



Notes:

Before You Begin

Studying ancient times is one of the most beneficial things you can do to prepare your children for their time here on earth before Jesus comes. By understanding the past, we can get a better grasp on our present with hope for the future.

As our children are undertaking this study, they are gaining a greater understanding of current events, and of the geography of the regions where these events are occurring. They also have increased their ability to envision the place names and figures and understand how they all work together in the Bible narrative. Study of ancient history also helps when they listen to a political speech or podcast as they can recognize the different arguments and how they are presented. They are more familiar with the different forms of government and how even the best intentions can end up in totalitarianism and tyranny.

There are fascinating elements of Greek history, and many accomplishments of the Greeks leave us in awe. We are having a great time exploring these. Just as many of their thoughts, actions, and intents have come from the futility and darkness of the human mind without the light of Christ.

While the world gives the Classical Era laud and honor, I believe we need to proceed with caution and help our children to see:

- The universality of God's truth. As supreme Creator and Lord of all, His truth has permeated our world and our history, even though there is death and sin abounding. Even in the Greek world, men could not help but discover God's truth as they were swimming around in the murky waters of their own intellects.
- The consequences of exchanging the fear of God for the worship of idols. No matter how hard they tried, the Greeks (and the Romans after them) ran into the negative consequences of life without submission to the One True God of heaven and earth. Even their *good* ideas ended in futility and decay. As our society turns once again to paganism, our children need to see the connections between the worship of demons and destruction.
- How these ideas have influenced Western culture. It is not kind to send children who have a Hebrew education into a Hellenized society without at least a precursory understanding of the Greek thinking and references they will encounter. It would be wise to arm them with knowledge of the origins of what they will see in order to keep them from becoming routed and confused.

Notes:

Many years ago I discovered that I, too, had been "Hellenized." Unknowingly, I had been influenced by Classicism in my own thinking. Homeschooling my children opened my eyes to the errors of my thought processes patterned after the Greek philosophy I was taught via the public school system and media (which during my childhood was before the Internet). Paul the Apostle spoke of this numerous times in his epistles where he tells us to "renew" our minds and come out of the futility I find the greatest error is the West's almost total reliance on the intellect to discover God's truth, which is rampant in the organized church. God would have us submit to the Spirit, and called man's wisdom foolishness.

Thankfully, there are many resources that help us reorder our cognition according to Biblical lines, but it does take a bit of a search. Western society has greatly elevated Classical studies so that it is difficult to find anything critical of that era. One article I suggest reading is on the Answers in Genesis site and is entitled,

Greek Mythology and the Gospel of Jesus Christ: What Can We Learn?

Reading this article should give you a good overview and greatly aid you in your quest to uncover truth during this study. You can have older children read it to themselves and then discuss its contents.

A good thing to keep in mind while studying the Greeks is how their idolatrous reliance on reasoning lead to the types of decay we are seeing in our own society (this quote from Tom Eldridge, author of *Safely Home*):

In the final stages of [Ancient Greece'] downward trend, children were left standing without the protection and provision of the family. Even custodial care of children became a public instead of a private concern. The role of the family was replaced by the state, and each person lived his life clamoring selfishly for his share of government services and rights.

After the philosophies of Plato and Socrates were popularized, the Greeks moved from a non-familistic culture to an anti-familistic culture, represented by the individual and the state alone. It could be said that the Greek civilization committed suicide. When they destroyed the family, they destroyed the only institution that had any spiritual meaning to it--that contained any meaningful relationships. Without this, there was no reason to bring children into the world. As a result they could not even provide their armies with enough soldiers to protect their civilization. In short, without the family they were dead.

Sadly, the downfall of Greece seems to be repeating itself in our time. But, just as the Gospel was the hope of the world then, the Gospel is the hope for the world in these times.

How to Proceed

The first thing I did in preparation for this study with my own children was to familiarize myself with the subject. I read the articles and the summaries so that I could understand the materials and what I wanted to add in along the way. This is probably the most important step for you as well.

You will also need to pick a book or two from the Heritage History site, or even a few from the library or ones you would like to purchase. These can be used for individual study or as a way to bring the entire family in on the learning.

You can either use the notebooking pages as your outline and study the subjects as they are laid out, or you can dive into the subject and use the notebooking pages where appropriate. You will notice they were created in two sets; the first complete set is for the older children, and the second set is for the younger children. This way there should be something for everyone to enjoy.

The notebooking pages are also set up in pretty much a chronological order, except for a few which cover some interesting cultural topics. There are also a number of them which correlate exactly with the summary articles on Ancient Greece in the Heritage History resources section.

