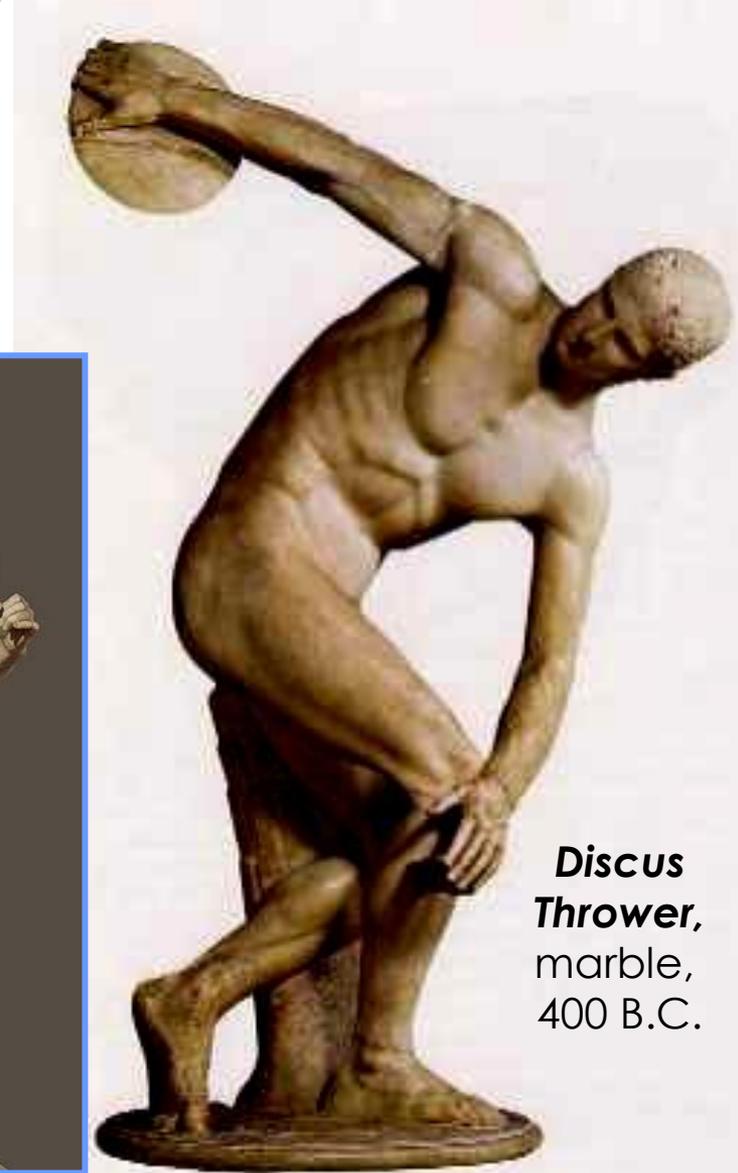
Bronze, 460 - 450 B.C.



Classical sculptures drove chariots, hurled thunder bolts, competed in sports & even danced.

