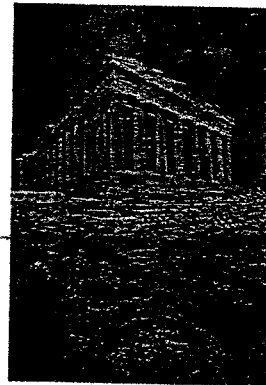
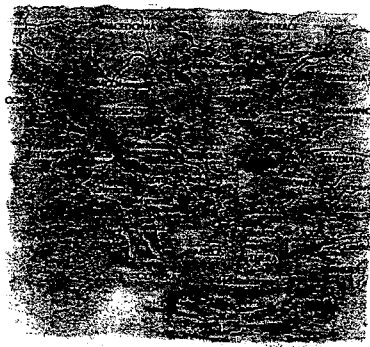




Ancient Greece and Modern Day Society



The Ancient Greeks lived long ago. Although it's more than 2000 years now since this civilisation ended, we can still see the effects of Ancient Greece in our society today. In this booklet you'll learn about how the Ancient Greeks' ideas can be seen in literature, sporting traditions, architecture and astronomy.

Name _____

Text 1

Ancient Greece and Astronomy

Aristarchus was an important Ancient Greek astronomer. He believed that the Earth revolved on its axis and that it moved around the sun. At this time however, most people thought that the Sun moved around the Earth, and so they didn't believe Aristarchus.

Today, when children learn about the Solar System they see diagrams like these. Aristarchus was right after all! The Earth does revolve on its axis around the sun. The axis is on a tilt, and it's the tilt of the Earth that gives us seasons.

DIAGRAM 1

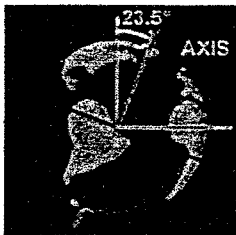
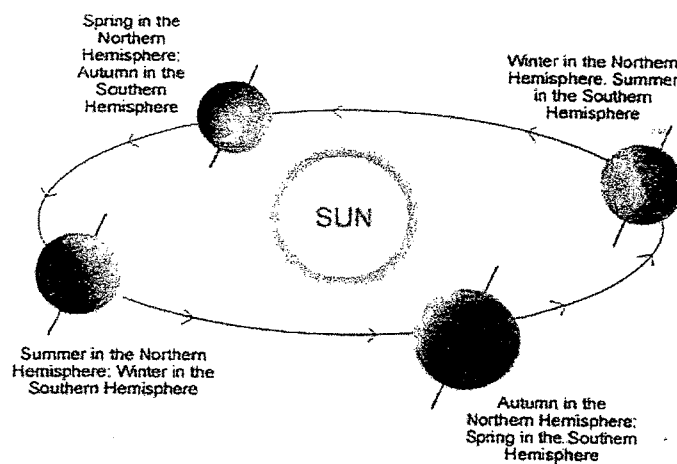


DIAGRAM 2



The tilt in the Earth's spin means that when the northern part of the Earth (the northern hemisphere) is tilted towards the sun, the southern hemisphere is tilted away from it. That's why when it's summer time in Spain, it is winter in Australia.

Text 1 Questions (6 points)

Read Text 1 and say which sentences are true (T) and which are false (F).

1. Aristarchus was an astronomer. T / F
2. Aristarchus thought the Sun moved around the Earth. T / F
3. Most people in Ancient Greece believed Aristarchus. T / F
4. Diagram 1 tells us that the Earth's axis is at a tilt of 23.5°. T / F
5. Diagram 2 tells us that when it is autumn in the northern hemisphere, it's summer in the southern hemisphere. T / F
6. The northern and southern hemispheres tilt towards the sun at the same time. T / F

Turn to the next page.

Text 2

Ancient Greeks and Literature

Myths are old, traditional stories. Myths from Ancient Greece are among the most famous in the world. They describe adventures of gods, goddesses, heroes and strange mythical creatures.

Here are some of the mythical creatures that appear in Greek Mythology.

Mythical Creature	Description
Centaur	a creature with the head and upper body of a human but the hindquarters of a horse
Gorgon	a woman with wings who has snakes in her head instead of hair
Gryphon	a giant creature with the head and wings of an eagle but the body and hindquarters of a lion
Minotaur	a monster with the head of a bull and the body of a man
Pegasus	a winged horse
Satyr	a creature with the head and upper body of a man, it has horns, pointy ears and goat legs

Today, we still read myths from Ancient Greece. *Jason and the Golden Fleece* is a well-known myth from that era. Some Greek mythical creatures still appear in modern literature. Both the *Harry Potter* series and the *Chronicles of Narnia* include mythical beings as characters. Centaurs appear in both series.

C.S. Lewis' centaurs from his popular *Chronicles of Narnia* series are described as the wisest and noblest of creatures. They are skilled in stargazing, prophesying and healing and are valiant, fierce creatures that are always loyal to King Aslan.

In J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* series, centaurs live in the Forbidden Forest close to Hogwarts school. They live in communities called herds and are skilled in archery, healing and astrology.

