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## *Greek Ancient Olympic Games*

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The **ancient Olympic Games** were originally a festival or celebration of and for Zeus and started from Greece. The Olympic Games (Ancient *Olympia*), "the Olympics" («the Olympiad") were a series of athletic competitions among representatives of Greek city-states. The prizes for the winners were olive leaf wreaths or crowns. Only freeborn Greek men were allowed to participate.



### Questions

1. Name the parts of the holy/sacred place (i.e. what is the sacred place comprised of): **3 points**
2. Which was the most important venue at the time? **2 points**
3. Which Olympic sports are still played today in the Olympic Games? **1 point**

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*By Platonas*

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Please send your answers to: [platonas.plato](mailto:platonas.plato)

## THE PARTHENON



The Parthenon is a temple up in the Acropolis of Athens, built in honor of the goddess Athena, protector of the city of Athens. It was constructed in the 5th century BC (between 448 and 438) by the architects Iktinos & Kallikratis. The Parthenon is the brightest monument of the Athenian state.



### QUESTIONS

- 1) How tall is goddess Athena's statue and what materials is it made of? (3p.)
- 2) What is depicted on the frieze of the Parthenon? ( 2p.)
- 3) What are the 'Caryatids' and in which European museum are the stolen ones? (2p.)

By Claire & Niki

## HOMER



Homer was a blind poet from Ionia, Asia Minor. He is the 'legendary' author of the two world-wide known epic poems: "The Iliad" and "The Odyssey".

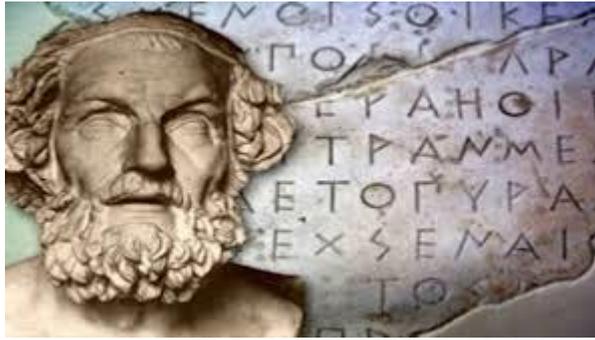
The poems are written in Homeric or Epic Greek, that is a mixture of the Ionic and Aeolic dialects (ancient Greek dialects from different centuries).

These two epic poems influenced Western civilization and inspired many famous works of literature, music and art. Many films are also based on the theme of the Iliad and Odyssey.

A characteristic feature of Homer's poems is that they have beginning, middle and end, and they manage to keep the audience's interest until the end.

## QUIZ

1. What was the trick Odysseus thought of, in order to invade Troy? (2p)
2. What is Homer's epic poem "The Odyssey" about? (2 p)
3. What is the "Homeric Question"? (3 p)



*GOOD LUCK!!!*

*Elytis*

## ODYSSEAS ELYTIS

*"When the first rain- drop fell the summer died"*



Odysseas Elytis was born on 2 November 1911 in Heraklo, on the island of Crete, and died in 1996. He was one of the most important poets and the last representative of the literary generation of the 30 's. He was awarded the National Poetry Prize and the Nobel Prize for literature. The Greek light, the blue of the sky and green-blue of the sea as well as the blessed hard soil, were the source of his inspiration to show the strength and the beauty of the Greek language. He managed to make the Greek language known on a global basis, as a lot of his poems were translated in many languages. He taught us that the wind, the warmth of the sun, the clarity of the blue sky, as well the rights of our country have a voice and can be heard and can definitely make the world go round. His poems inspired numerous poets. Among his best- known poems are "Axion Esti" meaning "Worthy It Is", the Monogram, Sun the First, The Sovereign Sun, West of Sorrow, The small Cyclades, etc.

