

Summary: An Ancient and Modern City

Athens in the Past

Greece has an ancient culture that began more than 3,000 years ago. Athens was an important city in ancient Greece. Today, people are still influenced by the rich culture of ancient Athens.

Ancient Athens had a democracy. The United States government is modeled after the government of ancient Athens.

The arts were important in ancient Athens. Artists made statues from marble and bronze. They made pottery vases with painted scenes of daily life. Drama was important. Plays were often based on stories about gods and goddesses.

Athens Today

Athens has continued to grow and change over time. Today, Athens is the capital city of Greece. It is a modern city and is also the country's largest city. The city is crowded with cars and buses. There are tall new buildings. Ships take people and goods to and from ports along its coast. Many factories have helped the economy grow. However, the factories have also polluted the environment. The Greek government is trying to stop many new factories from coming to the city.

Past and Present

Some ancient buildings still stand in the city. People study these building and other artifacts to understand the past. Athens is connected to the future because it continues to grow and develop.



Before You Read

Find and underline each vocabulary word.

ancient *adjective*, very old

modern *adjective*, belonging to the present day

artifact *noun*, an object—such as a tool or a piece of pottery—that is made by people



After You Read

REVIEW What were some of the major parts of ancient Greek culture? Highlight four things—one that tells about the kind of government in ancient Athens and three that tell what kinds of arts were important.

REVIEW How is the modern city of Athens connected to the past and future? Circle the sentence that tells about its connection to the past. Draw a box around the sentence that tells how Athens is connected to its future.