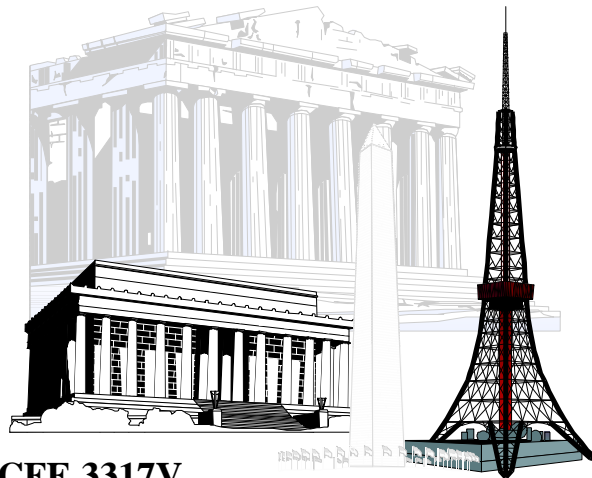


WESTERN EUROPE: OUR LEGACY



CFE 3317V

OPEN CAPTIONED
BENCHMARK MEDIA

1994

Grade Levels: 6-11

18 minutes

DESCRIPTION

Ancient Greece and Rome made significant contributions to the world, and their presence in western Europe permanently impacted its society. After the Reformation, European immigrants to the American Colonies brought those influences of philosophy, democracy, laws, language, and militarism with them. Though many cultures have contributed to American society, those from western Europe remain the most significant.

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

- To explain that modern life is the result of ideas from the peoples who came before us.
- To present ancient Greek and Roman contributions to modern society.
- To depict the impact of the Renaissance on western Europe.
- To interpret the influence of the Reformation on the development of religious freedom today.
- To examine the changes brought on by the Industrial Revolution.

BEFORE SHOWING

1. Read the CAPTION SCRIPT to determine unfamiliar vocabulary and language concepts.
 2. Locate western Europe, Greece, and Rome (Italy) on a world map.
 3. Discuss the ancient past of western Europe, Greece, and Rome.
 4. Chart information about the ancient past.
- Determine responses that correspond to a link between the United States and ancient Europe.

DURING SHOWING

1. View the video more than once, with one showing uninterrupted.

2. Point out the five major topics discussed in the video:
 - a. Greece
 - b. Rome
 - c. The Renaissance
 - d. The Reformation
 - e. The Industrial Revolution
3. Pause to note major contributions of the above-mentioned eras.
4. Pause to examine scenes that link customs or institutions in the United States to their historical roots.
5. Examine styles of architecture shown in the video. Pause to identify styles similar to certain buildings in the local community.

AFTER SHOWING

Discussion Items and Questions

1. Discuss architecture as a major focus of interest when visiting foreign countries.
2. Explain the major contributions of ancient Greece and their importance to modern society.
3. Compare the strengths of Roman organization and government to modern governments and social institutions.
4. Discuss the importance of the Latin language in today's world, and its influence on modern languages.
5. Expound on the creative spark of the Renaissance, and how it was applied to areas outside the arts.
6. Examine the variety of religious groups in America. Identify those found in the local community.
7. Compare the spread of machinery during the Industrial Revolution to the spread of electronic devices in modern times.
8. Identify and discuss features that characterize American culture.

Applications and Activities

1. Illustrate the architectural styles of ancient Greece and Rome:
 - a. Through reference materials or visits to local museums or exhibits, identify architectural components from ancient Greece and Rome.
 - b. Compare the U.S. Capitol and monuments in Washington, D.C., with the styles used in ancient Greece and Rome.
 - c. In the local community, locate buildings with Greek or Roman features.
2. Report on the lives of famous Greeks.
3. Examine areas that were under control of the Roman Empire. Search for cities, roads, or artifacts that still exist in these areas.
4. Compare Roman citizenship and legal systems with those of modern America.
5. Identify the Latin roots of these Romance languages: French, Spanish, Portuguese, and Italian, and compare these to Latin roots used in the English language.
6. Make charts of the Roman numeral system. Locate examples of Roman numerals in the community.
7. Visit or view pictures of a Roman Catholic cathedral. Explore the power and wealth of the Roman Catholic Church during the Middle Ages.
8. In museums or through reference materials, examine the works of art of famous Renaissance painters and sculptors.
9. Evaluate the importance of the printing press in communicating ideas. Compare this development with the use of the World Wide Web.
10. Construct a directory of churches in the local community. Compare this list with churches that sprang from the Reformation.
11. Enact the situation prevalent throughout Europe during the Reformation. Identify important groups that emigrated to the American Colonies for religious freedom.

12. Identify major advances made during the Industrial Revolution.

- a. Discuss how the Industrial Revolution changed much of society.
- b. Report on changes personally experienced in equipment utilized at home or at school.

