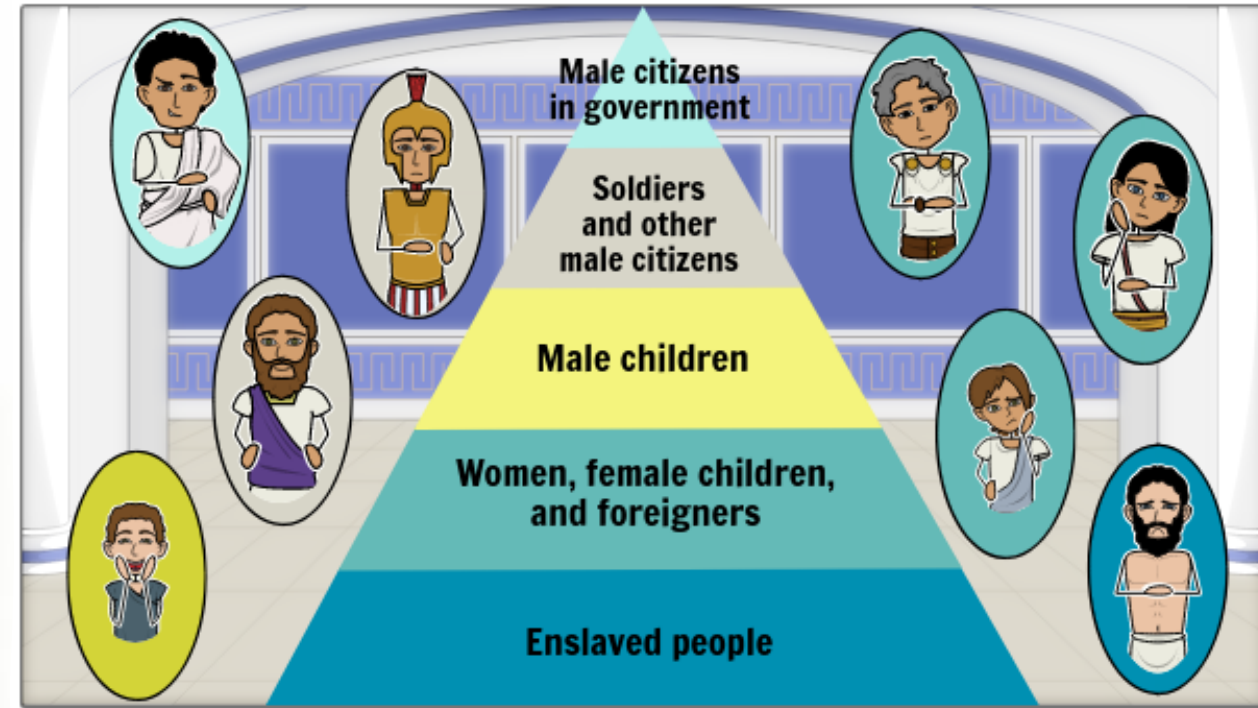




SOCIAL PYRAMID FOR ANCIENT GREECE



Introduction

Everyday Life in Athens and Rome (HPHP4020)

What is Social History?

Social history – cultural habits (what people do) and **values** (what they believe).

- How are societies organised?
 - What practices, concepts and institutions underpinned them.
- Ground up history?

