The Golden Age of Athens

More than 2,000 years ago, Athens became the cultural center of Greece. Achievements were made in many fields during a period known as the “Golden Age”. These achievements greatly contributed to the development of western civilization.

The people of ancient Greece have had more influence on present times than anyone else in history. Below is a chart that summarizes accomplishments made during this Golden Age of Athens. Carefully read the descriptions on the chart and use it to complete the questions attached.

| Philosophy                  | - Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle were the world’s first philosophers  
|                            | - By asking basic questions about man & the universe, philosophers influenced people to change their way of thinking on many subjects. |
| Science and Mathematics     | - Unlike the Egyptians & Mesopotamians, Greek scientists did not believe gods and demons caused storms, floods, droughts, and other problems for man. They believed these happenings were simply a part of nature’s way.  
|                            | - The ancient Greeks were the 1st to observe that all matter was made of tiny particles called atoms.  
|                            | - Greek astronomers studied the planets and stars. One astronomer, Aristarchus, said the earth and other planets revolved around the sun. Most people continued to believe that the sun and planets all moved around the earth.  
|                            | - Euclid, a mathematician, wrote a book called The Elements, which was used for more than 2,000 years to teach geometry. For his work in this field, he came to be known as the “Father of Geometry” (I know you are all happy about that😊)  
|                            | - Archimedes was a great mathematician and inventor. He discovered the laws of the lever and pulley. His work also increased man’s knowledge of chemistry, physics, and mathematics.  
|                            | - Aristotle founded “Zoology”, the study of animals. One of his students, Theophrastus, started “botany”, the study of plants.  
|                            | - Hipparchus invented trigonometry, a branch of mathematics. |
| Medicine                   | - A Greek named Hippocrates was the “Father of Modern Medicine”. About 400 B.C. most people, including doctors, thought gods and demons caused illness and disease.  
|                            | - Hippocrates taught that health problems had natural
- He operated on patients, reset dislocated joints, and put broken bones back in place.
- Graduating medical students today take the “Hippocratic Oath” in which they agree to rules of good conduct between doctor and patient.

**Government**

- Instead of 1 ruler for all Greece, the individual city-states preferred having their own government in their own community.
- The democratic government of Athens was the beginning of democracy in western civilization.
- Citizens were given freedom of speech and a voice in making laws.

**Literature**

- The Greeks enjoyed stories, poems, plays, and tales of historical events.
- Homer is one of the greatest poets who ever lived.
- He wrote about the courage & loyalty of brave soldiers from Greek history.
- *Iliad* and *Odyssey* were his best work.
- Herodotus wrote stories describing the Persian Wars. Thucydides told about the Peloponnesian War between Sparta and Athens.
- Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides wrote Greek tragedies. A “tragedy” is a serious play with an unhappy ending.
- Aristophanes wrote comedies. A “comedy” is a funny play w/ a happy ending.
- Once a year, a festival of plays was held in Athens. Everyone attended, including both rich and poor. Even prisoners were let out of jail so they could go to the theater.

**Architecture & Sculpture**

- “Architecture” is the art of planning and constructing buildings. The Greeks were skillful architects who erected beautiful temples and public buildings made of marble and limestone.
- The “Acropolis” of Athens, a hill towering above the city, was the site of some of the world’s most beautiful buildings.
- The most famous of these was the Parthenon, a temple built to honor a Greek goddess.
- “Sculpture” is the art of carving or modeling figures, such as statues. Greek sculptors worked w/ marble and bronze.
Answer all questions.

1. The “Father of Modern Medicine”. ___________________________
2. Hill towering above Athens. ________________________________
3. A mathematician who wrote The Elements. ____________________
4. Most people thought they caused disease. _____________________
5. The leading Greek city-state. _________________________________
6. Poet who wrote about courage and loyalty of soldiers. __________
7. Sophocles and Euripides wrote these. __________________________
8. Art of planning and constructing buildings. _____________________
9. Any building that honored gods or goddesses. _________________
10. Wrote stories on the Persian Wars. __________________________
11. A funny play w/ a happy ending. _____________________________
12. The study of plants. _______________________________________
13. A philosopher along with Socrates and Aristotle. _______________
14. Discovered laws of the lever and pulley. ______________________
15. Everyone attended an annual festival of plays there. ___________
16. A beautiful building on the Acropolis. _________________________
17. The practice of carving and modeling. _________________________
18. A person who studies planets and stars. _______________________
19. War described by Thucydides. _______________________________
20. The study of animals. _________________________________________
21. Nicknamed the “Father of Geometry”. _________________________
22. Series of contests between city-states. _________________________
23. Government which people have a voice in lawmaking. ___________
24. They worked w/ marble and bronze. __________________________
25. A skilled craftsman who erects buildings. _____________________
26. The Peloponnesian War involved 2 of these. _________________
27. Homer wrote the Iliad and also this poem. _____________________
28. A period of great achievement in Athens. _____________________
29. A pledge made by graduating medical students. _______________
30. To most Greeks, the center of the universe was. ________________