13. Fantasize going on a trip abroad. Write a report on aspects of American culture one is likely to encounter, such as fast foods, soft drinks, and blue jeans.

14. Chart a comparison of transportation and communication abilities over a 3,000-year period, from the time of the Greeks to the present day.

COMMUNICATION SKILLS

1. Translate the Latin phrases shown in the video:

- a. *En flagrante delecto*
- b. *Modus operandi*
- c. *Habeas corpus*
- d. *Corpus delicti*

2. Search for other common Latin phrases in use today:

- a. *E pluribus unum*
- b. *Carpe diem*
- c. *Caveat emptor*
- d. *Cave canem*

3. Coordinate a study of Latin roots in English with language or Latin classes.

WEBSITES

Explore the Internet to discover sites related to this topic. Check the CFV website for related information (<http://www.cfv.org>).

CAPTION SCRIPT

Following are the captions as they appear on the video. Teachers are encouraged to read the script prior to viewing the video for pertinent vocabulary, to discover language patterns within the captions, or to determine content for introduction or review. Enlarged copies may be given to students as a language exercise.

(male narrator)
One of the joys of traveling
in a foreign land

is the opportunity to learn
of the history of that land.

An American visiting
Western Europe is likely

to be most intrigued,

for in many ways the history
of Western Europe is linked

to the history
of the United States.

Certainly the U.S.
and Western Europe owe much

to the civilizing influences
of Africans, Asians,

and other peoples,

but many ideas and institutions
that Americans take for granted

are the legacy of our
Western European roots.

What could be more American
than the sight

of Washington, D.C.'s,
inspiring monuments

or the U.S. Capitol Building?

This distinctive architecture
has come to symbolize

the democratic ideals
we hold so dearly.

And yet, the style of these
buildings is actually a revival

of the classic architecture
developed by the ancient Greeks

over 3,000 years ago.

This is fitting,

because the Greeks
also originated

the idea of *democracy*,

of a society
ruled by the people.

The ancient Greeks were
thinkers, teachers,

writers, even scientists.

They developed
the study of geometry

and laid the foundation for
the modern study of medicine.

Classical Greek literature
and philosophy are studied

even today,

and one more Greek institution,
the Olympics,

has become a widely celebrated
international event.

While the Greeks enjoyed their heyday,

the rest of continental Europe remained populated

mostly by scattered tribes of unsophisticated peoples.

They hunted and farmed,

but left little behind to tell of their passing.

In the south, however,

another Mediterranean culture was rising,

one that would soon eclipse the Greeks in stature.

Rome emerged as a dominant force in the third century B.C.

by subduing the peninsula of Italy.

Over the next two centuries,

Rome conquered Greece, Sicily,

and the land that is now Spain.

The Romans pushed into Syria,

seized much of the North African coast,

and triumphed in Gaul,

the land that we now know as France.

By 117 A.D., the Roman Empire stretched

from Egypt to the windswept isle of Britain.

There, on the outer fringe of the known world,

the Romans constructed a wall the width of the island.

Named for the emperor Hadrian,

Hadrian's Wall stretched 73 miles,

protecting the Roman frontier

from the fierce tribes to the north.

The Romans succeeded because they were organizers and wise rulers.

Conquered peoples were treated justly

and often were given Roman citizenship.

These new Roman citizens enjoyed the protection

of a written legal system and the benefits of Roman society.

Throughout the empire,

walled cities were built on strategic sites

and connected through an excellent system of roads.

Trade flourished.

Roman roads were so well engineered

that many survive today

as repaved modern roads.

Many modern European cities began as Roman towns.

The French Mediterranean port of Marseilles, for example,

was an important Roman supply center.

The Roman language,
Latin,

is still commonly seen
on European road signs,

directing motorists
to the city center, or *centrum*.

So motorists follow signs
in Latin

over a roadbed that may well be
of Roman construction

toward a city center,

which is yet another
distinctly Roman idea.

Latin phrases and terms

are commonly used

in our legal system.

Latin is the language chosen

for scientific classification.

The modern languages of...

...are derived from Latin.

And nearly 50% of the words
in the English language

have Latin roots.

And while the numbering system
we use is of Arabic origin,

Roman numerals are still
quite familiar to us.

Another Roman invention, the
structure of the Roman legion,

has influenced the design

of almost all modern
military organizations.

Even our practice

of having professional
government administrators

is derived
from the Roman system.

One other Roman contribution

profoundly affected
Europe and the world.

In the fourth century A.D.,

the Roman emperors converted
to Christianity.

Catholicism was proclaimed as
the official religion of Rome.

This decision allowed
the Catholic church

to spread quickly
throughout the great expanse

of the Roman Empire.

Rome's Pantheon
stands today

as evidence
of this alliance.

Though originally built
as a temple to Roman gods,

the Pantheon survived
the centuries intact

after being rededicated
as a Roman Catholic church.