You will also find a section with some clip art I found on Canva, and some posters I found on Clipart ETC which I am using here under the free classroom license.

We like to take the completed notebooking pages, put them in page protectors, and click them into a binder we can have as a keepsake of our learning together. We have shelves of these we've created over the years, and they are so much fun to look through (they are also a great way to share just how successful your homeschooling is to onlookers).

You can use the lists on the following pages to help you decide specifically what you want to do and when you want to do it. You can skip or add elements wherever you see fit.

You are free to order the entire program however it fits your family. Just read, talk, and have lots of fun together!

Use this packet with much love!

Sherry

Important Links

This study relies heavily on these sites which offer free materials:

Heritage History Ancient Greece Study Program

This is actually the homepage for this amazing study program. You'll want to become familiar with all of the resources offered. We suggest the use of a lot of them, but there are some more you may want to explore.

Answers in Genesis

This is a great go-to for Biblical perspectives on ancient history. I use the site search when I want to find an article on a specific area.

Specific articles that are greatly helpful:

<u>Greek Mythology and the Gospel of Jesus Christ: What Can We Learn?</u> by Dr. Elizabeth Mitchell and found on the Answers in Genesis site.

<u>The Difference Between Greek and Hebrew Education</u> by Kathleen McCurdy and found on FamilyBasedEducation.org

