Greece
The small country of Greece is located along the coast of the Mediterranean Sea. There are mountains and islands. It is a hot, dry climate most of the year. Olive trees grow well in Greece's dry, rocky soil. They are very strong and can stand up under heavy wind. Greeks believed olive trees were symbols of strength and peace. Greeks used olive oil to clean their skin and they used it in their hair.

Lapbook: About Greece tab book

Ancient Greece
The first settlers of Greece were shepherds, farmers and fishermen. Greek settlements competed for the best, most fertile land because there was so little of it. The country was divided into city-states, which is a city that governs the countryside around it. Greek people all worshipped the same gods, had the same customs and were proud to be Greeks. Most cities were near the sea because most travelling was done by boat. Since there were so many hills and mountains, travel on land was difficult and there were not many roads. Greek cities were protected by walls.

Lapbook: Greek City-States wheel book

Athens
The city of Athens was one of the most powerful city-state. The name of Athens
came from the goddess of wisdom, Athena. Athens had a democratic government, meaning the people ran the government. Voting was very important by male citizens, age 20 or older. Citizens were those people who were actually born in Athens. Women and slaves could not vote. Athenians loved beauty and learning. Citizens created beautiful art, wrote poetry and plays, and studied math and science.

The walled part of the city of Athens was the Acropolis. The Acropolis was on top a hill overlooking the city and the people lived in apartments and houses below. The agora was the marketplace where food, crafts and household items were sold. Men did most of the shopping in Greece.

Sparta
The city of Sparta, in southern Greece, was ruled by 2 kings. Spartans were warriors and trained much for war. Sparta and Athens often fought each other. Boys learned to be soldiers at age seven at school. The girl's main job was to grow up, marry, and produce strong Spartan boys.

Lapbook: Athens-Sparta Venn diagram book

Trojan War
Because Greece was so hilly and dry, they were unable to grow enough wheat, so Greeks had to sail across the Aegean Sea to Asia and buy wheat. The city of Troy was located at the entrance of the channel connecting the Aegean Sea to the Black Sea. Greeks had to cross this channel to get to Asia and the king of Troy, King Priam wanted the Greeks to pay a toll to pass through. The Greeks were angry that they had to pay a toll to pass.

Lapbook: Where is Troy?

The king of Sparta, King Menelaus's wife was captured by the Trojans, the people of Troy. King Menelaus planned to go to Troy to get his wife, but he needed help. His brother was King Agamemnon, the king of Mycenae. The two Greek armies decided to go to war with the city of Troy. Odysseus, the son of the King of Ithaca, joined the armies to attack.
The city of Troy was surrounded by strong walls. The Trojan army came out to fight in the rocky field between their city and the sea. After ten years of fighting and much death, no one could win the war. Odysseus decided the only way to win was to get inside the city.

The Greeks used lumber to build a huge wooden horse that was hollow with a small trap door on the side. When the horse was finished, many soldiers were put inside the horse. The rest of the soldiers got in their boats with everything from their camp and left to go back to Greece. Only one soldier, Sinon, stayed behind hiding in the bushes. The lookout for the city of Troy announced the Greeks had left. The people of Troy went outside their city and found the huge wooden horse.

The Trojans examined the horse and were suspicious. Then Sinon is found hiding and is brought before the King. Sinon tells the Trojans that the horse is a gift from Athena. The King did not want to destroy the horse and make Athena angry, so they put ropes around the horse’s neck and pulled it into the city. The Trojans had to tear down part of the gate to the city to get the horse inside.

Once the horse got to the temple of Athena, they held a festival. After the people in the city of Troy went to sleep, the Greeks came out of the body of the horse. They killed the lookout guards and lit a torch on top the wall to signal the Greek ships to return. The Greeks from the ships entered the city through the hole in the wall and they all set fires to Troy. Some Trojans escape, but many died in the fires. The Greeks won the war.

Lapbook: Trojan Horse mini book

Many years later, the poet Homer writes poem about Odysseus and the other heroes of the Trojan war in his poem the *Iliad*.