### Quiz

- 1) Which was Elytis' first volume of poetry? (2 p)
- 2) When did Elytis take the Nobel Prize in Literature? (2 p)

3) What does his famous and mostly translated poem “Worthy It is” talk about? (3 p)

4) Which famous Greek musician composed Elytis’ poem “To the Little North Wind” (that comes from his poetic collection entitled “The Small Cyclades”)? (3 p)

### HELPFUL RESOURCES

#### In English

1. <https://theculturetrip.com/europe/greece/articles/the-best-poems-by-odysseas-elytis-you-should-read/>
2. <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/odysseus-elytis>
3. [http://www.lovesongforgreece.com/?page\\_id=249](http://www.lovesongforgreece.com/?page_id=249)

# ANCIENT THEATRE OF EPIDAUROS



**Epidaurus** was a small city in ancient Greece, on the Argolid Peninsula at the Saronic Gulf.

Here is the theatre...

The Ancient Theatre of Epidaurus is a theatre in the Greek city of Epidaurus, located on the southeast end of a sanctuary.

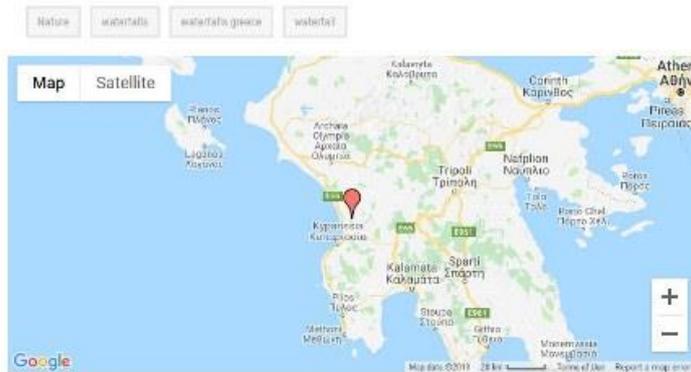
The theater is famous for the amazing acoustics

- 1. How many people can it hold? (1p)**
- 2. Which god is the theatre dedicated to? (1.5p)**
- 3. How many rows has it got? (3p)**

By Efthimis and Mary

## The waterfalls of Neda

There are only two rivers with a female name in Greece. One of them is called Neda. It is located in the south of Greece, in Peloponnese.



Its spring is located at the mountainous area on the border of two counties and it ends at the bay of "Elaia" at Kyparissiakos. The canyon of Neda, which is accessible during the summer months, is a truly magical journey for all nature lovers.

Along the Neda river course beautiful, picturesque waterfalls are created. The largest is situated near Figalleria.



### QUESTIONS

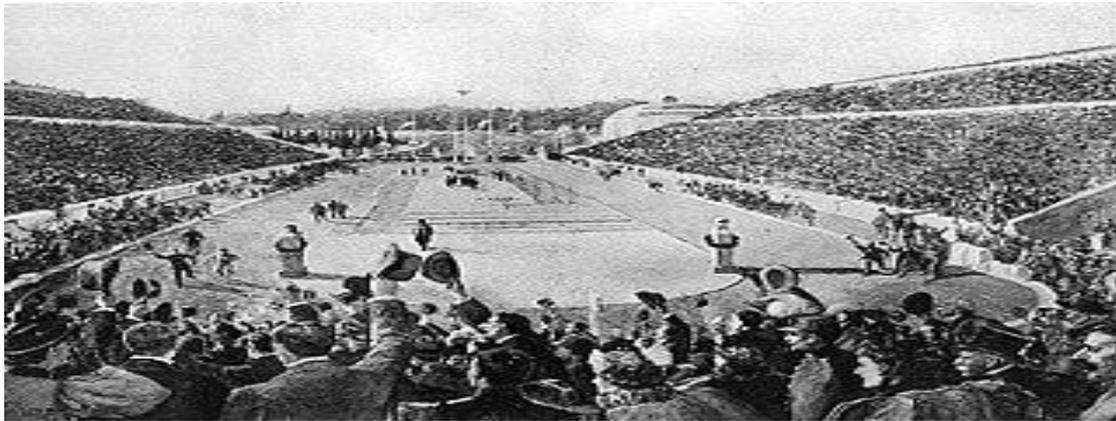
- 1) How long is the river?(1)
- 2) Which villages does it flow through?(2)
- 3) How tall is the waterfall in Figalleria?(1,5)

By Mary & Christine

## Spyridon Louis



**Spiridon "Spyros" Louis** (12 January 1873 – 26 March 1940) was a Greek water-carrier who won the first modern-day Olympic marathon at the 1896 Summer Olympics, thereby becoming a national hero.