<u>Greek vs Hebrew Teaching</u> Moore Academy.org



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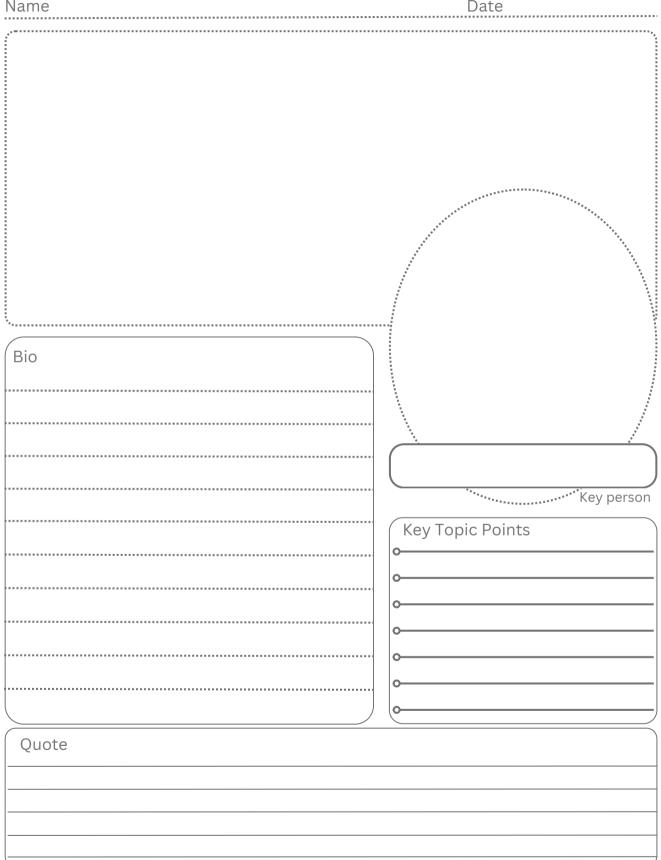
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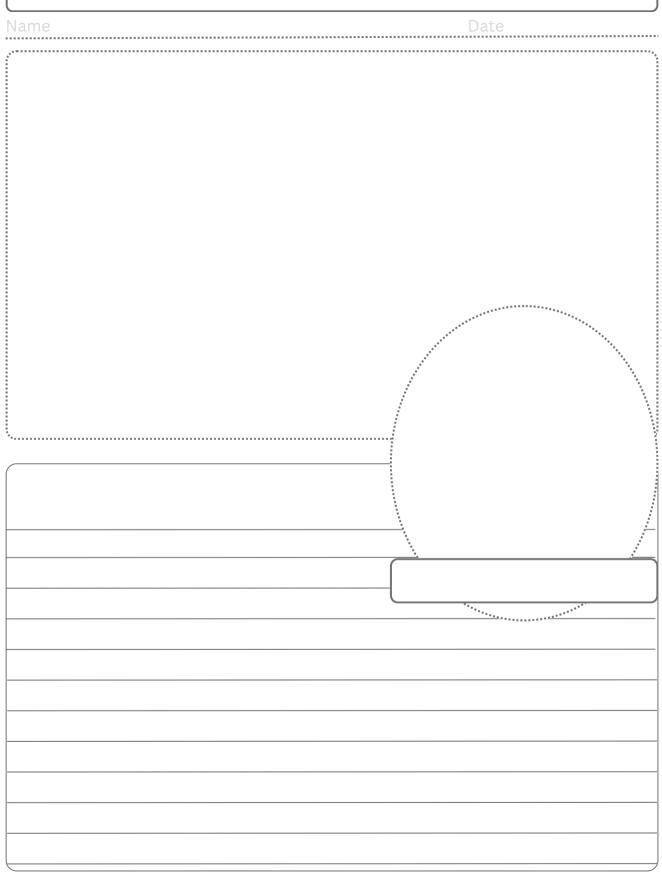
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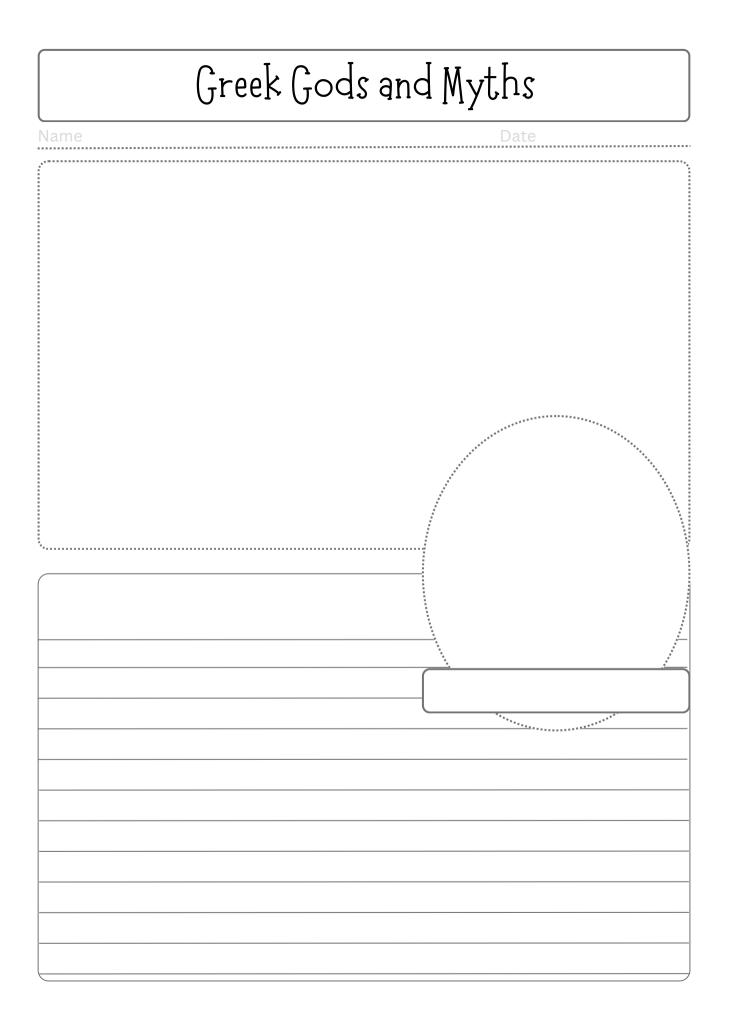
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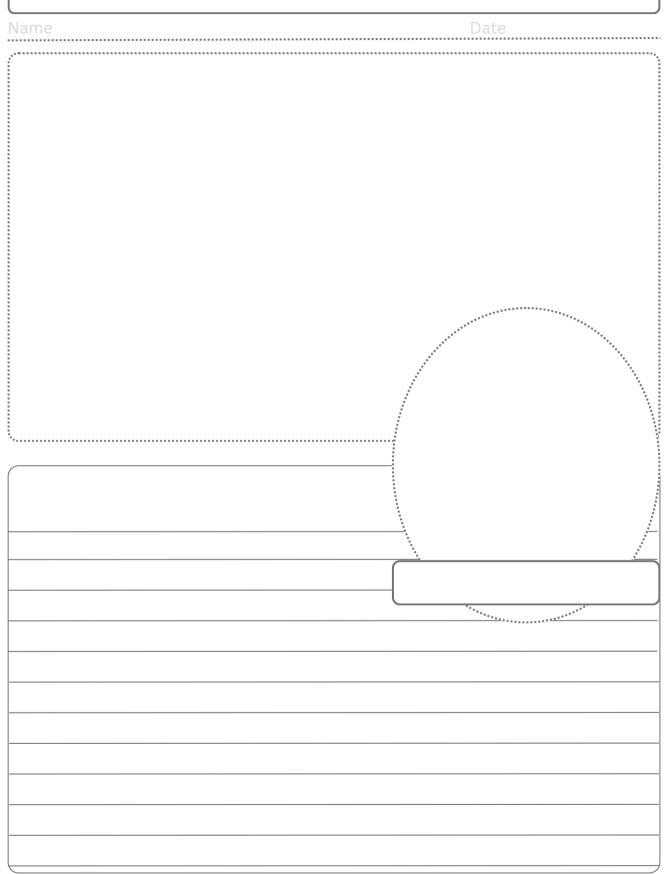
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Minoan Culture