**Gods and Goddesses**
Greek gods looked like humans but had special powers. Greeks told many stories about the gods they worshipped, called myths. (A myth is a story that is not true.) Greeks believed their gods lived on top of the mountain, Olympus, and rested and ate ambrosia all day. Greeks prayed to these gods to please
them. They had altars in their homes and gave them gifts. They thought they would be punished if the gods were unhappy.

Lapbook: A Myth Is . . .

Greeks built large temples for their gods. Inside the temples was a statue of the god. Statues were tall and covered with gold and ivory.

They also held festivals to honor their gods. Many traveled from far away to come to these festivals. Greeks would bring food and gifts to give their gods. Sporting events were included in these festivals along with music and dancing.

- Zeus – ruler of the gods

Zeus was the god of the sky, clouds and rain. You didn’t want to make him mad. He would throw lightning down to earth. Greeks believed that when Zeus was talking, the oak leaves rustled.

- Hera – goddess of marriage and the wife of Zeus

A myth about Hera is that she got very angry with Zeus for loving other women. A girl named Echo was talking to Hera and distracted her from finding Zeus with other women. Hera got very angry with Echo for keeping her from catching Zeus with other women so she cursed Echo from being able to speak on her own. Instead, Echo could only repeat the last word that someone said to her over and over again. That’s where our word 'echo' came from.

- Poseidon – god of the seas and Zeus’s brother

Poseidon lived under the sea and used a trident, or spear, to hit the water when he was angry. This would cause earthquakes and storms. One myth says that when the Greeks lost a war, Poseidon became so angry that he sent a huge storm to wreck the ships the soldiers were using to return to Greece.

- Aphrodite – goddess of love and beauty
Aphrodite was beautiful, flowers came up when she walked through fields and waves laughed when she walked by. She was always shown with a smile on her face.

- Athena – goddess of wisdom, the arts and war, also the daughter of Zeus
  
  Athena’s main job was to protect Athens from Poseidon, who wanted the city for himself. Athena also trained the first horses.

- Phoebus Apollo, or just Apollo – god of the sun, healing, music and poetry and the son of Zeus
  
  Apollo had golden hair and carried a silver bow. He raced his chariot across the sky and played music for the other gods on his lyre, a harp-like instrument.

Lapbook: Greek Gods mini book  Flag Book Instructions

In comparing the Greek gods to the Roman gods, they are basically the same gods with different names. Zeus/Jupiter, Aphrodite/Venus, Hera/Juno, Poseidon/Neptune.

Greek life
Greek houses were made of stone, clay or wood. The roofs were tile or reeds and the floors were dirt or stone. There were not many rooms and little furniture. They had wooden tables, chairs and couches. For storage, they used baskets or chests. There was a courtyard in the middle of the home where the family would gather, cook and eat their meals. Occasionally, there would be a well in the courtyard. Greek food consisted of bread, olive oil, goat cheese, figs, grapes, honey, fish and seafood.

Greek people wore tunics, a piece of cloth wrapped around them. Men’s tunics, called chitons, came to the knee. Women’s tunics, called peplos, were longer. They wore sandals, slippers or boots when they went out, otherwise, they were barefoot. Women wore jewelry and make-up. They would put white powder on their faces to look pale. They would put oil in their hair.
Schools were for only for boys. They started at age seven and learned to read and write. They studied poetry, music and sports. Girls stayed home and learned to run the house. They learned to spin, weave, sew and cook. Rich girls would learn to read and write at home. Fathers arranged marriages for their daughters, who would marry as young as 15 years old.

Children played games similar to chess and checkers. They also played with dolls, clay animals, and hoops.

Try this game – Pentelithoi

You will need five small stones (or something similar). This game is a lot like Jacks and was popular with women and girls.

Take turns with a friend. With one had, toss five stones into the air. It’s easier if you don’t toss them high. Catch as many as you can on the back of your throwing hand. This takes practice. It helps to bend your fingers back and spread them out. If all the stones fall to the ground, your turn is over. If you catch them all, you win. If you catch one to four, leave them on the back of your hand while you try to pick up the ones that fell. If you can pick them all up and not drop any, take another turn.

Or try this game – Knucklebones (popular with boys)

This game is similar to marbles.

