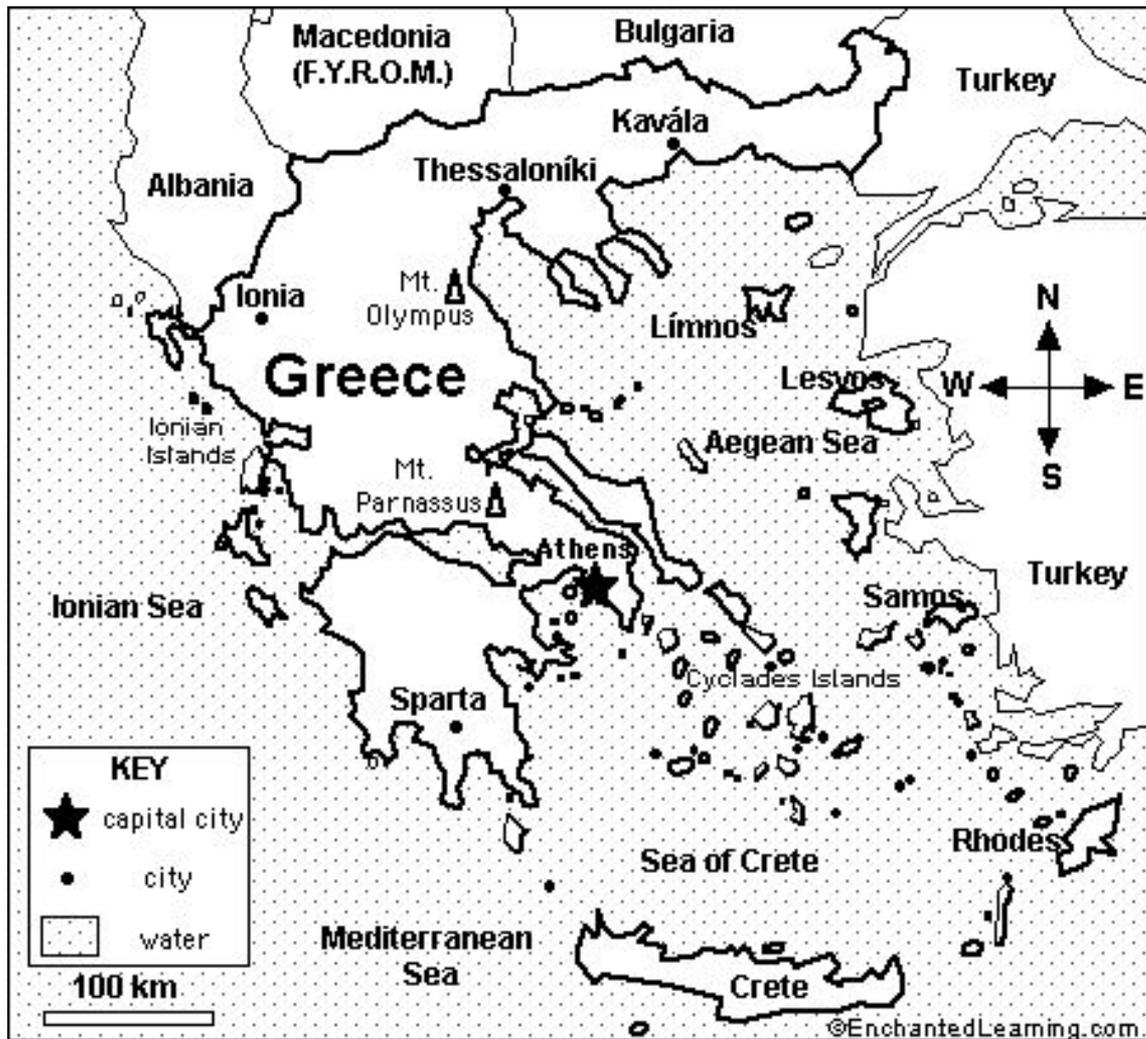

Ancient Greece

— Glory and Grandeur —



Map of Greece

Greek Art

Golden Age: 480-430 BC

Philosophy - Moderation in all

Most Famous Work - "Winged Victory"

Most Famous Building - Parthenon

Characteristic Form - Male Nude

Signature City - Athens

Major Contributions: Democracy, individualism, reason

Ancient Greece

There is something very familiar about the art of ancient Greece. Not only does it appear right and beautiful to our eyes, but it seems to be almost a part of our American history. The reason for this is not so surprising. From the architecture of government buildings to the design of democratic structures, the founding fathers of the United States borrowed many ideas and images from ancient Greece.