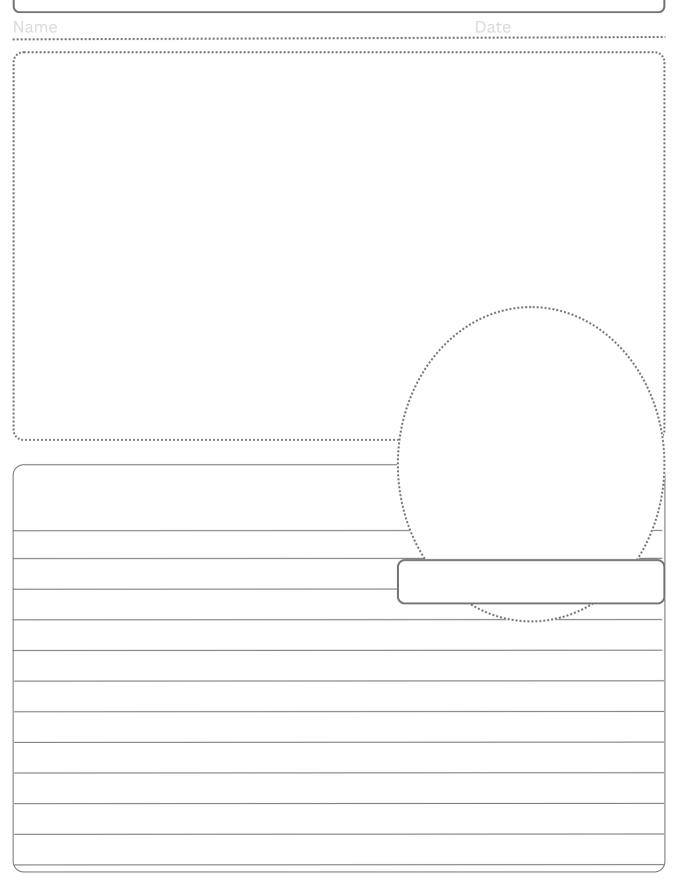


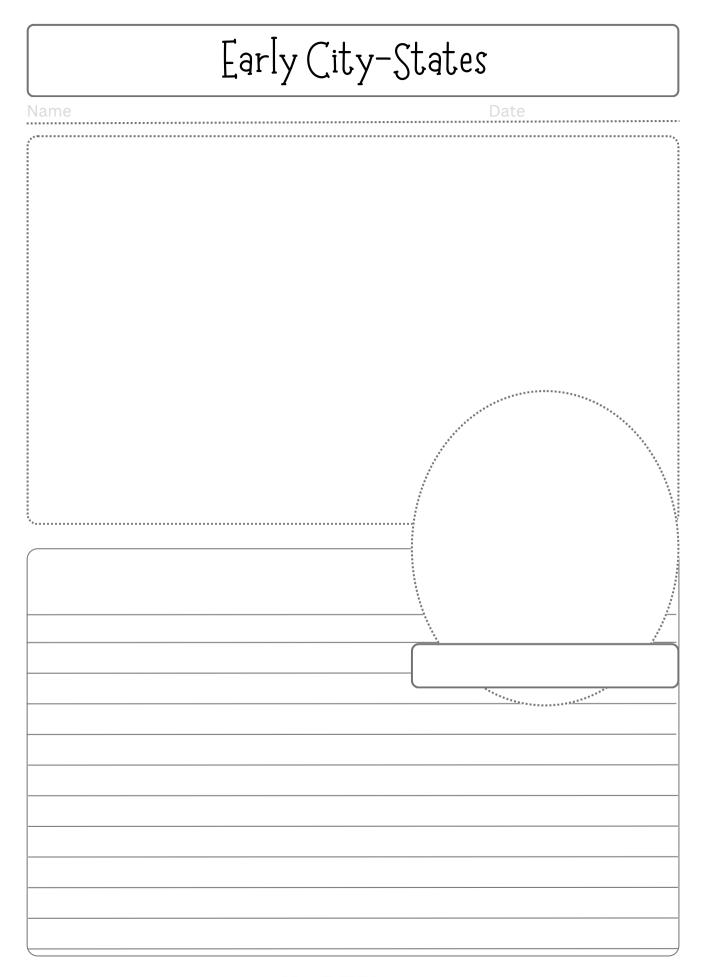


Homeric Epics

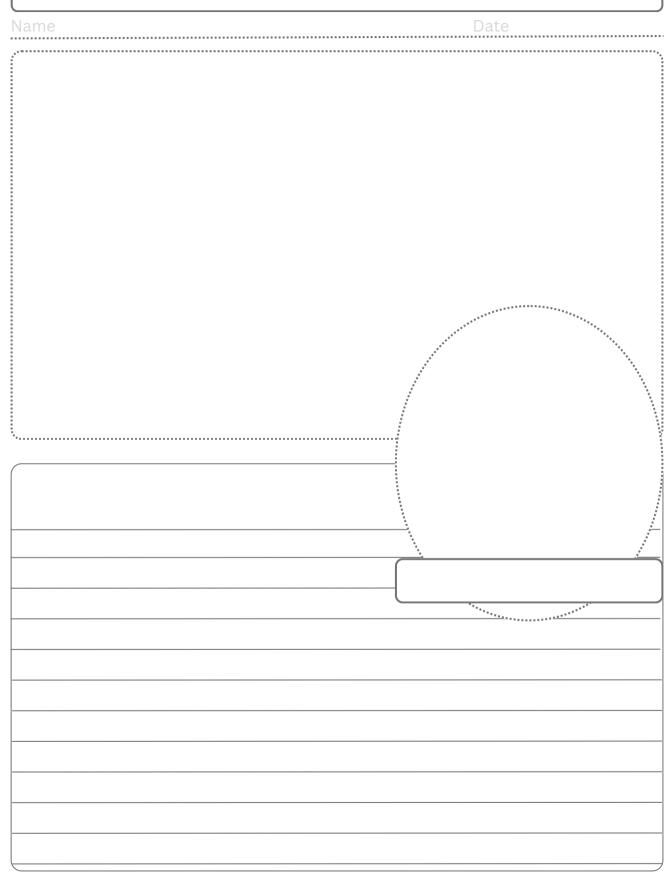


