

List of Famous Greeks of the Ancient World

1. Aeschylus (525 - 456 B.C.) – Greek tragic dramatist whose plays were the first to include two actors in addition to the chorus. Only 7 of his 90 dramas survive, including the *Oresteia* trilogy.
2. Aesop (Circa 6th Century B.C.) - Freed slave from Samos, known for his fables taught as moral lessons.
3. Alcibiades (450 - 404 B.C.) – Athenian politician and general whose brilliant military career collapsed during the Peloponnesian War.
4. Alexander the Great (356 – 323 B.C.) – King of Macedonia, his armies conquered from Egypt to India; his reign marked the beginning of the Hellenistic Age.
5. Archimedes (287?-212 B.C.) – Greek mathematician, engineer, and physicist.
6. Aristarchus of Samos (2nd Century B.C.) – Greek astronomer who first theorized that the Earth and the other planets revolved around the sun.
7. Aristophanes (448? - 388? B.C.) – Athenian playwright considered to be the greatest ancient writer of satirical comedy. Among his surviving plays are *The Clouds* and *Lysistrata*.
8. Aristotle (384-322 B.C.) – Greek philosopher, pupil of Plato and the tutor of Alexander the Great. He established the western scientific method – theory follows empirical observation and logic.
9. Democritus (460?-370? B.C.) – Greek philosopher who developed an atomic theory of the universe.
10. Demosthenes (384 – 322 B.C.) – Prominent orator and statesman of Athens.
11. Diogenes (? – 320 B.C.) – Greek philosopher and founder of the Cynic school who advocated self-control and the pursuit of virtue through simple living.
12. Draco (Circa 7th century B.C.) – Athenian lawgiver whose Draconian code made nearly every offense punishable by death.
13. Epicurus (341 – 270 B.C.) – Greek philosopher who founded Epicureanism, philosophy which advocated the pursuit of pleasures that can be enjoyed in moderation.
14. Euclid (Third century B.C.) Greek mathematician who applied the deductive principles of logic to geometry, creating the fundamentals of modern geometry.
15. Euripides (480?-406 B.C.) – Greek classical dramatist who wrote more than 90 tragedies, although only 18, including *Medea*, *Hippolytus*, and *The Trojan Women*, survive in complete form.
16. Herodotus (Circa 5th century B.C.) – Known as the ‘Father of History’ his writings of the Persian Wars are considered the earliest forms of narrative writing and history.
17. Hesiod (Circa 8th century B.C.) – Greek epic poet known for *Works and Days*, a valuable account of ancient rural life, and *Theogony*, a description of the gods and the beginning of the world.
18. Hippocrates (460 – 377 B.C.) – Called the ‘The Father of Medicine’ he laid down the principles of modern medicine.
19. Homer (Circa 850 B.C.) – Greek epic poet who wrote the great epic poems, *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*.

20. Pericles (? - 429 B.C.) – Athenian leader noted for advancing democracy in Athens and for ordering the construction of the Parthenon.
21. Pindar (522?-443? B.C.) – Greek lyric poet known chiefly for his *Odes*.
22. Plato (427?-347? B.C.) – Greek philosopher and student of Socrates, he presented his ideas through dramatic dialogues. His most famous is *The Republic*. He taught and wrote for much of his life at the Academy, which he founded near Athens in 386.
23. Ptolemy (2nd Century A.D.) – Astronomer who based his findings on the idea that the heavens revolved around the Earth.
24. Pythagoras (Circa 6th century B.C.) – Greek philosopher and mathematician who discovered the Pythagorean Theorem.
25. Sappho (Circa 6th century B.C.) Greek lyric poet known for her romantic poetry.
26. Socrates (470?-399 B.C.) – Greek philosopher whose search for ethical knowledge and challenge conventional mores eventually led to his trial and execution.
27. Solon (638 – 559 B.C.) – Athenian lawgiver who restored democracy to Athens.
28. Sophocles (496?-406 B.C.) – Greek dramatist, considered one of the greatest dramatists of ancient Greece. His surviving plays include *Ajax*, *Oedipus Rex*, *Antigone*, and *Oedipus at Colonus*
29. Theophrastus (371?-287? B.C.) – Greek philosopher who succeeded Aristotle and refined his work in the natural sciences.
30. Thucydides (460?-400? B.C.) – Greek historian. Considered the greatest historian of antiquity, he wrote a critical history of the Peloponnesian War that contains the funeral oration of Perikles.
31. Zeno of Citium (335 – 263 B.C.) – Greek philosopher who founded the Stoic school, teaching that virtue is necessarily good and that objects of desire are morally ambiguous.