The Greeks: Crucible of Civilization

As you watch the documentary film produced by PBS, complete the table below.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Famous Greek** | **Biographical Details** | **Significant Accomplishments** | **Notable Failures** |
| Cleisthenes | * Athenian nobleman * grew up with great privilege * was raised to be a leader * grew up in Athens before it was a regional power and when aristocrats lived lives of privilege and non-aristocrats lived difficult lives * became archon during the reign of Hippias * was exiled during the reign of Hippias but then convinced Spartans to help remove Hippias from power * influenced by Homer’s stories | * brought political reforms to Athens * re-distributes population into ten tribes, making it unlikely that citizens would act according to family and geographical loyalties * introduced the practice of ostracism * known of the Father of Democracy |  |
| Themistocles | * Athenian statesman and general * came from a middle-class family (not an aristocratic family) * liked to write and perform speeches in his youth, but not a gifted student * was an archon and later the leader of Athens after the Battle of Marathon | * convinced Athenians to build a powerful fleet to guard against Persian invasion * used the discovery of silver to finance the building of triremes (from 70 to 200) * ordered the evacuation of Athens after the Battle of Thermopylae * commanded the Greek fleet at the Battle of Salamis, defeating the Persian fleet | * was exiled from Athens after the Persian Wars for corruption and bribery * travelled to the Persian Empire and was perceived as a traitor in Athens |
| Pericles | * statesman, general and orator during Golden Age of Athens * name means “surrounded by glory” * Thucydides called him the “first citizen of Athens” * born into an aristocratic family * read widely in his youth, was introverted * had a romantic relationship with Aspasia of Miletus, who was a talented writer and teacher | * increased power of Athens through the Delian League * promoted arts, literature and philosophy * saw philosophy as practical discipline * delivered Funeral Oration after the First Peloponnesian War * oversaw the rebuilding of the Acropolis and the addition of the Parthenon * extended democratic reform, include paid service for public office | * ordered the retreat on Athenians behind the long walls during the Second Peloponnesian War, after which the plague ravaged the citizens and killed Pericles * his death marks the start of the decline of Athens’ power and influence |
| Socrates | * son of a sculptor * called the wisest man by the oracle at Delphi * questioned the wisdom of elders in Athens, attracted young students * defended six generals put on trial for abandoning men stranded at sea during the Second Peloponnesian War but lost * accused of corrupting youth of Athens and put on trial (might have been a scapegoat for Athens’ decline after the Peloponnesian War) * sentenced to die by drinking hemlock | * Father of Western Philosophy * All his students (e.g., Plato, Xenophon) founded important schools of philosophy) * used the Socratic method: questioning pre-suppositions of people * concerned with how to life a good and virtuous life |  |