Heroes and Monsters

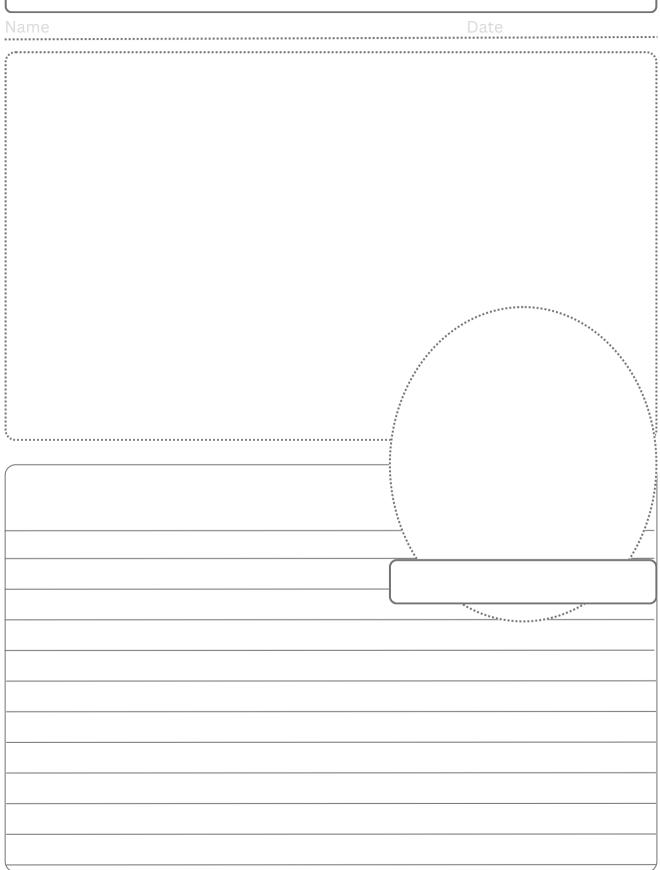


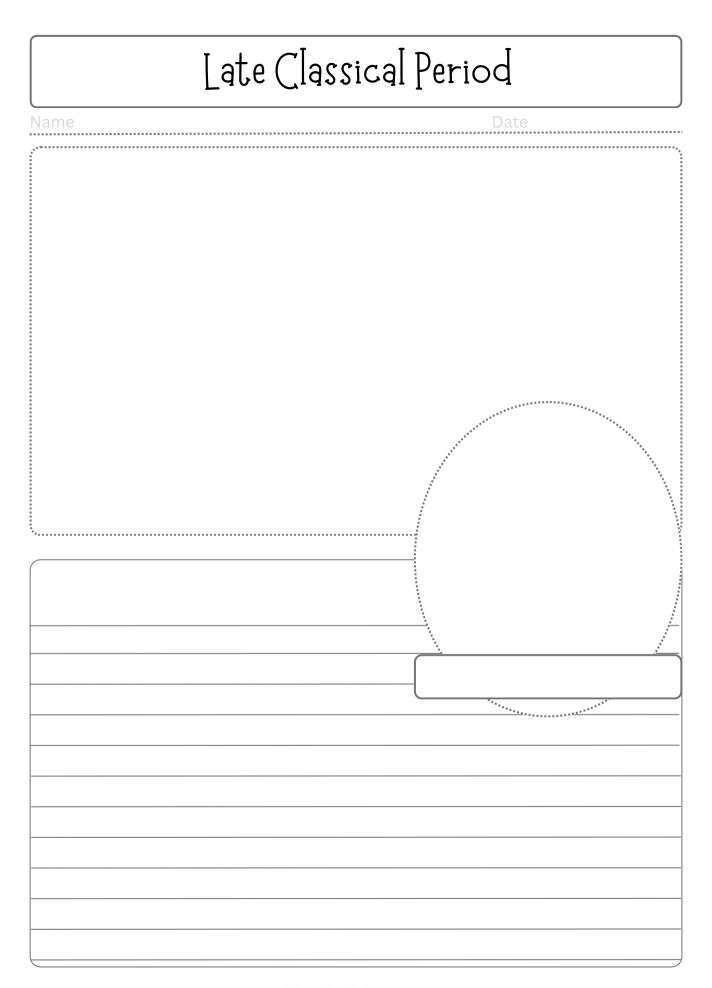


Persian War