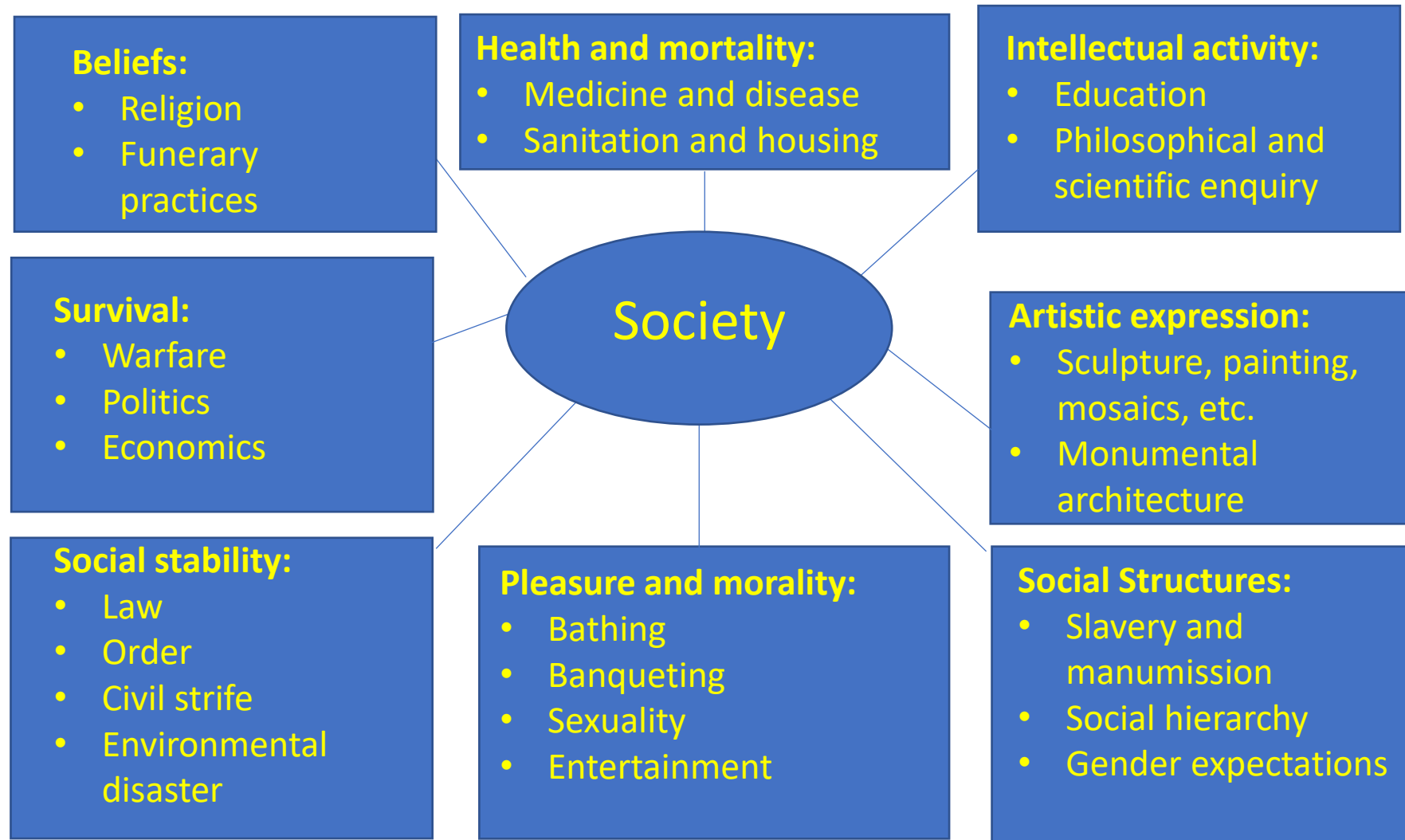
Compare – **Political-military history**

- major events and individuals who shaped them.
- Always top down?

See also – **Economic history**

- Falling within social history?
- Themes like demography, productive capacity, consumption, and other phenomena such as trade.