CLASSICAL GREEK SCULPTURE

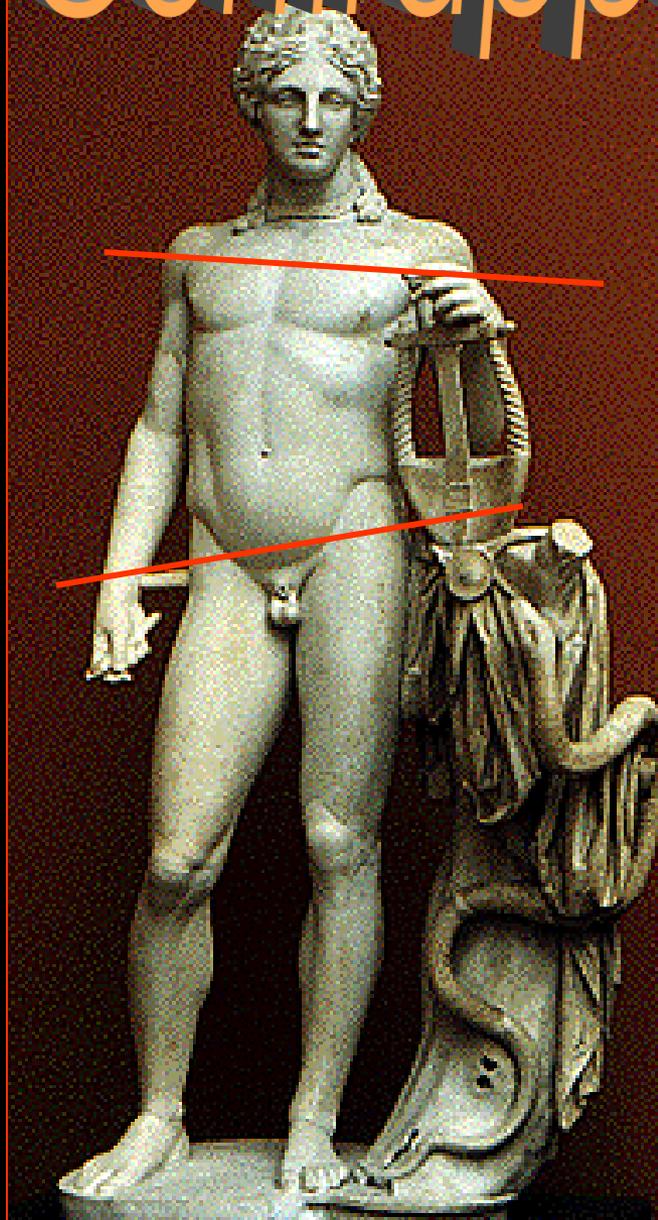
During the **Classical period** the Greek artists replaced the stiff vertical figures of the **Archaic period** with three-dimensional snapshots of **figures in action.**



Discus Thrower,
marble,
400 B.C.

Classical Contrapposto Pose

▣ The **CONTRAPPOSTO** pose shows the figure standing with most of its weight shifted onto one leg so that its shoulders and arms twist off-axis from the hips and legs



More Classical Features



Greek sculptors began to experiment with honoring the gods by showing the beauty and grace of the human body.

Sculptors considered the body of the young athletes to be the most beautiful form.

They had learned how to create works that were anatomically correct but now they evolved the male figure into a graceful, god-like perfection of form and face.

The Classical sculptured body was expertly defined & idealized with a calm, handsome face.

HELLENISTIC SCULPTURE



▣ Sufferings caused by wars, new philosophical outlooks and the influences of foreign cultures transformed the depiction of the human form in art.

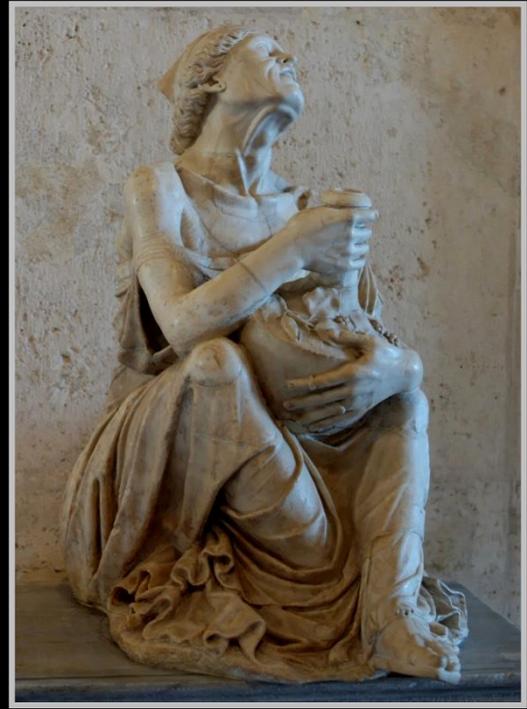
▣ More natural, less god-like portrayal .