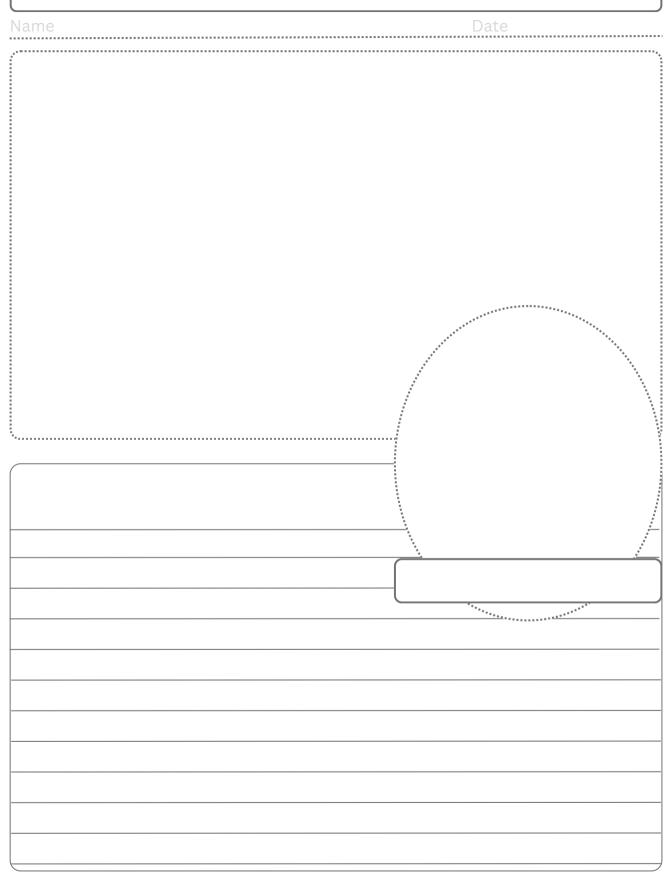


Athenian Empire

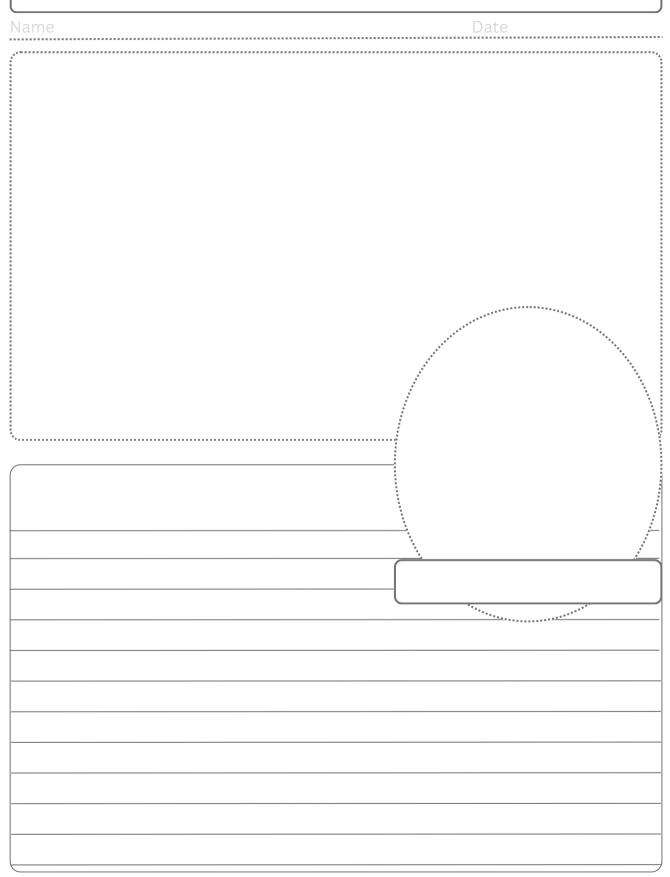