The potential scope of social history



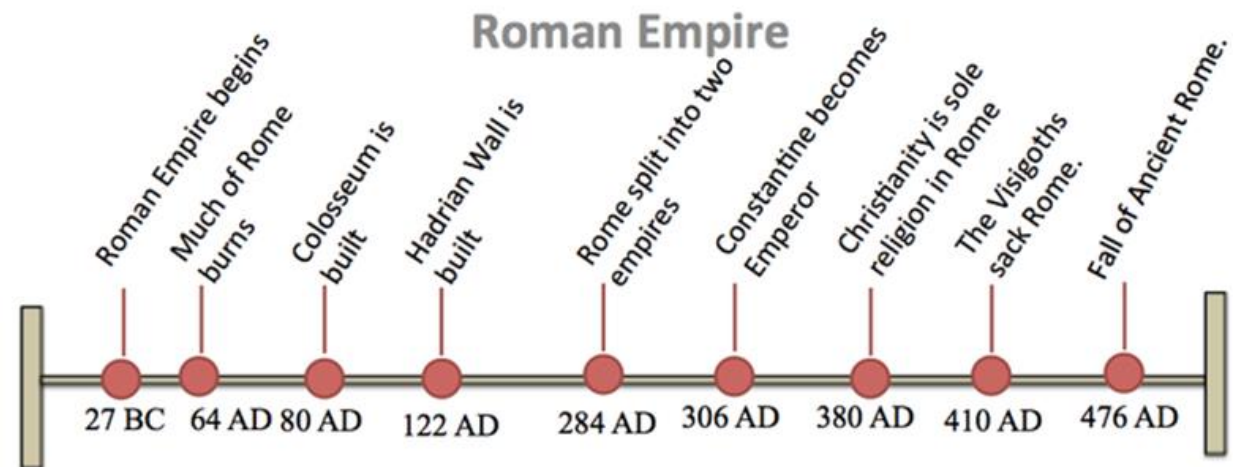
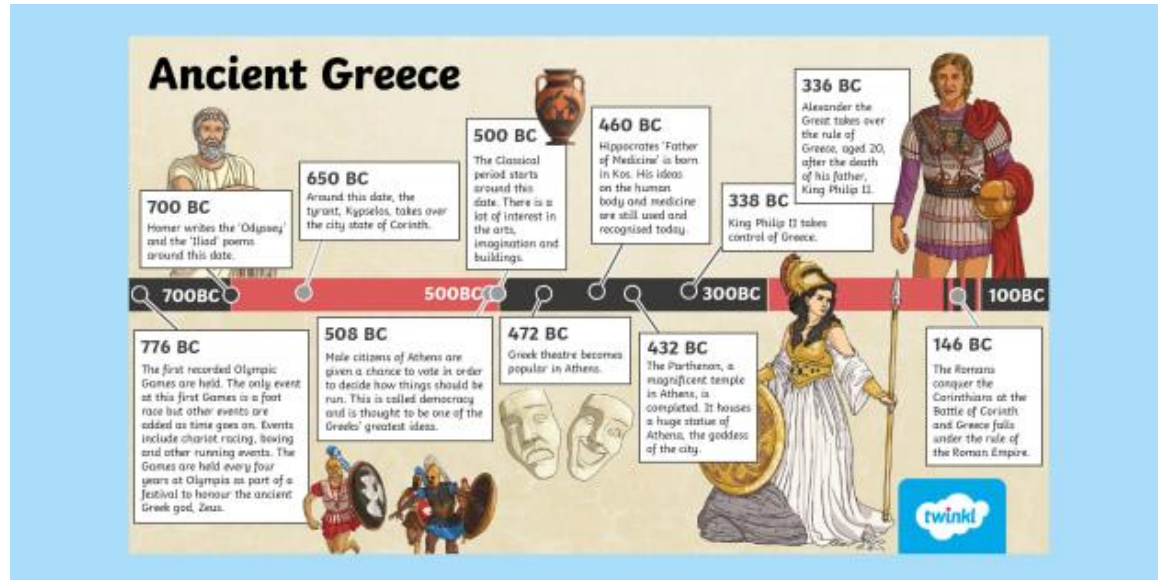
Chronology

