GREECE AND ROME
Beginnings

- Geography forced the Greeks to the sea
  - Created independent city-states (polis)
- Exposed to multiple cultures (Egyptians, Phoenicians, Sumerians)
- Developed a polytheistic, nature based religion
  - Gods were flawed, human like
  - Gods were pleased by human achievement/excellence (Olympics)
- ‘Arete’ striving for excellence/individuality became the focus. (aka humanism)
  - Becomes the hallmark of Western civ.
Peak

• Became the first to develop democracy (government of the people)
  – In order to overthrow tyrannical kings
• Fought two wars with Persia
  – Won both, established dominance, Golden Age
• Culture reaches peak
  – Pericles builds up Athens, becomes dictator
  – Socrates, Plato, Aristotle: philosophers=self knowledge/improvement
• Civil war between Sparta and Athens ends Golden Age
Death of Phidippides
Death of Socrates
Alexander

• Alexander emerged from Macedonia to rebuild Athens in late 4\textsuperscript{th} century
• Aimed to build large empire out of decaying Persian empire
• Succeeded at a young age(21) conquering all the way to the Indus river.
  – Dies in Babylon on the way back
• Whats important is Greek culture spread and became the ideal for the world to follow
  – Known as ‘Hellenism’ blend of Greek, Egyptian, Indian and Perisan
Rome

• Originated out of Etruscans conquest of Latins, and adopted Greek culture on Italian peninsula
  – Romulus and Remus myth
• Latin language, Greek Culture/govt.
  – Adapted Greek Democracy to become Republic
  – Created 12 Tables=Law protected lower class
• Fought three wars against Carthage to establish control of Mediterranean (4th century)
  – Punic Wars=Hannibal
• Republic became corrupt
• General Julius Caesar overthrew it and created an empire
  – Was assassinated by Senate March 15, 44 BC
Empire

- Octavian/Caesar Augustus becomes first emperor
- Establishes order that lasts 200 years: Pax Romana
  - Roman law was best in the world
  - Engineering allowed unity
    - Roads, aqueducts
  - Strong, conscripted army allowed for expansion, defense
- Tolerance of conquered peoples beliefs
  - Use of slaves also made Roman economy thrive
- Succession of leaders was inconsistent began decline
Fall

• Weak leaders
• Series of plagues in Rome
• Reliance on mercenaries
• Barbarians began intruding on borders
• 3rd century Empire was divided between east and west to help manage size
• Was reunited by Constantine, capital moved east to Byzantium, renamed Constantinople
  – Also first to accept Christianity
• Rome finally fell in 476 BC to barbarians
Legacy

• Law, Architecture, Military and Political Structure.
• All of these set the standard that multiple European peoples would emulate.