Draw a circle about two feet across. You can use chalk on a sidewalk or a marker on a piece of poster board. Gather one or two other friends to play. Set two or more knucklebones (stones) inside the circle, keeping one out for each player. Take turns trying to knock knucklebones out of the circle by throwing your knucklebone at them. Pick up your knucklebone after each throw. If you knock one out, keep it till the end of the game and take another turn. The game ends when all the knucklebones have been knocked out. The winner is the one with the most knucklebones at the end.
Greeks had many different dances, some to honor their gods. They danced at weddings and funerals, at harvest time and after war.

The gymnasium was like a park where Greeks played sports and exercised. Men and boys spent time there during the day.

Men gave parties called symposia (symposium is the singular form) for men only. Slave girls would meet the guests at the door and wash their feet. Guests drank wine, ate, talked and sometimes recited poetry and sang.

Lapbook: What is a Symposium?, Greek Life

**Famous Greeks**

**Socrates**
Socrates was a philosopher. A philosopher is someone who loves learning and they were often teachers. Socrates believed that a good person was a happy person and that money is not enough to make someone happy.

Lapbook: A Philosopher Is . . .

**Plato**
Plato was a student under Socrates. He wrote things down that Socrates said. He later became a philosopher himself and ran a school called the Academy.

**Hippocrates**
Hippocrates was a Greek doctor who studied the human body and how it worked. He wrote an oath (a strong promise), called the Hippocratic oath today, where doctors promise to not do harm.

**Phidias**
Phidias was the sculptor who created the statue of Zeus sitting on a throne. The statue was covered with ivory and gold. The statue was located in the temple of Zeus. The temple was destroyed by earthquakes and war.
Lapbook: Famous Greeks

Homer
Homer was a great poet, whom some say was blind. Greeks liked to recite his poetry. He wrote one poem called *The Iliad*, which was about the war between the Greeks and the Trojans. He also wrote *The Odyssey*, the adventures of Odysseus.

Lapbook: Homer

Older students may want to read the Iliad or the Odyssey. [Here is an on-line version of the Iliad.](#) [Here is an on-line version of the Odyssey.](#)

If your student reads either of the poems and wants to write a summary, you can use either of these pocketbooks:

Lapbook: The Iliad, The Odyssey

Alexander the Great
Alexander’s father was King Philip of Macedonia. Macedonia was a part of Greece. They worshipped the same gods and spoke the same language. King Philip was preparing Greece to go to war with Persia when he was murdered. Alexander then became king at age 20. He had to prove himself as powerful as his father.

In 334 BC, Alexander invaded present day Turkey. He met up with King Darius III, king of Persia in the Battle of Issus. The Macedonians were outnumbered, but Alexander’s army was stronger. Darius fled from this battle, but continued to rule over the Mediterranean Sea. Alexander did not have a powerful fleet of ships. Alexander then planned to capture the ports. The port in the city of Tyre did not give up easily. They fought for over seven months before Alexander captured the city.

In 332 BC, Alexander moved on to Egypt. The Egyptians were unhappy that they were under Persian rule, so they welcomed Alexander and made him
pharaoh. Alexander made a port on the Mediterranean in Egypt and named it Alexandria.

Meanwhile, Darius strengthened his army and planned for another battle, The Battle of Gaugemela (modern day Iraq). Darius made some serious mistakes in his attack plans and lost his soldiers confidence. King Darius was taken prisoner by his own men. The rest of the Persians surrendered to Alexander. Alexander then became ruler of the Persian Empire.

Alexander began to wear Persian clothing and became friends with Persian people, which upset the Macedonians.

In 326 BC, Alexander moved into India to grow his empire. The Greeks had no idea how large the country of India was, or what kind of people resided there, but Alexander forged ahead into the country. They went during the rainy season and suffered much. They had to cross flooded rivers and the soldiers were very unhappy. They begged to go home. Alexander was told by Coenus, one of the soldiers, “The one thing a successful man should know is when to stop.” Alexander decided to turn around and go home, but instead of going the way they went in, Alexander wanted to explore the land around the Indian Ocean. This is desert area, and many soldiers died from hunger and thirst.

