

Questions to guide research on Ancient Greek Theater

Parts of a Greek play

1. Did different types of plays have different parts?
2. what were the parts of a play called?
3. how often did each part occur in a play?
4. why did the plays have these parts?
5. how are these parts similar to what happens in a play today?
6. how are these parts different from what happens in a play today?
7. What was the chorus in Greek theater? What was its function?

Greek tragic / drama festivals

1. Why did they have tragic festivals?
2. Who attended the festivals?
3. How long did a festival last?
4. What happened at the end of the festival?
5. What Greek God was honored by festivals?
6. How many actors performed? Who were they?

What Greek plays were about

1. What different types of plays did the Greeks create?
2. What was each type about?
3. What questions did the plays ask or answer about man or about life?
4. Why were plays an important part of the culture?
5. In a typical play, a character had to do what?
6. How did plays support or refute cultural customs?

The Greek Culture

1. What time period do we refer to when we say “Ancient Greece”?
2. Who are some “famous” ancient Greeks, and why is s/he famous?
3. What form of government did the ancient Greeks have?
4. What religion or religions did they practice?
5. What did they do in their spare time?
6. What are some developments from Ancient Greece that we use today?

The Greek Theater

1. What did a typical theater look like?
2. Where were the theaters built?
3. What parts of the ancient theater do we still use today?
4. What parts of the ancient theater seem to have disappeared?
5. Explain how the design and location of the theater influenced the action of the play.
6. How many actors performed? Who were they?

The Greek Gods

1. Who were some of the Greek Gods? Who was most important and why?

2. What motivated the Greeks' loyalty to the Gods? Why were they so afraid of angering their Gods?
3. What was the Cult of Dionysus? What connection does this have to theater and Sophocles' plays?
4. Who was Apollo?
5. What was the Oracle at Delphi? How did it work?
6. How do modern archeologists explain the Oracle?