

SAY WHAT?

LANGUAGE OF ANCIENT GREECE

6th Grade Social Studies

ANCIENT GREEK ALPHABET

- Ancient Greeks developed an alphabet for writing
- Their language was one thing that tied the Greeks together
- The Greek alphabet is still used today
- It is used in America
 - Greek fraternities and sororities
 - Math



ANCIENT GREEK ALPHABET HISTORY

- The Greeks learned about writing and the alphabet from the Phoenicians
- They based their alphabet on this, but added a few new letters
- The Greek alphabet was the first to use vowels

Α α	alpha
Β β	beta
Γ γ	gamma
Ε ε	epsilon
Δ δ	delta
Ζ ζ	zeta
Η η	eta
Θ θ	theta

Ι ι	iota
Κ κ	kappa
Λ λ	lambda
Μ μ	mu
Ν ν	nu
Ξ ξ	xi
Ο ο	omicron
Π π	pi

Ρ ρ	rho
Σ σ	sigma
Τ τ	tau
Υ υ	upsilon
Φ φ	phi
Χ χ	chi
Ψ ψ	psi
Ω ω	omega

alpha (al-fah)
beta (bay-tah)
gamma (gam-ah)
delta (del-ta)
epsilon (ep-si-lon)
zeta (zay-tah)
eta (ay-tah)
theta (thay-tah)
iota (eye-o-tah)
kappa (cap-ah)
lamda (lamb-dah)
mu (mew)
nu (new)
xi (zai)

ANCIENT GREEK ALPHABET

- The Greek alphabet was 24 letters
- How do we say the letters?

omicron (om-e-cron)
pi (pie)
rho (roe)
sigma (sig-mah)
tau (taw)
upsilon (oop-si-lon)
phi (fie)
chi (kie)
psi (sigh)
omega (o-may-gah)

GREEK NUMBERS

- Greek letters were also used as their numbers
- The first nine letters (alpha to theta) were used for the numbers 1-9
- The next nine letters (iota to koppa) were used to count by 10's to 90
- Finally the next nine letters (rho to sampi) were used for 100 - 900

ANCIENT GREEK NUMBERS

-Alpha = 1

-Beta = 2

-Gamma = 3

-The Ancient Greeks also added three extra letters for numbers

-Diagamma for 6, oppa for 90 and sampi for 900

ANCIENT GREEK NUMBERS

1	α	alpha	10	ι	iota	100	ρ	rho
2	β	beta	20	κ	kappa	200	σ	sigma
3	γ	gamma	30	λ	lambda	300	τ	tau
4	δ	delta	40	μ	mu	400	υ	upsilon
5	ϵ	epsilon	50	ν	nu	500	ϕ	phi
6	ζ	vau*	60	ξ	xi	600	χ	chi
7	ζ	zeta	70	\omicron	omicron	700	ψ	psi
8	η	eta	80	π	pi	800	ω	omega
9	θ	theta	90	\koppa	koppa*	900	\sampi	sampi

*vau, koppa, and sampi are obsolete characters

GREEK LETTER USED TODAY

Greek Letters in Science and Math

A lot of Greek letters are used in science and math. They are usually used for constants, variables, and functions. Some examples include:

- Δ Delta - a difference or change in quantity
- π Pi - the constant 3.14159 used in calculating the circumference and volume of a circle
- λ Lambda - represents the wavelength of light in physics
- θ Theta - is often used to represent an angle
- Σ Sigma - is used to represent a summation of a number of items

GREEK LETTERS USED TODAY

College Campus

-social groups

-fraternities and sororities



INTERESTING FACTS

- The word "alphabet" comes from the first two letters of the Greek alphabet "alpha" and "beta".
- The original Greek alphabet didn't have upper case and lower case letters. These were developed later.
- Many Greek letters are used in the International Phonetic Alphabet.

INTERESTING FACTS

- Today Greek is the official language of the country of Greece and one of the official languages of Cyprus.
- It is estimated that around 30% of English words are derived from some sort of classical Greek word.

INTERESTING FACTS

- The Greek alphabet gave rise to other alphabets including Latin, Gothic, and Cyrillic.
- Many Greek letters are the same as Latin letters, but some of them sound different

Είμαι μάθηση για
την αρχαία Ελλάδα .