Back at home, Alexander planned to conquer Arabia and continue into North Africa, but in 323 BC, Alexander became very sick. He gave orders from his sickbed, but his health continued to get worse. Alexander died at age 32. He became the greatest conqueror this world has ever seen, which gave him the nickname “Alexander the Great.”

Lapbook: Alexander the Great

Architecture

Parthenon
The Parthenon was the temple of goddess Athena. It is on the Acropolis in Athens and is one of the greatest buildings ever built. Inside the Parthenon is a 40 foot tall statue of Athena made of gold and ivory. Athena is holding a small
statue of Nike, the goddess of victory. The Parthenon is built with marble and was 60 feet tall. There were 46 columns around the building. It is now in ruins, but people still go to see the Parthenon. The Lincoln Memorial in Washington DC was built to look similar to the Parthenon.

Lapbook: Parthenon shutter book

Amphitheaters
An amphitheater is an outdoor theater that was built in a half circle. They could seat around 14,000 people. Plays were performed there by men and a group of people called the chorus that sang about what was happening.

Columns - Three styles of columns were often used on Greek buildings.

Doric – Sturdy, plain tops, no base. Used in the mainland of Greece, southern Italy and Sicily.

Ionic – Thinner and more elegant, the top is scroll-like, large base. Used in eastern Greece and the islands.

Corinthian – Top was elaborately decorated with acanthus leaves, most ornate.

Lapbook: Columns mini book

The Arts
Drama was very popular in ancient Greece. The best writers competed to have their plays performed. Greeks liked to recite poetry of the greatest poets. They also were great artists and craftsmen. Sculptors made bronze and marble statues. Potters made beautiful pottery.

Greek Alphabet
A - Alpha
B - Beta
Г - Gamma
Δ - Delta
Ε - Epsilon
Ζ - Zeta
Η - Eta
Θ - Theta
Ι - Iota
Κ - Kappa
Λ - Lamda
Μ - Mu
Ν - Nu
Ξ - Xi
Ο - Omikron
Π - Pi
Ρ - Rho
Σ - Sigma
Τ - Tau
Υ - Upsilon
Φ - Phi
Χ - Chi
Ψ - Psi
Ω Omega

If you are interested in seeing the rest of the Greek alphabet, go to this website.

Our word alphabet comes from the first two letters of the Greek alphabet.
Our word cereal comes from the goddess of grain, Ceres.
Our word helium comes from the god of the sun, Helios.
Our word iridescent, meaning a rainbow-like display of colors, comes from the goddess of the rainbow, Iris.

Olympics

The first Olympics were held in 776 BC in the city of Olympia. There was only one event, a foot race called the stade. It was a festival to honor the god,
Zeus. Gradually, other events were added and it became the most popular festival in Greece. The Olympics were held every four years and lasted 5 days. They were held during the hottest months of the year. Only Greek male citizens could compete in the Olympics and only men were allowed to enter to watch the game.

Lapbook: Olympics

Kallipateira was a woman who dressed up like a man to watch her son compete in the Olympics. Her father and brother were Olympic winners. After her son won, she went out to congratulate him and her clothes came loose revealing she was a woman. She was not punished because she came from a famous family.

During Olympic season, a truce was called to temporarily end all wars. The rules of the truce were:

1. Wars stop for three months during the training and the game.
2. Armies and armed men could not enter Olympic grounds.
3. There was no death penalty for punishment during the Olympics
4. Athletes could go through any city-state on their way to the Olympics

Athletes trained with coaches for nine months before the Olympics began. Athletes were to practice flute music to help give them rhythm. Trainers used long sticks to show the athletes which muscles to use.

A month before the Olympics began, they trained in the town of Elis, near Olympia. The ten Olympic judges would meet the athletes in Elis. The judges wore purple cloaks, laurel wreaths on their heads and made sure the athletes were obeying the rules. Judges split the athletes into groups of the same age group.
Two days before the Olympics began, everyone (judges, coaches and athletes) began the procession to Olympia.

Visitors and athletes slept in tents set up all over the Olympic grounds. The Altis was at the center of the grounds. It was a grove of trees around the temples of Zeus and Hera. The third night of the Olympics was held on a full moon when everyone would walk to the temple of Zeus and offer sacrifices.