In fact many consider Greece to be the true birthplace of Western civilization. Civilization includes all people who share a common heritage of ideas, customs, and culture. Most of the art we will examine in this text has its origins in this artistic traditions of ancient Greece.

But what made this ancient civilization so special so different from others? Why were men like Thomas Jefferson so influenced by the Spirit and art of people dead for thousands of years? At its most powerful time in ancient Greece was never a match for the cultures of Egypt and Rome. Living in a collection of small city states, the people of Greece were is likely to be at war with each other as with the rest of the world. pg. 46 Inside Art

Ancient Greece

Was it size? Hardly. Ancient Greece was about the size of the state of Arizona. So what gave the civilization such influence? The answers people. The greatest difference between Greeks and other ancient civilizations was that in Greece the individual was important. Most of the people of Mesopotamia and Egypt were completely overshadowed by the will and might of absolute rulers. If they were artists, their fame was known only through the works they produce for the king or pharaoh. But in Greece, things were different.

The Greeks considered themselves citizens with certain basic rights. They took pride in themselves and their individual accomplishments. Every task, every work of art was completed with care and attention. Art, as the visual expression of individual feelings and ideas, was especially valued. And it is art that was the true glory of Greece.

p.47 Inside Art



Greek Art & Sculpture

Greek architecture and sculpture the most beautiful and perfect building ever constructed was the Parthenon it is called the Parthenon although today it is a mere echo of its former magnificence, for centuries it was the model and standard against which all other buildings were measured. Doesn't look familiar?

Compared to our nation's capital building. There are many similarities. What other buildings have you seen that look similar? Even Thomas Jefferson's home, Monticello borrowed many design ideas from Greek architecture.



Parthenon

The Parthenon was built during a period known as the "Golden age". The art of this. Is also referred to as classical Greek art. Classical really means two things. First it means art that was made during the fourth and fifth centuries BC if something is made during the fourth century BC its date will be 300 to 399 for example the Parthenon was built in the fifth century BC it dates are for 48 to 432 BC. It is considered an example of classical Greek architecture. Second, art that is classical in design, follow certain artistic principles.

For example, the Greeks believed that some physical proportions were perfect or ideal. A column had to be just the right size and shape to fit the design of the building. All parts of the architectural design or composition had to work together in harmony to create balance and unity. The ancient Greeks believed, if all these elements work together, classical beauty would be achieved. The Parthenon is a wonderful example of classical design and beauty.