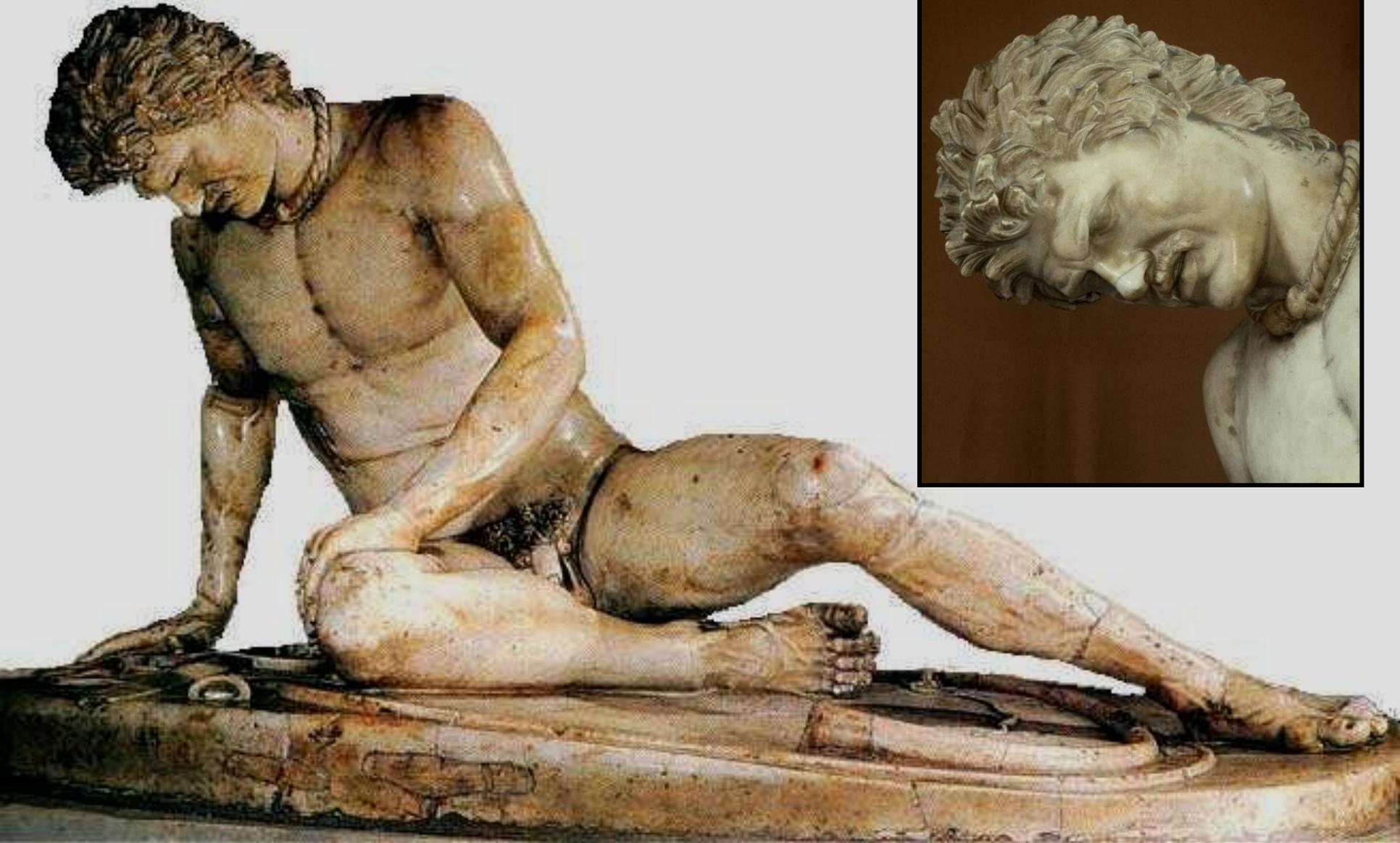
▣ More interest was shown in the ordinary individual and realistic portraiture.

▣ Sculptures became more expressive, showing human qualities with poses that were more naturalistic & sometimes, dramatic.

▣ Heroic, historical and mythological themes were replaced by scenes from everyday life.