On the first day of the Olympics, the athletes took an oath that ensured they had trained for ten months. The judges also took an oath to judge the Olympics fairly. Trumpets played to announce the start of an event and heralds announced the winners.

Events

Running
During the races, all runners started at once. If someone started early, he was either beaten or forced to leave.
Stade – A sprint across one length of the stadium
Diaulos – Two stadium lengths
Dolichos – Twelve lengths of the stadium
The most difficult race was run wearing full armor carrying heavy shields. It was awkward and funny for spectators.

Javelin
A javelin was a long wooden spear used in hunting and in war. The furthest throw won.

Discus
The discus is shaped like a Frisbee, but made of lead, iron, bronze or marble. It usually weighed 5 ½ pounds. The furthest throw won.

Long Jump
Soldiers used the long jump during military training. In the Olympics, they used a sand track. Jumpers held weights in both hands and swung them back and forth to jump the furthest.
Wrestling
Soldiers also trained with this event. Olympic wrestlers wrestled in the sand. Once a wrestler was taken down three times, the match was over. Wrestlers put olive oil on their bodies which picked up the sand so the judges could tell if they were really down.

Pentathlon
The pentathlon were these five events: long jump, discus, javelin, running and wrestling.

Boxing
Boxers were not allowed to hit below the belt, but instead aimed for the head.

Pankration
The word pankration comes from a Greek work meaning “all power”. It was a combination of boxing and wrestling where there were not many rules. It was brutal and athletes sometimes died from this event.

Horse racing
The horse racing took place at the hippodrome. Some races were on horseback and some were chariots pulled by two or four horses or mules. Not many chariot drivers finished a race. This was the only Olympic sport where women could win because when a horse won a race, the owner of the horse was the winner.

Lapbook: Ancient Olympic Events

Winners were announced after each event, but they didn’t get their prizes until the last day of the Olympics at the closing ceremonies. The judges gave each man a crown made of olive branches for the tree near the temple of Zeus. The festival ended with feasts and celebrations into the night. The next day, everyone returned home. They would receive gifts in their own cities, like statues, jobs or meals.

Famous Olympians
Milo of Croton
Milo was very strong and won in wrestling six times. Milo once pulled a tree apart to get two iron wedges out of it. The trunk snapped back together and trapped his hands. He was eaten by wild beasts during the night.

Diagoras of Rhodes
Diagoras was a great athlete and boxer. No one else could box as skillfully. His two sons went on to compete in the Olympics and won. They lifted him onto their shoulders. He was so proud, he died while in their arms.

Lapbook: Famous Olympians

The Olympic games ended in AD 393. People lost interest. Many years later in 1896, people decided to start them up again in Greece. Today there are summer and winter Olympics. They are no longer a festival to the gods. Athletes compete from all over the world. Some of the events are the same as the ancient Olympics.

Bible

Look again at the Greek alphabet. Read Revelation 22:13. God says he is the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. The people of that time understood that Alpha and Omega were the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet.

Lapbook: Alpha and Omega

The New Testament was written in Greek.

In Acts 17, beginning at verse 15, we read that Paul waited in Athens for Timothy and Silas to meet him there. In Acts 20, you can read about Paul’s journey to Macedonia, a region of Greece. In Acts 27, as Paul was trying to reach Rome, a storm blew the ship towards the island of Crete, an island belonging to Greece. Read Titus 1. Paul left Titus on Crete so that he could set up a church there.
Lapbook: Paul in Greece

Greek Myths
Read some myths and discuss them.