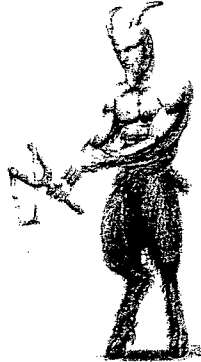


A centaur in the film version of *The Chronicles of Narnia*

Turn to the next page.

Text 2 Questions

1. Look at the information in the Greek Mythical Creature table. Write the name of each creature on the line below each picture. (5 marks)



2. Write the name of a Greek myth mentioned in Text 2. (1 mark)

3. Read the text and answer the questions about centaurs. Write in complete sentences.

1. In *The Chronicles of Narnia*, who are centaurs loyal to? (1 mark)

2. In the *Harry Potter* series, where do centaurs live? (1 mark)

3. Circle the adjectives which best describe centaurs. (3 marks)

stupid	intelligent	
good	evil	brave
cowardly		

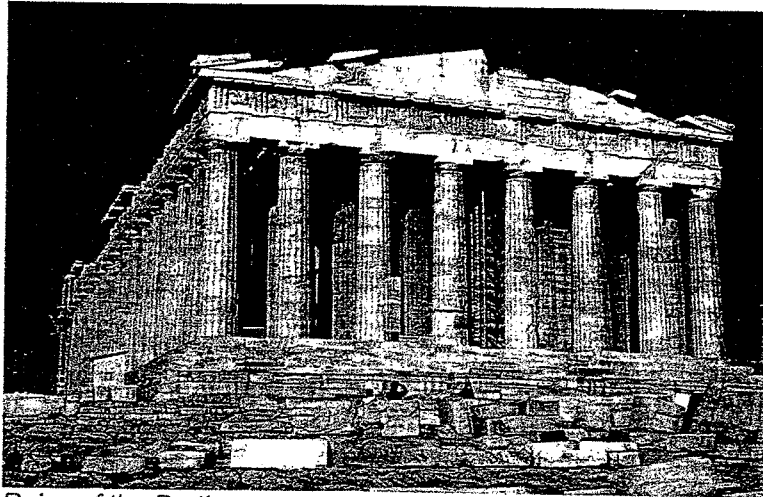
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Text 3

Ancient Greeks and Architecture

The architects of Ancient Greece used mathematical rules to make their public buildings simple and elegant. Most temples and other public buildings in Ancient Greece had many vertical columns and horizontal beams.

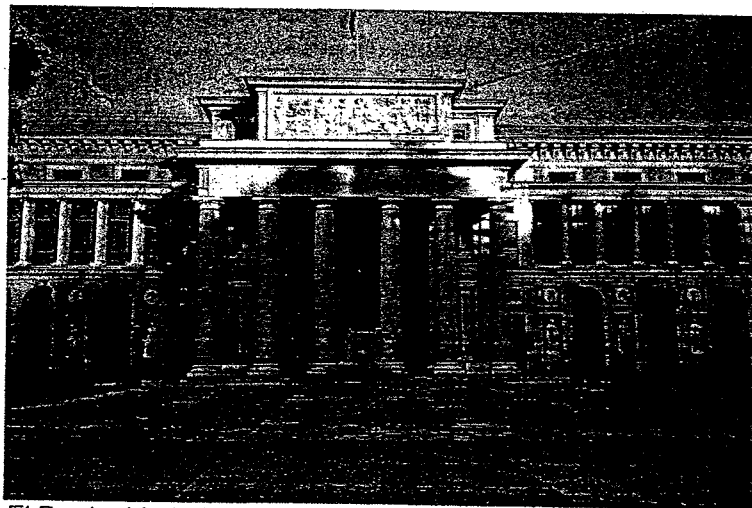
The Parthenon is an Ancient Greek temple. It was dedicated to Athene, the goddess of Athens. It was built of painted white marble by an architect named Ictinus. Although it is now in ruins, it is one of the world's most famous buildings.



Ruins of the Parthenon

The Ancient Greeks have influenced architecture all over the world. Buildings in the Classical Greek style are often known as Neoclassical. The Romans were the first to copy Greek architecture, but even today we see examples of neoclassical buildings.

Juan de Villanueva was a famous Spanish architect. In the late 1700s, he designed the Prado Museum in a neoclassical style. He also built the Astronomical Observatory close to the museum and designed summer houses for the kings in El Escorial and Aranjuez.



El Prado, Madrid

Turn to the next page.

Text 3 Questions

Read Text 3 and answer the questions below. Write in complete sentences.

1. Who was the goddess of Athens? (1 mark)

2. What are the two important architectural features of ancient Greek buildings? (2 marks)

3. What people were first influenced by Ancient Greek architecture? (1 mark)

- the Neoclassics
- the Romans
- the Spanish

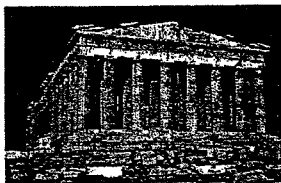
4. Apart from the Prado, what other buildings did Villanueva design? (2 marks)

Read the sentences in the boxes below. Use Text 3 to decide if the sentence is describing the Parthenon, the Prado or both the Parthenon and the Prado. Write the sentence number in the Venn diagram. Number 1 has been done for you. (2.5 marks)

1. It's a museum.	2. It was designed by Ictinus.	3. It has vertical columns.
4. It's one of the world's most famous buildings.	5. It's a temple.	
	6. It was designed by a Spaniard.	

