**Greek Government**

Please read the following passage. You are welcome to annotate, highlight, underline, etc. to assist finding information. After reading the passage, answer the following questions in complete sentences. Then you will compare your information with a partner. *Thank you*.

Ancient Greeks valued human reason and believed in the power of the mind to think, explain, and understand life. Three of the greatest Greek thinkers, or philosophers, were Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle. Socrates, a great teacher, wanted to make people think and question their own beliefs. Plato, a philosopher and teacher, wrote a work called The Republic. It describes an ideal society based on justice and fairness for everyone. Aristotle taught that people should live lives based on reason, or clean and ordered thinking.

Greek scientists and mathematicians also gained fame for their contributions to geometry and for accurately calculating the size of the Earth. Doctors studied the human body to understand how it worked. One Greek engineering invention that is still used today is a water screw, which brings water to farm fields.

One of the Greeks’ most lasting contributions, however, is their political system. During the time known as the Classical Period, around the fifth and fourth centuries BC, Greece was organized into several hundred independent city-states, which became the foundation for Greek civilization. Athens was the first Greek city-state to establish democracy – a form of government in which people rule themselves. All male citizens in Athens had the right to participate in the assembly, a gathering of citizens, to debate and create the city’s laws. Because all male citizens in Athens participated directly in government, we call the Greek form of government a direct democracy.

1. What contributions and/or major changes did Ancient Greece bring?
2. How did Ancient Greece’s government function?
3. In what ways do you think Ancient Greece’s government influenced the U.S.?

**Roman Government**

Please read the following passage. You are welcome to annotate, highlight, underline, etc. to assist finding information. After reading the passage, answer the following questions in complete sentences. Then you will compare your information with a partner. *Thank you*.

Rome, followed Greece’s example by establishing a form of democratic government. The Roman *Republic* was created in 509 BC. Each year Romans elected officials to rule the city. These officials had many powers, but they only stayed in power for one year. This early republic was not a democracy. Later, the Romans changed their government into one with three parts. These three parts were made up of elected representatives who protected the city and its residents.

Roman laws were written and kept on public display so all people could know them. Roman concepts of equality, before the law and innocent until proven guilty protected Roman citizens’ rights.

1. Why was Roman citizenship valued so highly?
2. How did Romans change their government?
3. In what ways, do you think the Roman government influenced customs we see in the U.S.?

