Classical Civilizations of Greece and Persia

1. Early Med. Civs
2. Crete – Minoans, many harbors, little soil, traders, Knossos was city, wealthy, seafarers
3. Mycenae – traders, painters, frescoes, jewelry
4. Rise of the Greek City-States
5. Geography – long coastline, seafaring and trade in grain, timber, gold, metals; interaction benefited Greeks, i.e. adopted Phoenecian alphabet
6. Islands, mountains and few rivers separated Greek tribes from one another, no centralized government, rather local polis that could be allies or enemies;
7. Social and Political systems
8. Free males were citizens
9. Different types of governments in diff city states: monarchy (king), aristocracy (nobles), oligarchy (wealthy landowners and merchants), democracy (citizens)
10. Sparta’s Military Society
11. Powerful military state
12. Boys began training at 7, taken from mothers, physical abuse, starvation, ridicule – toughened them up to serve as soldiers until age of 60
13. Women were free to run households, be educated, own property, be athletic, educate children in Spartan religion,
14. Helots (slaves) did farming, usually captured during wars
15. Government controlled helots, supported military through oligarchy of two kings
16. Outside ideas were discouraged, social life controlled, power at the top only
17. Athenian Democracy
18. Monarchies at first, then aristocracies. Solon set free many slaves and limited amount of land a man could own.
19. Politics – merchants joined with small farmers to support tyrants (leaders who seized power for the people). Tyrants were popular at first for lowering taxes.
20. Tyrants began to abuse power, and were overthrown. Some city states returned to aristocracy, others democracy, like Athens. In Athenian direct democracy, all citizens could vote
21. Pericles – ruled Athens from 461-429 BC. Rebuilt the Parthenon, transferred power to an assembly, developed Peoples court
22. Women (and slaves) excluded from democracy, no private property, no education, women isolated and believed inferior to men
23. Athenian Philosophy
24. Trade connections brought new ideas. Iliad and Odyssey written during this time
25. Socrates – philosopher who developed idea of asked questions to clarify another person’s ideas; put to death for questioning state religion
26. Plato – student of Socrates, questioned nature of good and evil; wrote dialogues The Republic, describing ideal society led by philosopher kings.
27. Aristotle – Plato’s student, wrote about ethics, moderation, observation and logic over religious beliefs; defined tragedy, comedy, epic and lyric poetry in Poetics
28. Athenian Religion and Culture
29. Myths, or stories about ethics; incorporated ideas from other religions
30. Literature and religion combined; civic duty to attend plays regarding religion
31. Architecture and Art – Greek style like Parthenon, massive stone buildings, rectangular, rows of columns, slanted roof, panels of friezes along roof w Greek myth pictures
32. Olympic games –emphasized ritual, offerings to show respect for gods; every four years athletes gathered at Olympia; war would be suspended; a sense of “Greekness” developed
33. Greek colonies
34. Need for colonies due to increased population
35. Colonies largely independent from homeland
36. Geography encouraged outdoor teaching, outdoor theatres, sea travel, trade and colonization
37. Persian Empire
38. Cyrus the Great 559-529 BC conquered much land near Turkey and India.
39. His son Cambyses conquered even more, called Achaemenid Empire or first Persian empire which united Mesopotamia, Egypt and India under one empire, largest at the time w 70 ethnic groups
40. Reign of Darius – divided conquered land into provinces, w a provincial ruler (satrap) loyal to empire, and inspectors who traveled to make sure satraps were loyal
41. Taxes instituted to pay for the system and for
42. Persepolis, capital city
43. Royal Road, 1500 miles long, w couriers and postal stations
44. caravanserai – inns/markets where camel caravan travelers could stay and trade
45. common currency – easier trade and prosperity
46. Toleration – ethnic groups could keep their religions as long as they paid taxes and contributed soldiers
47. Religious beliefs – monotheism
48. Persian prophet Zarathustra developed Zoroastrianism, w one got, Ahura Mazda, heaven and hell, priests called magi, text called Avestas
49. Society
50. Many classes, more were educated and well-paid government workers
51. Slaves at all levels, from farming to government laborers
52. Women could own and manage property, and keep earned wages, divorce possible
53. Environment and Technology – irrigation via underground canals called qanat, reducing evaporation
54. Trade – Persian road and by sea
55. Persia versus Greece
56. Persia Wars began in 499 BC, when Athens and Sparta allied against Persia. In 490, Greeks beat Persians at Marathon, causing them to withdraw
57. Xerxes attacked again, and Spartans were defeated at Battle of Thermopylae. Athens and Sparta again ally to beat Persians
58. Persia eventually declines and Athens and Sparta fight amongst themselves, w Sparta eventually gaining power in Greece.
59. Rise of Macedonia
60. Philip II and then Alexander the Great conquer all of Greece except Sparta
61. Alexander and Hellenistic World
62. He used natives to help him rule far away areas of the empire, even marrying Persian women to cement the deal
63. In Alexandria, Egypt, built the largest library in the world
64. Greek language, architecture, mythology and philosophy was spread by Alexander, even Greek columns on Buddhist temples
65. Formation and Fall of the Kingdoms – Alexander dies in 323 BC, and empire collapsed, Greece once again fractured
66. Other Empires in Persia
67. Seleucids – 305-83 BC encouraged Greek colonists to settle in Persia
68. Parthians – nomads who later ruled Iran, Iraq, India
69. Sassanids - promoted Zoroastrianism, persecuted Christians
70. Comparing Greek and Persian Empires
71. Both large territories, wide cultural influence, women w few rights
72. Very different religions, Persia monotheistic, Greece polytheistic
73. Persians were tolerant of customs and religions, one emperor controlled, but local autonomy
74. Greeks culturally unified via language, religion, but politically fractured
75. Each empire became more like the other through contact