1. Who persuaded Spyros Louis to participate in the Marathon? (2 p.)
2. What job did Spyros Louis do after he had won in the Marathon? (2 p.)
3. Which phrase do the Greeks use in relation to the name "Louis" and what does this phrase mean? (5 p.)

## Menelaos Lountemis (1912 -1977)

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He was one of the most important Greek writers. In 1938 Lountemis was one of the 3 authors that shared the Greek National Literature.

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### QUESTIONS

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- ❖ What is his real name? (1 p.)
- ❖ Where was he mainly inspired from? (2 p.)
- ❖ Which of his books was the Greek best-seller of the 1950s and the most known? (2p.)
- ❖ Where is the building which was named after him?(1p)



By Ilectra, Ariefi and Klairi.

# Maria Callas



Maria Callas was a very prominent Greek opera singer (soprano). At a very young age, she started her music studies at the National Conservatory of Athens.

In 1941, Callas made her professional debut with the Royal Opera of Athens. She participated/sang in a great number of well-known operas, performing in the most important opera houses all over the world.

Her musical and dramatic talents led to her being hailed as “La Divina”.

## **Questions:**

- 1) When did she start playing the piano? (1p.)
- 2) What is her full name? (1p.)
- 3) These are 5 opera songs. Maria Callas did not participate in one of them. Which one? (3 p.)
  - Madame Butterfly - Puccini
  - Otello Ave Maria
  - Pace , pace , mio, Dio
  - O Fortuna
  - Signore , Ascolta

## Meteora



**Meteora** is a rock formation in central Greece hosting one of the largest and most quickly built complexes of Eastern Orthodox monasteries, second in importance only to Mount Athos. It is located near the town of Kalambaka at the northwestern edge of the Plain of Thessaly near the Pineios river and Pindus Mountains.



1. In which way did they use to transfer things or people from the outside world into the monasteries in the past? (2 p.)
2. How many monasteries are there in Meteora and which is the biggest? (2 p.)
3. Why are they called "Meteora"? (5 p.)

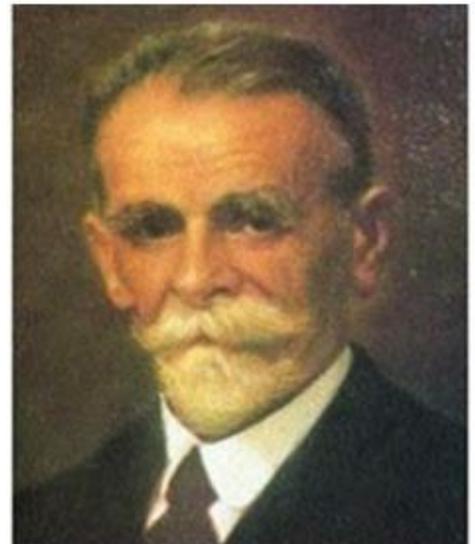
# Kostis Palamas

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Kostis Palamas is a famous Greek poet. Among others he wrote the anthem for the Olympic Games. He was born in Patras, on 13th January 1859 and died on 27 February 1943 in Athens (aged 84).



**Kostis Palamas'  
house in Patras**



**Kostis Palamas**

## **QUESTIONS:**

- 1) How many poems did Palamas write in 1912 and what are their titles? (2 p.)
- 2) Did he ever win the Nobel Prize? (2p.)
- 3) Which building is dedicated to him? (2p.)

By Ariefi & Electra