

- Around 1200 BCE, Troy was ruled by King Priam, whose son Paris is said to have sparked the Trojan War by taking Helen, the wife of the king of Sparta. In his excavation of Troy in 1873, amateur German archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann discovered what he thought was "Priam's Gold"—a vast treasure that was later correctly dated to 2500 BCE, long before King Priam's time. Ask students to develop biographical profiles of Schliemann and review primary source material associated with his discovery. What role did Homer's *Iliad* play in enabling Schliemann to find the ancient city of Troy? As a follow-up, ask students to research the current status of "Priam's Gold," taken from Germany during World War II by Soviet troops, and to conduct a roundtable discussion representing the interests of Russia, Germany and Turkey analyzing the importance of this find and generating conclusions regarding its final resting place. Extensive information regarding Schliemann's methodology and findings may be found at the following web site:

[www.utexas.edu/courses/wilson/ant304/projects/projects98/smithp/smithp.html](http://www.utexas.edu/courses/wilson/ant304/projects/projects98/smithp/smithp.html)

- An archaeological team from the University of Sydney has excavated the site of an ancient theater that served as a place of entertainment for pilgrims making the long journey to the town of Paphos on the western coast of Cyprus, a center of the cult of Aphrodite. Also, since 1957, there has been excavation and restoration at the ancient theater in Hierapolis (Pamukkale) under the direction of a group of Italian archaeologists from the University of Lecce. Ask groups of students to research the preliminary findings of these teams and to write papers detailing their finds and analyzing the architecture of these famous sites. Information on the excavations at the ancient theater in Paphos, Cyprus, and a virtual tour of the ancient theater in Hierapolis may be found at the following web sites:

[www.arts.usyd.edu.au/departs/classical/paphos/](http://www.arts.usyd.edu.au/departs/classical/paphos/)

[www.whitman.edu/theatre/theatretour/hierapolis/introduction/hierapolis.intro1.htm](http://www.whitman.edu/theatre/theatretour/hierapolis/introduction/hierapolis.intro1.htm)

### Suggested Internet Resources

Periodically, Internet Resources are updated on our web site at [www.LibraryVideo.com](http://www.LibraryVideo.com)

- [classics.mit.edu/Virgil/aeneid.1.i.html](http://classics.mit.edu/Virgil/aeneid.1.i.html)  
The Massachusetts Institute of Technology features the full text of Virgil's "Aeneid," an epic poem about the Trojan War.

- [www.arthistory.sbc.edu/imageswomen/papers/lombardiaphrodite/aphrodite.html](http://www.arthistory.sbc.edu/imageswomen/papers/lombardiaphrodite/aphrodite.html)

Sweet Briar College offers an academic paper, "Aphrodite: Her Power and Her Art," describing the origins of the Aphrodite myth and analyzing her artistic and cultural influence.

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- [falcon.jmu.edu/~ramseyil/yamyth.htm](http://falcon.jmu.edu/~ramseyil/yamyth.htm)

James Madison University's "Mythology in the Classroom" site provides a number of links to information on myths from Greek, Roman and other cultures.

- [www.specialtyinterests.net/1894\\_cyprus\\_excavations.html](http://www.specialtyinterests.net/1894_cyprus_excavations.html)

This site has the full text of original historical documents from the *London Times* regarding excavations in Cyprus in 1895.

### Suggested Print Resources

- Brann, Eva. *Homeric Moments: Clues to Delight in Reading the Iliad and the Odyssey*. Paul Dry Books, Philadelphia, PA; 2002.
- Geras, Adele. *Troy*. Harcourt, San Diego, CA; 2001. An historical novel that tells the story of the Trojan War through the eyes of young Trojans.
- Woff, Richard. *A Pocket Dictionary of Greek and Roman Gods and Goddesses*. Oxford University Press, Oxford, UK; 2003.

### TEACHER'S GUIDE

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# Wonders of the ANCIENT WORLD™

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**W**onders of the Ancient World transports viewers to ancient civilizations of the Americas, Asia, Africa and Europe and provides a firsthand look at the magnificent achievements and contributions of a wide range of cultures. Through the study of ancient peoples, students will understand the diversity of the human experience—the contrasts between settled and nomadic lifestyles, the characteristics of different religions and belief systems and the development of large cities and powerful empires—which provides a solid basis for the understanding of civilization today.



## Program Overview

The classics and ancient history are incredibly rich topics that bring together various subjects such as history, philosophy, literature and the arts. By the end of the first century BCE, the Roman Empire had taken over much of the land around the Mediterranean such as Athens and Anatolia—a peninsula that includes modern Turkey. Before Romans conquered the region, the Greeks had created a thriving civilization that has influenced much of the Western culture of today. While the Roman Empire was an extraordinary political and military power, artistically, Roman society was relatively undeveloped. As a result of its military conquests, Rome came into contact with and learned to admire many aspects of Greek culture, especially in the areas of Hellenistic philosophy and the arts, leading to the establishment of a unique Greco-Roman society.

## Episode 1: Troy

Troy is an ancient city, located in what is now northwest Turkey, which flourished as a strategic commercial site in Hellenistic and Roman times and has had a lasting impact on literature and archaeology. Troy was the site of the Trojan War and forms the basis of Homer's *Iliad*. The classical legends of the Trojan War developed continuously throughout Greek and Latin literature. Ignored by classical scholars as an archaeological site, Troy was only discovered in modern times by famous German archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann. His digs revealed artifacts at many layers, illustrating the gradual development of civilization in Anatolia, or Asia Minor.