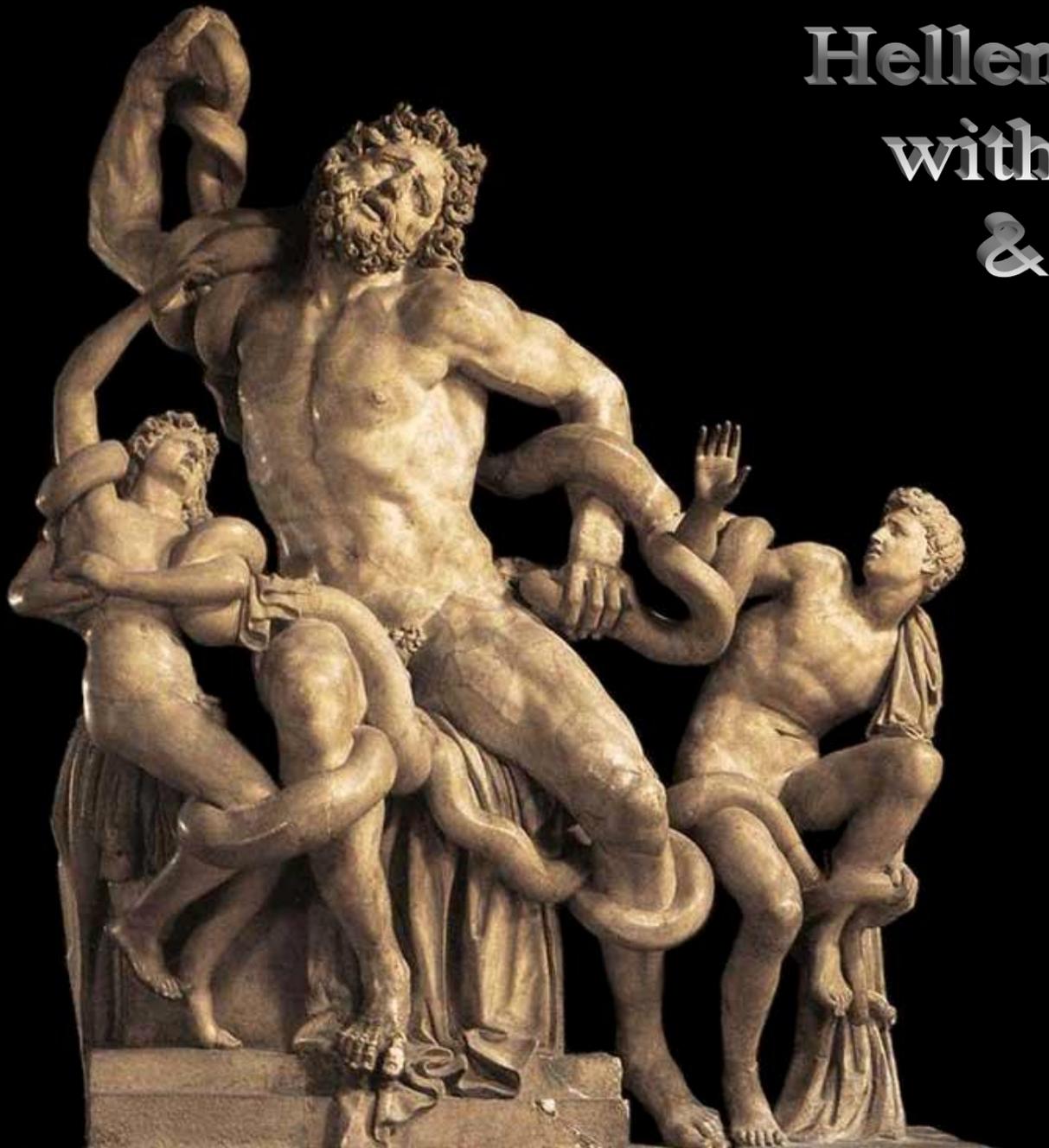
▣ **Subject matter included:** old age, childhood, emotions like anger, despair and other human conditions like drunkenness, and dying.





The DYING GAUL, c. 240 BC. is another example of **Hellenistic art's emotional realism**. *Dying Gaul* reflects the sadness of a warrior following the loss of battle while slumped on his shield, slowly succumbing to a wound on the right lower ribs.

Hellenistic sculpture with EMOTION & MOTION



This dramatic sculpture depicts Laocöon and his sons in a deathly struggle.

LAOCOON and HIS SONS, 25 BC.

ES FACIEBAT

Nike of Samothrace,
190 B.C.



Commonly called ***Winged Victory***, this fine example of Hellenistic sculpture, is the personification of victory.

The winged goddess strides forward, garments billowing as she braves the wind and the elements.