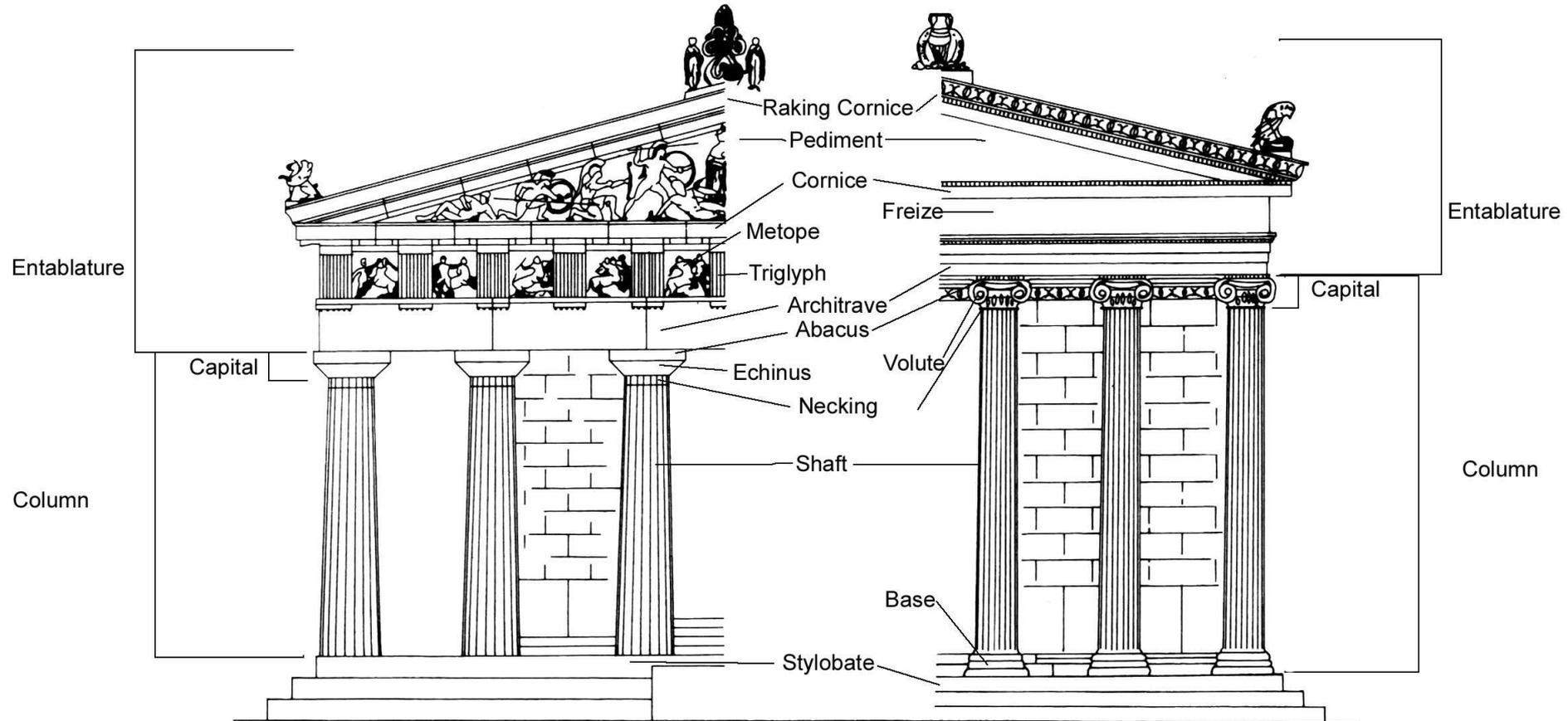


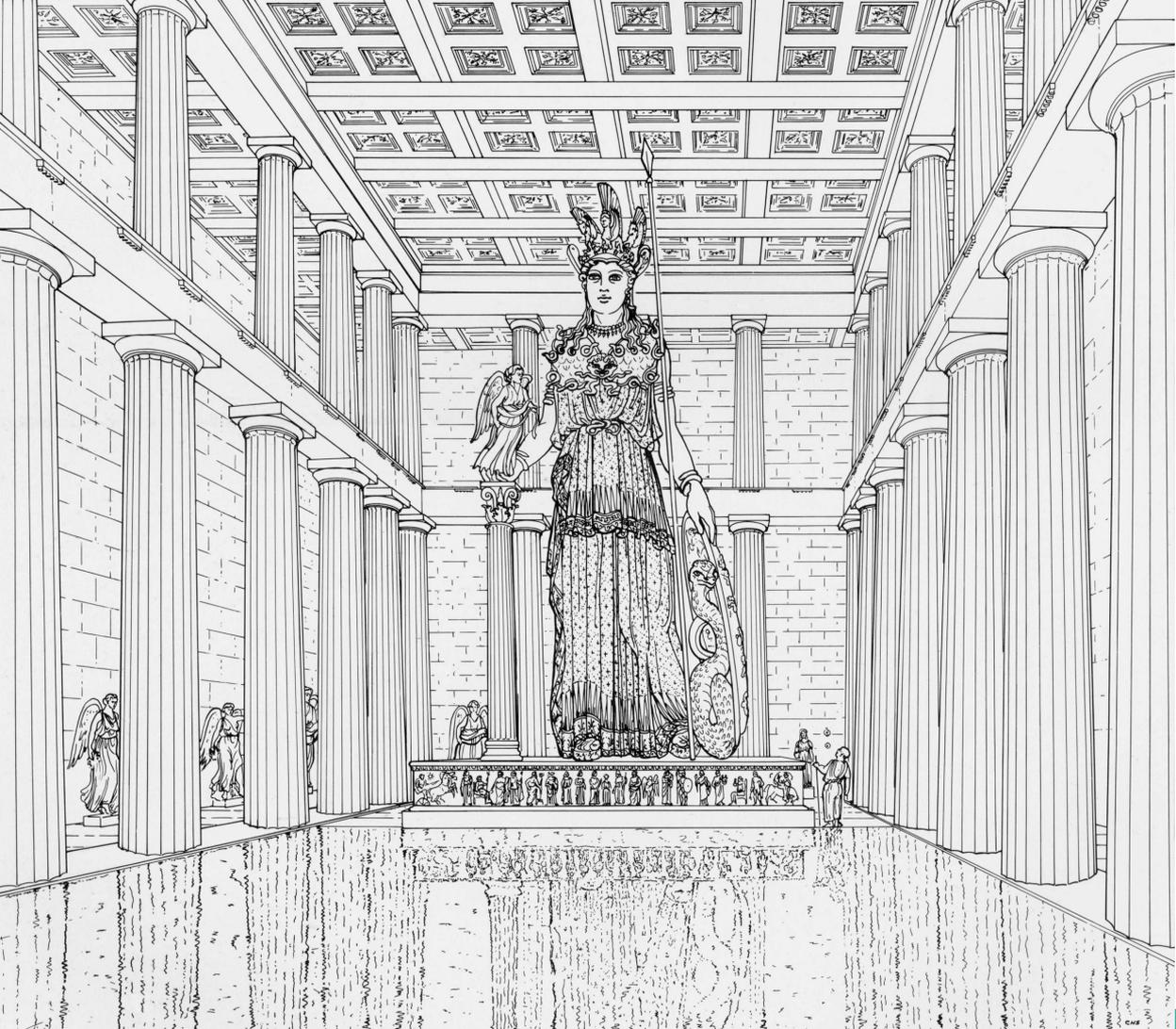
Parthenon as it looked originally,
Athens, Greece, c. 400 B.C.



