Lightning bug, did someone leave a jigsaw puzzle out?

These islands and the mainland peninsula make up ancient Greece. More than two and a half thousand years ago, the Greeks developed one of the most advanced civilizations in the world.

The Greeks became famous for art, politics, architecture, science, theater, and athletics!

Look at that huge building. Is it a library or hospital?

It's the Parthenon, built to honor the goddess Athena. It's built on a famous hill called the Acropolis.

According to legend, Athena brought olives to the farmland around Athens. The Athenians traded the olive's valuable oil - which made them rich. They used that wealth to build one of the finest cities of ancient times.

If this all happened 2,500 years ago, how do you know about it? Are you that old?

Ha! No, I'm not. We know about the ancient Greeks thanks to archaeology and preserved Greek architecture and artifacts.

These guys are awesome! I wonder where we'll go in ancient Greece tomorrow!
The city of Athens is huge! I’ll bet the king stayed busy ruling it.

Although most states in the ancient world were ruled by a king, Athens was not. It had democratic rule—“people power!”

This place is really crowded. What’s going on?

This is the assembly. It’s crowded because in ancient Athens all the citizens could speak. The assembly met about 40 times a year to debate and vote on major issues of government.

Could everyone in Athens vote?

No, scorpy—only adult men who were citizens could vote. Women, children, slaves, and foreigners were not allowed to vote.

Did they use voting machines like people use today?

No. Citizens had to be present and voted in public. Often, those who voted one way stood in one area; those opposed stood in another.

I get it! Everybody who wants ice cream, go to the right! Everyone who wants candy go left!

We have the most! Majority rules!!

Modern democracy sounds a lot like the government of the ancient Greeks.

Yes, scorpy—even the word “politics” comes from the Greek word “polis,” which means city-state. Democracy isn’t the only thing we’ve learned from them. We’ll see more tomorrow!
WHY ARE THOSE GUYS BUILDING A HOUSE ON TOP OF THAT BIG HILL?

THIS IS THE PARTHENON, SCORPY. IT'S A TEMPLE TO HONOR THE GREEK GODDESS ATHENA. THIS IS THE FAMOUS HILL CALLED THE ACROPOLIS.

ATHENA'S WORSHIPPERS BUILT HER TEMPLE ON THE HIGHEST HILL IN ATHENS!

WHY? THEY COULD HAVE BUILT A NICE TEMPLE WITHOUT ALL THAT CLIMBING!

ATHENA WAS THE GODDESS OF WAR. THE ANCIENT GREEKS WERE KNOWN FOR THEIR MILITARY STRENGTH AND NAMED THIS CITY AFTER HER. THEY BUILT THE PARTHENON ON TOP OF THE ACROPOLIS SO ATHENA COULD ALWAYS WATCH OVER THE CITY.

THE FINISHED PARTHENON SURE IS FANCY. LOOK AT THOSE POLES!

THESE ARE COLUMNS, SCORPY.

DORIC IONIC CORINTHIAN

THE PARTHENON'S COLUMNS ARE DORIC IN STYLE. YOU'VE PROBABLY SEEN IONIC AND CORINTHIAN COLUMNS ON BUILDINGS WHERE WE LIVE IN LYNCHBURG.

THAT'S RIGHT! AMAZEMENT SQUARE HAS AN ENGAGED CORINTHIAN COLUMN!!

ENJOY AMAZEMENT SQUARE TODAY - YOU'LL NEED YOUR SNEAKERS FOR TOMORROW'S GREEK TRIP!
Yikes! Look at that guy throwing plates around!!

It's a "discus." He's practicing for the Olympic Games. They were held every four years in ancient Greece to honor Zeus, the king of the gods who lived on Mt. Olympus.

That's because the modern Olympics are modeled on the Greek Games. The first Olympics had only one event - a foot race.

Later the Greeks added jumping, wrestling, and throwing the discus and javelin ... and more!

That guy must be late for the stadium.

He's competing in the chariot race at the Olympics. Sports that used horses without saddles were "equestrian" events. They became very popular.

What prizes did they win? Something cool, right?

Well, Olympic winners got a wreath of olive leaves. Some also got medals or had statues put up in their honor.

Wow, the Greeks went for the gold in everything they did!

And so do we - in 1896 the custom of the Olympics got restarted. Today there are dozens of events that take place in the summer and winter every four years.