### Vocabulary

**Dardenelles** — A strait between the Aegean Sea and the Marmara Sea that divides Europe and Asia. The name derives from Dardanus, mythical ancestor of nearby Troy.

**Homer** — A blind poet who lived thousands of years ago and was thought by the Greeks to be the author of two epic poems about the Trojan War, *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*.

**Trojan War** — A battle in ancient Greek mythology that was fought over a period of ten years between the Greeks and the Trojans.

**Hellenistic** — Of or related to Greek style and culture.

**Bronze Age** — A time period in the development of any culture before the use of iron, when bronze was used to make weapons and tools.

**Hittite Empire** — An ancient empire that dominated the Mesopotamian region from 1600 to 1200 BCE.

**Achilles** — The youngest and strongest of the Greek soldiers, known for having a hot temper and well-respected for his bravery.

## Episode 2: Paphos

Paphos is a town in the modern republic of Cyprus which has a history that goes back for thousands of years. Paphos was a Greek city founded during the Mycenaean period that became a Roman city after Rome's annexation of Cyprus in 58 BCE. During the Greek period, a famous temple of Aphrodite was created where the legendary Greek goddess of love and beauty was born. As a center of worship for Aphrodite, who it is said was born from the sea foam, and because of its innumerable fertility sites, Paphos attracted pilgrims and visitors from all over the ancient world.

### Vocabulary

**Aphrodite** — The Greek goddess of love and beauty.

**Cronos** — Youngest Titan and son of Gaia and Uranus. With the help of his mother, he overthrew his father's throne and became ruler of the world.

**Uranus** — The god of the sky in Greek mythology, responsible for the sunshine and the rain.

**talisman** — An object that is thought to provide supernatural powers.

**Arsinoe** — Wife of Ptolemy II in ancient Egypt.

**Byzantine** — The empire that was the eastern half of the Roman Empire. It broke from the Roman Catholic Church in 1054 and fell to the Ottoman Turks in 1453.

## Episode 3: Pamukkale (Hierapolis)

The city of Pamukkale (Hierapolis) was a prosperous trading and religious center in southwestern Turkey, founded in the second century BCE, and uniquely situated on solid limestone layers formed by centuries of limestone water flow. It is considered one of nature's ancient marvels, where thousands of visitors came to enjoy the therapeutic qualities of the water, which was celebrated as being a cure for ailments such as rheumatism and asthma. After a major earthquake in 17 CE, Hierapolis was rebuilt during the reign of the Roman emperor Tiberius and survived until 1334, when it was abandoned after another earthquake. Extensive ruins, excavated since the 19<sup>th</sup> century, include a theater, baths, a gymnasium and a Byzantine church.

### Vocabulary

**Apollo** — God of truth, music, light and medicine; son of Zeus and twin brother to Artemis. He uses arrows to punish mortals who anger him.

**Cybele** — Worshipped by the Greeks as the mother of the gods.

**Pluto** — The Roman god of the underworld.

**nymphæum** — Beautiful immortal maidens who live in mountains, forests and water.

**Artemis** — Goddess of animals and hunters and of childbirth and the moon.

**proscenium** — The stage of an ancient theater.

**Zeus** — God of the sky and ruler of Olympus.

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**Pantheon** — A circular temple in ancient Rome dedicated to all of the gods.

**necropolis** — From the Greek, meaning “city of the dead,” an elaborate burial place in an ancient city.

**sarcophagi** — Stone containers, which are inscribed with symbols and inscriptions, that hold coffins and mummified remains.

## Follow-up Discussion Questions

- Who was Heinrich Schliemann? Interpret his diary entry—“this stone period confronts me with much that I am unable to explain”—within the context of his excavations at Troy.
- What was Wilusa? Describe the spiritual role this site played for the ancient Luvians.
- Evaluate the strategic location of Cyprus and list the reasons ancient seafarers and pilgrims traveled there.
- How did Paphos benefit economically from the Aphrodite cult? Compare and contrast the pilgrimage to Paphos with spiritual journeys taken by pilgrims to other parts of the world.
- Explain the significance of Hierapolis for the cultures of both ancient Greece and ancient Rome.
- Describe the cosmopolitan nature of Hierapolis at the peak of its influence and analyze the prime causes of the city's decline.

## Follow-up Activities

- Ancient Greeks, Romans and later Christian Crusaders and Ottoman conquerors all acknowledged their cultural connection to the legendary city of Troy. Professor Manfred Korfmann, a German archaeologist, has led the ongoing excavation work of the nine layers of Troy, a city that was destroyed and rebuilt over the centuries. Ask groups of students to read “Troia in Light of New Research,” a lecture Korfmann delivered at the Dies Academicus 2003 at the University of Trier, and summarize his views on the importance of ancient Troy in the Bronze Age and how the city was related to its neighbors in the East and West. As a follow-up, students may develop research papers evaluating the scientific processes Dr. Korfmann and his team utilized in the Troy project and comparing and contrasting their findings on the size of Troy with conclusions made by other historians such as Professor Frank Kolb and Dieter Hertel. Finally, students may discuss the role excavating archaeologists have in reconstructing history. The official Project Troia site provides the full text of Korfmann's lecture and offers updates on the status of the ongoing digs at Troy:  
[www.uni-tuebingen.de/troia/eng/neues.html#excavation2004](http://www.uni-tuebingen.de/troia/eng/neues.html#excavation2004)

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