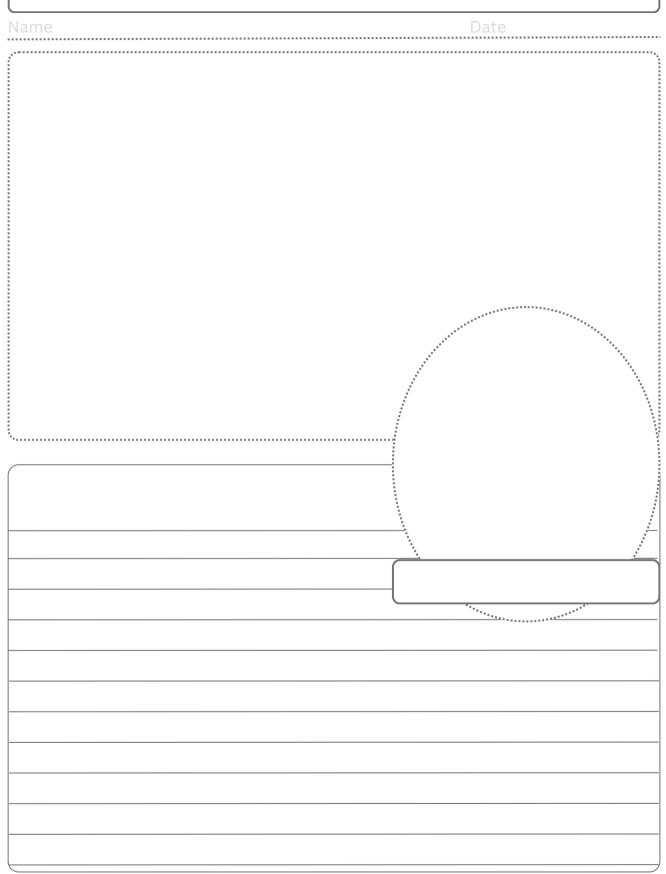
Hellenistic Era



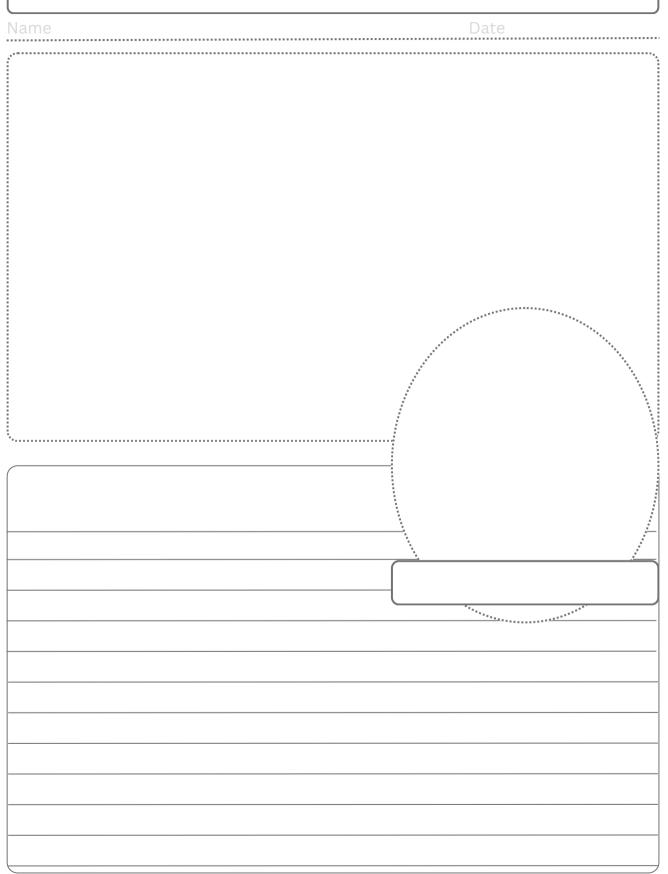
The Philosophers



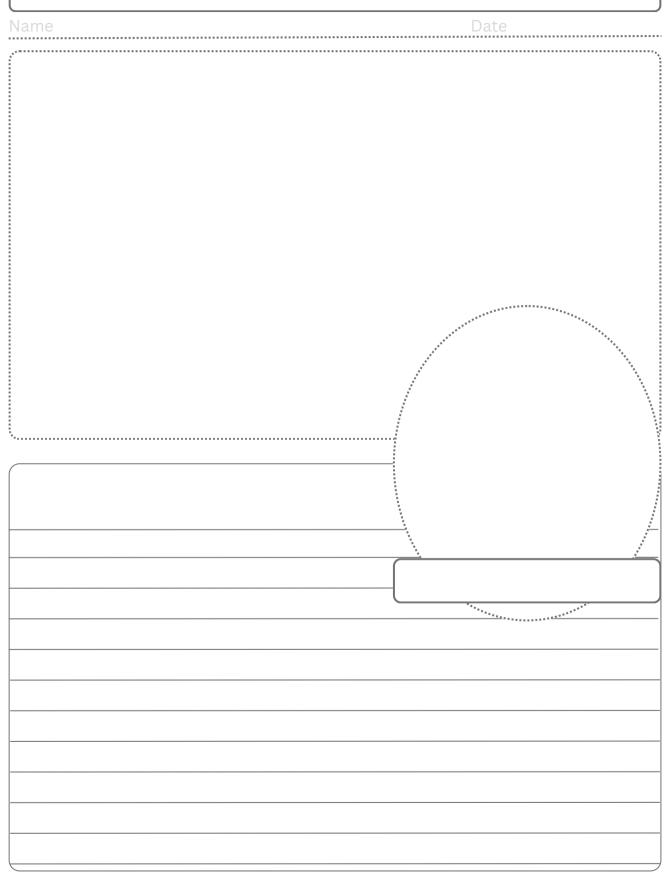