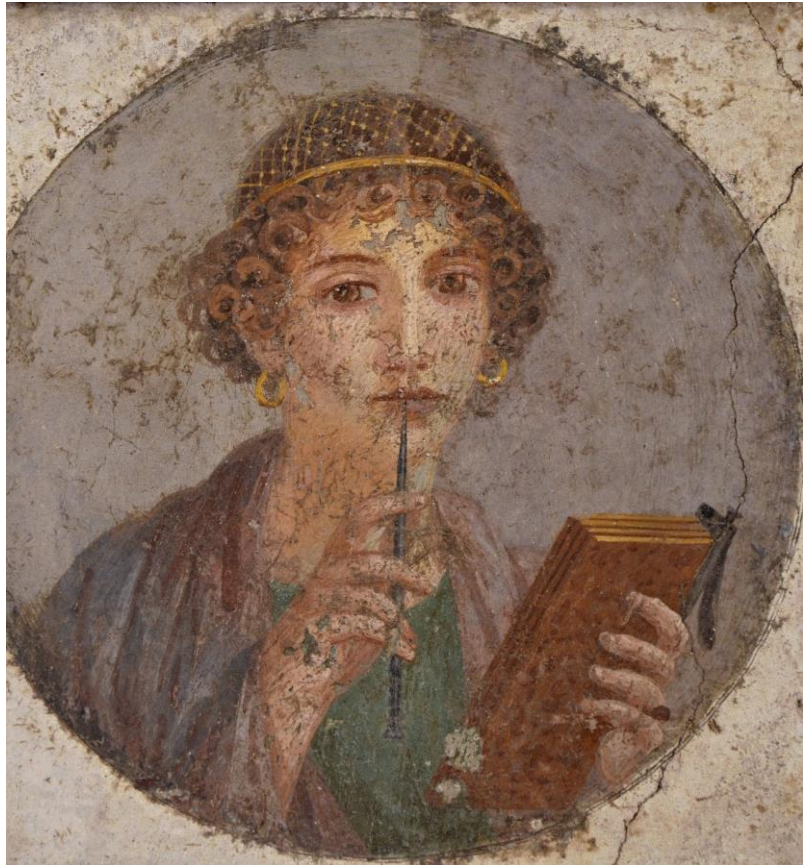
Athenian focus

- “Classical period”
 - Ca. 480s to 330s BC.

Roman focus

- *ca.* 200 BC to AD 250.
 - Post-second Punic War to so called “Third Century Crisis”.





Source material

Social value and politics intertwined

“Well, this old man went to the market, last market day and came back with this new slave. A tanner, a leather beater, Paphlagon by name. A real crim. A slimy, sleazy con artist. ...he, the new boss, started kneeling before him, flattering him, conning him, licking his bum... yum, yum, yum... tricking the old codger, twisting and turning his little brain, making it soft with little offerings of his little off-cut bits of scrap leather.” – **Aristophanes *Knights* 46-49.**

- Veiled reference to Cleon (prominent politician in 420s BC).
 - Paphlagonia a region Asia Minor on coast of Black Sea (source of slaves).
- Reference to Cleon’s commercial interests.
- Attack on Cleon as a sneaky demagogue.

The Graeco-Roman World



Landscapes and climates

- Huge variability!
- Parts of “mainland” Greece, mountainous with some fertile valleys.
 - Soil could sometimes be stony and poor quality.
 - Rivers typically not navigable.
 - Some more expansive regions (Thessalian plain).
- Seven hills of Rome (defensibility).
 - Navigable Tiber (trade).
 - Lower valley areas marshy.
- Importance of “Mediterranean triad”.
 - Grain (wheat or barley), olives and wine.

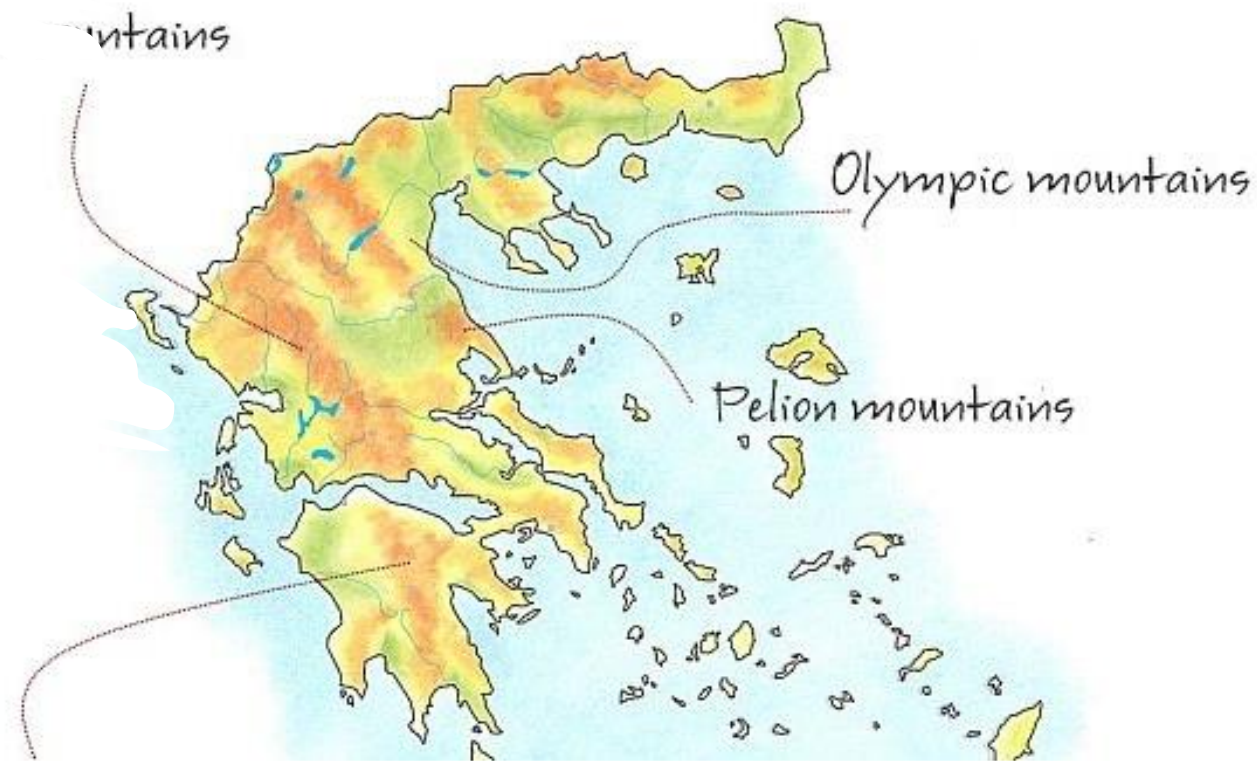
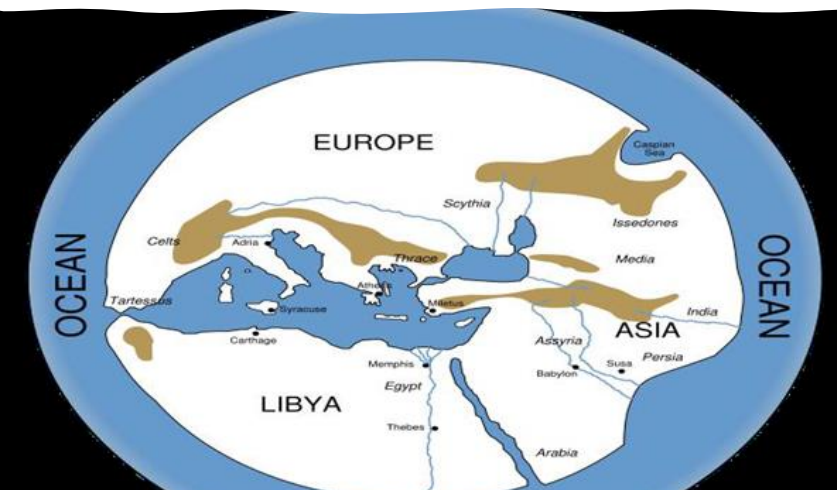