And when the Roman Empire
finally crumbled

and Europe suffered
its Dark Ages,

the only unifying force
on the continent was the church.

Vatican City,

the Catholic Church's
administrative center in Rome,

became a political city-state.

Although the empire
lay in ruins,

many former Roman cities survived as commercial centers.

As the centuries passed, city-states like Genoa,

Venice, and Florence gradually regained power

by controlling key trade routes.

Powerful merchants became political leaders as well

and commissioned architects and artists

to celebrate their cities' success.

The city of Florence, for example,

enlisted the services of the architect Brunelleschi.

The design of Brunelleschi's great red-domed cathedral

became the model and inspiration for other cathedrals worldwide.

Painters,

sculptors,

and architects revived ideas

from ancient Greece and Rome,

but also perfected their own techniques,

often with startling results.

This explosion of creativity

by masters like Michelangelo Buonarroti

has come to be called the *Renaissance*.

Renaissance artists' use of perspective and detail

profoundly influenced artists for generations to come.

Dutch and Flemish painters of this time became known

for their attention to light and shadow in their works.

The visual arts would never again be the same.

But social and political change accompanied

this flowering of the arts.

The development of the printing press

in the middle of the 15th century

greatly increased literacy,

education, and communication.

Suddenly, common people gained access

to books and other information.

For this reason, the Renaissance is often seen

as the beginning of a growing intellectual movement

that has spanned the last 500 years.

Scientific thought flourished during the Renaissance,

and one particular marriage of science and commerce led

to the exploration of the world

and the discovery of the Americas.

But while navigators charted
unknown lands,

another kind
of drastic change was afoot

on the continent
of Europe.

A priest named Martin Luther
launched an attack

on some of the practices
of the Catholic Church.

During the Middle Ages,

the church had become
a very powerful institution,

influencing the workings
of most European governments.

The church had also acquired
much property

across the continent
of Europe.

Critics like Luther
sharply protested

against these practices

and refused to be silenced
by the church.

Instead,

these Protestants created
new forms of Christianity

which spread quickly through
Central and Northern Europe.

The Protestants were persecuted
for their beliefs

in Catholic countries,

but Catholics
were also persecuted

where Protestantism
took hold.

The resulting religious wars
sent waves of refugees

from Europe to new colonies
in North America.

These colonists
brought with them

the desire to practice
their beliefs in peace.

Today,

the diversity of religions
practiced in the United States

is evidence that
freedom of religion was

an important principle
to American colonists.

[organ music playing]

Throughout the Renaissance

and the colonization
of the Americas,

most people made their living
through subsistence farming.

Virtually all goods
were made by hand,

often through tedious processes.

Artisans plied their trades,

but home craftsmanship supplied
many needed products.

Imagine, for example,

having to shear
your own sheep,

spin the wool,

and weave the cloth
to make your clothing.

In the 18th and 19th centuries,

this way of life would be
changed dramatically.

New uses for energy sources like coal were developed.

The invention of steam engines and other machines would lead to the more efficient manufacture of goods.

The widespread use of iron and steel would improve transportation.

The first iron bridges were constructed, and railroads were built to bring manufactured goods to market.

Shops were built to sell manufactured goods and new services.

Cities grew in population as farm workers became factory workers.

This was made possible because mechanization was applied to agriculture, too.

This change from a mainly agricultural society to a society based on mechanization and mass production of goods has come to be known as the *Industrial Revolution*.

The Industrial Revolution changed the landscape and the way people lived, as well as the way they worked.

The simple spinning machine and hand loom were replaced by enormous textile machines capable of producing huge quantities of cloth.

Small ironworks and village blacksmiths gave way to massive steel mills and factories of every kind.

Traditional wooden sailing ships were soon replaced by giant, motorized cargo ships and ocean liners.

Horse-drawn carriages and wagons gave way to gasoline-powered automobiles and to tractor-trailer rigs.

Although the Industrial Revolution began in Western Europe, any nation with abundant natural resources and a growing population was a logical base for industrial development.

And so the United States grew into one of the major industrialized nations of the world.

Today, the U.S. is certainly a world economic and industrial leader, but it is also a cultural trendsetter.

American film,
music,
fashion,
and even eating habits
are in evidence everywhere.
More importantly,
the idea of democracy,
which took root and matured
in the United States,
has now spread to the far
corners of the earth.
Even people traditionally ruled
by Communist governments
have been inspired to demand
truly democratic systems
for their nations.
The centuries-old gift of
the Greeks has come full circle.
The idea of democracy
has traveled from the Old World

to the New World
to the entire world.
Today,
streamlined transportation
and instant communication
make the movement of ideas
from one culture to another
easier than ever before.
Let us not forget, however,
that our modern way of life is
the result of ideas handed down
through the ages.
Let us not forget
the contributions
of those
who came before us.
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