Alexander the Great

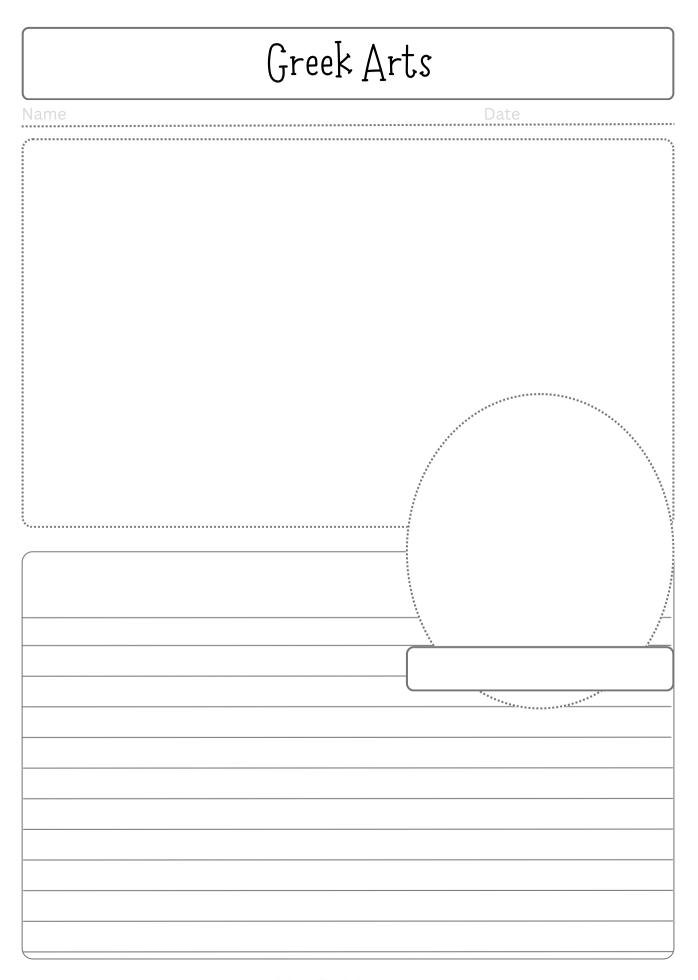


Greek Drama



Greek Music





Greek Education