Image from the Nuremberg Chronicle (1493).



Based on Hecataeus' *Circuit of the World* – ca. 500 BC

“Ctesias writes ... of a tribe of men called the Monocoli, who have only one leg and hop with amazing speed. These people are also called the Shadow-feet, because when the weather is hot they lie on their backs stretched out on the ground and protect themselves by the shade of their feet.” – **Pliny *HN* 7.21-23.**

Notions of time

- *anno Domini nostri Jesu Christi* (**AD**) devised Dionysius Exiguus in AD 525 (“during the consulship of Probus Junior”).
 - *ante incarnationis dominicae tempus* (**BC**) – used by Bede (*Ecclesiastical History of the English People*, AD 731).
- Huge range of localised ancient calendars
 - Using religious, political or dynastic designations.
 - Use of Olympiads as dating measure by some.
- Eponymous Archon in Athens ; use of consular years by Romans, also “from the foundation of the city” (AUC).



Calendars

Roman calendar during Imperial period (reformed by Caesar)

- Ianuarius
- Februarius
- Martius
- Aprilis (**Neroneus**)
- Maius
- Iunius
- **Iulius** (originally Quintilis)
- **Augustus** (originally Sextilis)
- September (**Tiberius**)
- October
- November
- December

Compare with the Athenian calendar

- Hecatombaeon– Jul/Aug
- Metageitnion- Aug/Sep
- Boedromion- Sep/Oct
- Pyanepsion- Oct/Nov
- Maemacterion- Nov/Dec
- Poseideon- Dec/Jan
- Gamelion- Jan/Feb
- Anthesterion- Feb/Mar
- Elaphebolion- Mar/Apr
- Mounychion- Apr/May
- Thargelion- May/Jun
- Scirophorion- Jun/Jul

City living

“From there we sailed with heavy hearts, and came to the land of the Cyclopes, a lawless, aggressive people, who never lift their hands to plant or plough... The Cyclopes have no council meetings, no code of law, but live in echoing caves on the mountain slopes, and each man lays down the law to his wives and children, and disregards his neighbours.” – ***Odyssey* 9.105 ff.**

