5-1 Notes

* Myths – traditional stories about gods and heroes through which Greeks expressed their religious beliefs
* Zeus – king of the gods
* The Greeks believed the gods controlled nature and shaped their lives.
* The 12 most important gods lived on the highest mountain in Greece, Mt. Olympus.
* Greeks sought their gods’ favor so they performed rituals – a set of actions carried out in a fixed way (prayed to them and gave them gifts)
* Prophecy – a prediction about the future
* Oracle – a sacred shrine where a priest or priestess spoke for a god or goddess
* Epic – long poems told about heroic deeds
* Homer – one of the most famous poets who wrote the epics Iliad and Odyssey
* Iliad – tells of the Trojan War
* Odyssey – tells of Odysseus’s 10 year journey home from the Trojan War
* Aesop – a Greek slave who wrote many fables
* Fable- a short tale that teaches a lesson (mostly uses animals)
* Drama – a story told by actors who pretend to be characters in the story – today’s movies, plays, and TV shows are modern examples of dramas.
* Two types of dramas: (1) tragedy – a person struggles to overcome difficulties but fails; it has an unhappy ending. (2) comedy – the story ends happily.
* Three best-known writers of tragedy: Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripides
* Aristophanes wrote plays that made fun of politicians
* Euripides wrote plays showing war as cruel
* Sophocles used painted scenery and three actors
* Architecture – the art of designing and building structures. Three types of Greek columns are: Ionic, Doric and Corinthian
* Greek sculptors tried to show their subjects (statues) as ideal versions of perfection and beauty.