Parthenon

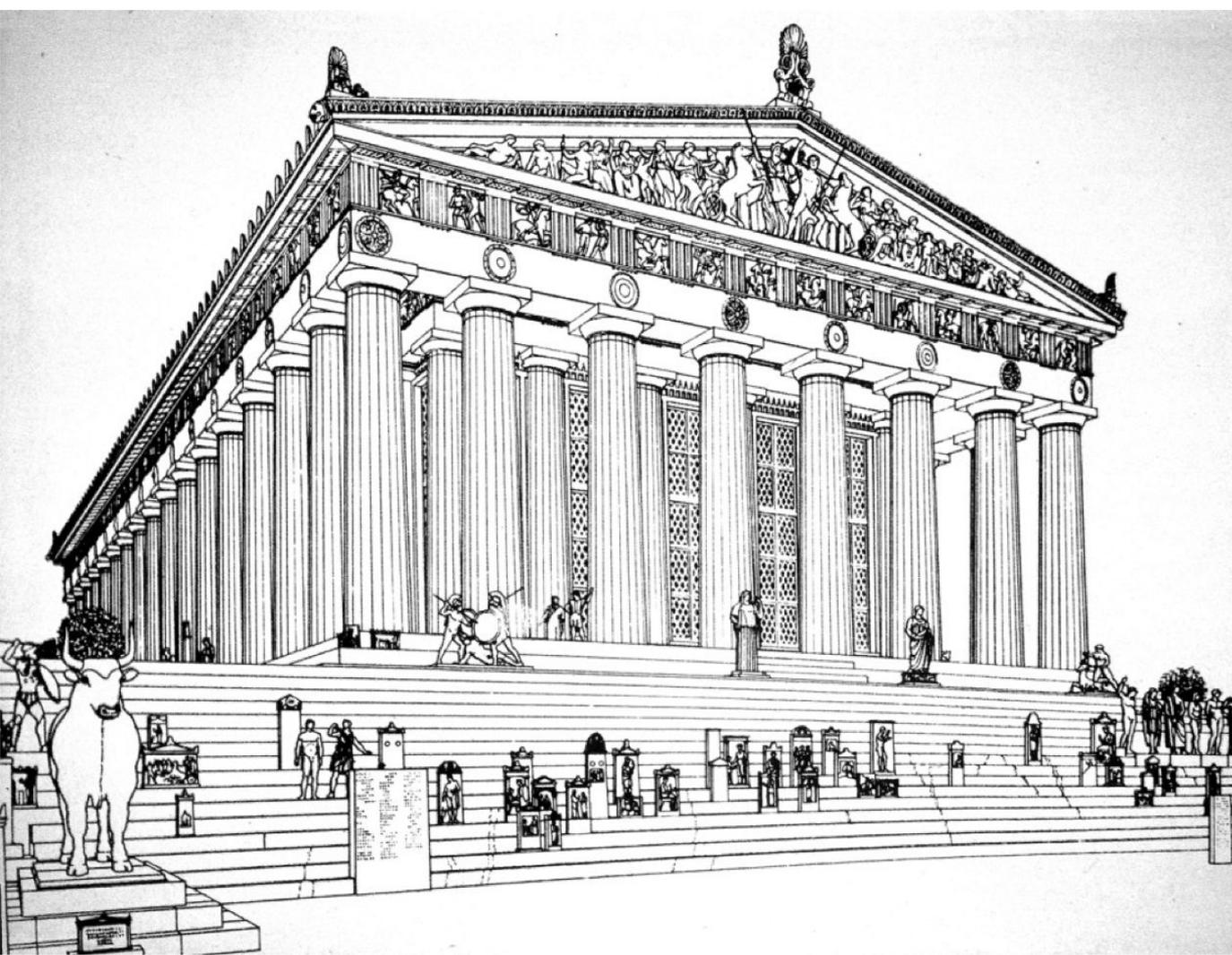
Parthenon





Athena

The sculpture of the city's patron goddess



Parthenon

The exterior where the citizens of Athens, Greece gathered to worship.

Greek Art Styles

Geometric Art (9th - 8th century BC) pottery ornamented with geometric banding and friezes of simplified animals and humans.

Archaic (600-480 BC) period includes kouros stone figures and vase painting.

pg. 15 Annotated Mona Lisa

Classical (480 - 323 BC) peak of Greek art and architecture, idealized figures exemplify order and harmony

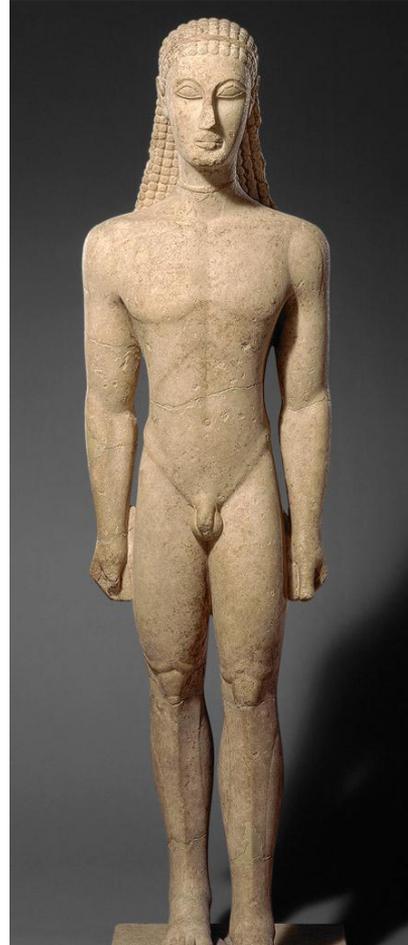
Hellenistic (323 - 31 BC) greek-derived style, found in Asia Minor, Mesopotamia, Egypt; more melodramatic (as is "Laocoon")

Archaic Period - Kore



Characteristics of Archaic Sculptures

- Clothed maiden (KORE) or
- Nude male youth (KOUROS)
- Free-standing statues of human figures;
- frontal stance,
- left foot forward,
- clenched fists, and



Erechtheion - Caryatid Porch



Acropolis,
Athens, Greece

Erechtheion - Caryatid Porch



Although of the same height and build, and similarly attired and coiffed, the six Caryatids are not the same: their faces, stance, draping, and hair are carved separately; the three on the left stand on their right foot, while the three on the right stand on their left foot. Their bulky, intricately arranged hairstyles serve the crucial purpose of providing static support to their necks, which would otherwise be the thinnest and structurally weakest part.

The Elgin Marbles

In 1801 Lord Elgin carted off much of the sculpture to the British Museum, where the poet John Keats gazed at the marbles for hours, “like a sick eagle looking at the sky”.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/ancient/greeks/parthenon_debate_01.shtml

http://www.britishmuseum.org/about_us/news_and_press/statements/parthenon_sculptures.aspx?fromShortUrl