Favorite Greek Myths by Mary Pope Osborne
D’Aulaires Book of Greek Myths

Lapbook: My Favorite Myths

Library List
Magic Tree House Research Guide – Ancient Greece and the Olympics by Mary Pope Osborne
Eyewitness Books Ancient Greece by Anne Pearson
The Trojan Horse – How the Greeks Won the War by Emily Little
Projects about Ancient Greece by Marian Broida
DK Discoveries Alexander the Great by Peter Chrisp
The Librarian Who Measured the Earth by Kathryn Lasky
Gods and Goddesses of Olympus by Aliki
Ancient Greece! by Avery Hart
D’Aulaire’s Book of Greek Myths
Greek Myths for Young Children by Marcia Williams (Usborne)
King Midas and the Golden Touch by Charlotte Craft
You Wouldn’t Want to Be in Alexander the Great’s Army by Jacqueline Morley
Classical Kids by Laurie Carlson
Adventures in Ancient Greece by Linda Bailey
Where in the world is Troy?
Mark the city of Troy with a red star.
Color the Black Sea black.
Color the Aegean Sea blue.
Color the country of Greece green.
Print on cardstock. Color horse and cut out. Use an exacto knife to cut on the grey lines. Lift flap and paste information under.

Trojan Horse

Soldiers hid inside the horse. When the city went to sleep, they came out and attacked!
Cut book out as one piece. Fold in half. Open. Fold bottom strip up (fold on the dotted lines) to form a pocket on the inside of the book. Use small dots of glue on the edges (if you use too much, the pockets will be too small).
Cut book out as one piece. Fold in half. Open. Fold bottom strip up (fold on the dotted lines) to form a pocket on the inside of the book. Use small dots of glue on the edges (if you use too much, the pockets will be too small).
What is a symposium?

What is ambrosia?
Cut book out on solid lines; fold on dotted lines. Use extra images as desired.
Cut out as one piece. Fold on solid lines. You should have a book that opens like the "shutters" on a window.
The Parthenon was 60 feet tall.

A statue of Athena stands inside.

Cut the figure of Athena out and glue it on the inside center of the book.

Cut the 2 rectangles above out and glue them on the inside of the doors of the book.
A myth is...

What is a philosopher?
Cut pocket out as one piece. Fold back up. Wrap flaps around the back and glue down.
Cut book out. Fold on lines (matchbook style)

HOMER the POET
Greek Homes
Greek Clothing
Greek Children
Greek Entertainment
Greek Life
Greek Homes
Cut apart on solid black lines. You should have two rectangles when finished. These are flags.

The next page is a bit tricky, but you can do it! Fold it like an accordion (back and forth, back and forth) using the horizontal lines on the sides as a guide. It’s hard for me to explain how I used the lines as a guide, but basically, they helped me as I was making my fold. I used the next set of lines I could see as my stopping point for that fold. Once you get it folded, unfold and cut on the solid black lines (not the side lines, but the main lines that form the rectangle). Once you have your accordion, you should follow the directions in the link given on the website.
Cut on the solid black lines; you will have two rectangles when finished. These are your covers.
Cut apart on SOLID black lines; you should have four pieces when finished; these are the flags.

Write information about each god or goddess on the backs of the flags.

Poseidon

Aphrodite

Athena

Apollo
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Socrates</th>
<th>REMOVE THIS AREA (Cut away so you have just a tab left)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plato</td>
<td>REMOVE THIS AREA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Assembly Directions:

Cut the strips along the solid outer lines. If there is a rectangle piece in the right corner of the strip, cut it off as indicated (remove this area). Stack your strips in order with cover on top and staple where indicated.
Cut out each shape (cut along the dark black lines; do not cut any gray lines). Fold each book in half on the gray line (three small books and one large book). Glue the back sides of the small books into the inside of your large book.
Ionic

Corinthian
COLUMNS
Cut out wheels. Cut away the extra area on the cover wheel (where indicated). Let your student cut/paste the pictures into the right sequence. Attach wheels together using a brass fastener.
protected by walls

teach by boat

governed the countryside around the city

near the sea
Cut out book as one piece. Fold in half on the black line. Cut on the dotted lines to form three flaps.

Spartans

Both

Athenians

Both

Athenians

Spartans
Directions. Cut out each matchbook (there are nine) and fold matchbook style. Paste three on each part of the inside of your tri-fold book.

Cut out book on first page and fold twice (tri-fold style—folding both flaps in over toward the mid-
die). Write a title on the front. Unfold.

Discus

Javelin

Running Events

Throw

Throw
I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

Revelation 22:13

God is the Alpha because...

The Omega is...

The Alpha is...

Ω

Α
Battle of Issus

Alexander the Great

Battle of Gaugemela
Olympic Beginnings