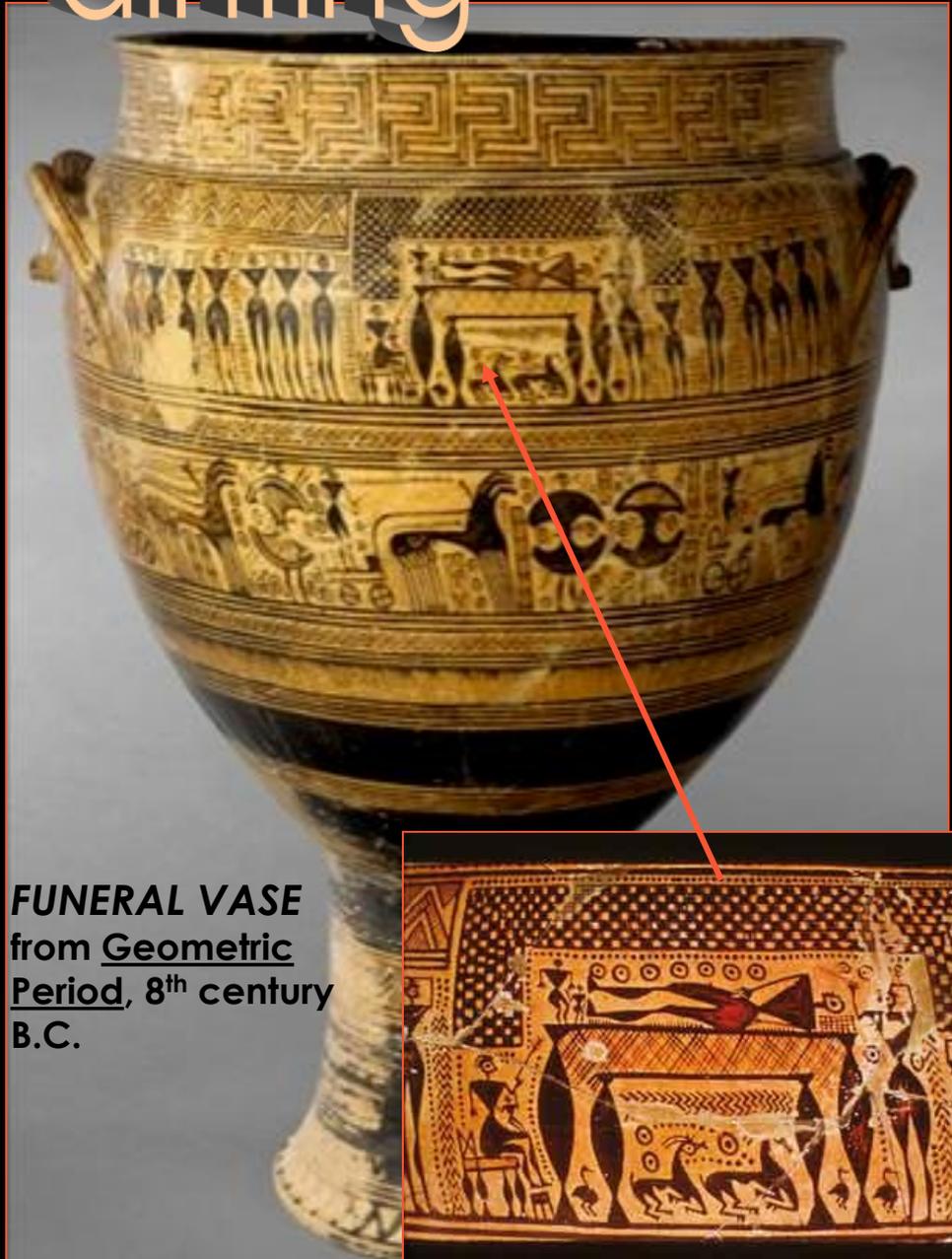
The statue conveys a sense of action and triumph as well as portraying artful flowing drapery that display the Greek *ideal* feminine beauty.

Greek Vase Painting

☐ Just as the look of their sculptures changed from the ARCHAIC through the HELLENISTIC period, Greek vases became more skillfully drawn with more harmonious designs.

☐ The style changes went from stick figures to precisely detailed and realistically drawn figures showing action.

☐ The subject matter told stories of heroes, gods & goddesses, and everyday life.



FUNERAL VASE
from Geometric
Period, 8th century
B.C.