Venn Diagram

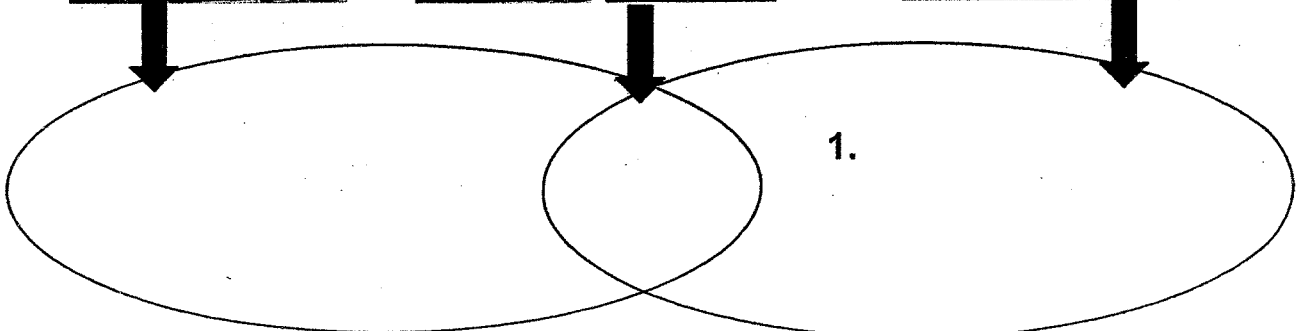
The Parthenon



The Parthenon and The Prado



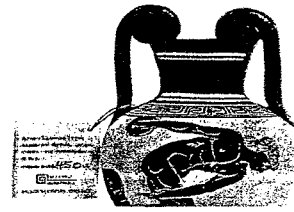
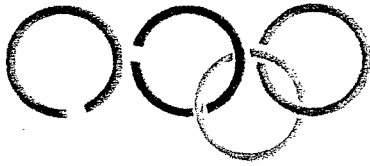
The Prado



Turn to the next page.

Text 4

The Ancient Greeks and Sport



Did you know that the Olympic Games originated in Ancient Greece? The competition lasted for five days and was held every four years in Olympia. The original Olympic Games formed part of a festival for the Greek god, Zeus.

Illustrations on ancient Greek pots show us that athletes did not wear clothes when they participated in the Olympic games all those years ago.

One of the most challenging events was the pentathlon, from the Greek word *pente* (five) and *athlon* (contest). There were five events: discus and javelin throwing, running, jumping and wrestling.

The pentathlon is still one of the major events in modern day Olympics. Here is an article that tells us more about the competition in Beijing in 2008.

Moiseev Wins Olympic Gold for Russia

Andrey Moiseev has won the men's Olympic modern pentathlon, outrunning his two Lithuanian rivals in the final event.

Moiseev was leading after the first four events — shooting, fencing, swimming and equestrianism. That meant he was allowed to start the 3,000-meter run 13 seconds ahead of the field.

Moiseev crossed the golden finishing line 21 seconds before anyone else. Edvinas Krungolcas came in second, and Andrejus Zadneprovskis took the bronze.

Victorious, Moiseev claimed the third gold of the day for Russia. Olga Kaniska won the women's 20km walking race and Muradov defeated Germany's David Bichinashvili.



Turn to the next page.

Text 4 Questions

Read Text 4 and answer the questions below.

1. Read the following 3 sentences and circle the one that is true. (1 mark)
 - a) The original Olympic Games were part of a festival for Olympia that lasted for five days and were held every four years.
 - b) The original Olympic Games were part of a festival for Zeus that lasted for four days and were held every five years.
 - c) The original Olympic Games were part of a festival for Zeus that lasted for five days and were held every four years.

2. How do we know that athletes in the Ancient Greek Olympics did not wear clothes? (1 mark)

3. What is the Greek word for competition? (1 mark)

4.
 - a) What were the five events in the pentathlon in Ancient Greece? (2.5 marks)




- b) Only one of these is an event in the Olympic modern pentathlon. Which one is it? (1 mark)

5. Where would you see an article, like the one about Moiseev? Circle the correct answer. (1 mark)

- a) in a recipe book b) in a newspaper c) in an encyclopaedia

6. What is the **title** of the article? (1 mark)

7. Read the article and complete the table. (5 marks)

Olympic Medal	Winner's Name	Winner's Nationality
 Gold	Andrey Moiseev	
 Silver		
 Bronze		

8. Read these dictionary definitions of three sports and then write the name of the sport shown in each picture. (2 marks)

Equestrianism: the art of horsemanship

Fencing: the art of fighting with swords

Wrestling: a sport where 2 opponents try to throw each other to the ground.

