IMPORTANT GREEK FIGURES

Herodotus (484-425 BCE)
"Father of History"

-First Greek Historian
-First to attempt to gather and analyze historical evidence. He recorded the customs of people and the geography of the lands he traveled to.
-His writings provide useful information about the ancient world.

Hippocrates (460-380 BCE)
"Father of Medicine"

-Physician who practiced medicine in ancient Greece.
-Became the most famous person in ancient medicine
-Doctors today model themselves after the Hippocratic oath (High moral standards and ideals for physicians)

Socrates (470-399 BCE)
"Greek Philosopher and Teacher"
-Emphasized the use of reason in searching for knowledge and truth.
-Believed in the superiority of argument
-Was condemned to death for crimes against the state
-He is known throughout the works of his famous pupil Plato.
-Socrates profoundly affected the entire course of Western speculative thought.

Aristotle (384-322 BCE)
"Greek Philosopher, Educator and Scientist"
-Believed that reason was the highest good, and people should live in moderation in every aspect of their lives.
-Praised self control, self reliance, valued family life and prosperity.
-Believed the best type of government was a mixture of monarchy, aristocracy, and democracy.

Pericles (495-425 BCE)
"Father of Democracy"
-In Athens, Pericles sought to enable all citizens to take an active part in the government.
-Under Pericles, Athens had more citizens engaged in self government that any other state.
-Payment of citizens for their services to the state was introduced, and members of the government were chosen by lot from everybody in Athens.

-Even the poorest could serve if elected or chosen by lot.
-Our government is based on his political philosophy.

Pythagerous (582-500 BCE?)
"Greek philosopher and mathematician"

-Pythagerous and his students carried on studies of odd and even numbers and of prime and square numbers.

-Developed the Pythagorean theorem, which states that the square of the hypotenuse of a right triangle is equal to the sum of the squares of the other two sides.

-Pythagerous and his students were the first to consider the earth as a globe revolving with the other planets around a "central fire".