

History and Myth

It is important for you to acquire some sense of the fundamental periods of Greek history, the principal sources and their approximate dates, and the names and locations of the most important city-states. This topic is addressed quite succinctly in Chapter 2 of *Classical Mythology*, and if you can master what they tell you there, you will be in good shape. I recommend that when you run across the name of an obviously important city or geographical location, use the maps in the text to locate them. You may find this "Ancient History and the Sources of Myth" chart useful in keeping the chronology straight as well as the principal literary sources you will encounter – a version of this is also to be found in your text on pp. 52-53 ("Timeline of Historical Events and Authors"). Please make sure you are familiar with the authors and their works listed (they are identified and discussed, along with a few others, in the textbook, pp. 26–30).

Ancient History and the Sources of Myth	
Historical Period	Sources
7000–3000 B.C.: Neolithic Age	Archaeology
3000–2000 B.C.: Early Bronze Age	
ca. 2000 B.C.: first Greek-speaking people enter	
2000–1600 B.C.: Middle Bronze Age	
1600–1100 B.C.: Late Bronze Age ca. 1500 B.C.: rise of Mycenae ca. 1250 B.C.: Fall of Troy	
1100–800 B.C.: Dark Age ca. 1100 B.C.: Dorian invasion ca. 1000 B.C.: Iron Age begins	
750–500 B.C.: Archaic Period	ca. 750 B.C. <i>Homer (Iliad, Odyssey)</i>
700–600 B.C.: Emergence of Greek city-states	<i>Hesiod (Theogony, Works and Days)</i> <i>Homeric Hymns</i>
500–323 B.C.: Classical Period in Greece	<i>Pindar (518–438 B.C.; Odes)</i> <i>Aeschylus (525–456 B.C.)</i> <i>Herodotus (ca. 485–425 B.C.; Histories)</i>

<p>461–429 B.C.: Age of Pericles</p> <p>431–404 B.C.: Peloponnesian War</p>	<p>Sophocles (496–406 B.C.)</p> <p>Euripides (485–406 B.C.)</p> <p>Aristophanes (ca. 450–385 B.C.)</p> <p>Plato (429–347 B.C.)</p>
<p>352–323 B.C.: Alexander the Great</p>	
<p>323–327 B.C.: Hellenistic Period in Greece</p>	<p>Callimachus (305–240 B.C.)</p> <p>Apollonius (third century), et al.</p>
<p>146–27 B.C.: Late Republican Rome</p>	
<p>27 B.C.–A.D. 14: Age of Augustus</p>	<p>Vergil (<i>Aeneid</i>)</p> <p>Ovid (<i>Metamorphoses</i>)</p> <p>Livy (<i>History of Rome</i>)</p>
<p>Second century A.D.?</p>	<p>"Apollodorus" (<i>Bibliotheca</i>)</p>