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## The Beginning

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- I. Why do we study the Greeks?
  - A) The curse of Greek wisdom
  - B) Who were “the Greeks”?
  - C) Thinking outside the Greek box
  - D) Clash of civilizations?
- II. Why is *The Iliad* so strange?
  - A) Homer, “author” of *The Iliad*
  - B) The poetry of anger
  - C) Chatty warriors

Sing, goddess, the anger of Peleus’ son Achilleus  
and its devastation, which put pains thousandfold upon the Achaians,  
hurled in their multitudes to the house of Hades strong souls  
of heroes, but gave their bodies to be the delicate feasting  
of dogs, of all birds, and the will of Zeus was accomplished  
since that time when first there stood in division of conflict  
Atreus’ son the lord of men and brilliant Achilleus.

## Basic Chronology of Ancient Greece (all dates BCE)

### BRONZE AGE (3000-1150)

- c. 1650-1200 Mycenaean Civilization
- c. 1250-1220 "The Trojan War"
- c. 1200-1150 Collapse of Mycenaean Civilization

### DARK AGE (1100-850)

- c. 1050-950 Greek colonization of Asia Minor (western coast of Turkey)
- c. 900 Beginning of the rise of the *polis* (city-state)

### ARCHAIC PERIOD (800-490)

- c. 800-700 Rise of the aristocracies
- 776 Olympic Games established
- c. 750 Greek colonization of Southern Italy and Sicily begins
- c. 720 Homer, *Iliad*
- c. 700 Homer, *Odyssey*; Hesiod, *Theogony* and *Works and Days*
- c. 680 Archilochus (lyric poet)
- c. 650 Greek colonization around the Black Sea begins
- 621 Draco's code of law in Athens
- c. 600 Sappho (lyric poet); Thales (philosopher)
- 594-593 Archonship of Solon in Athens
- 545-510 Tyranny of the Peisistratids in Athens
- 533 Thespis wins first tragedy competition at Athens
- 508 Cleisthenes reforms the Athenian Constitution

### CLASSICAL PERIOD (490-323)

- 490-479 Persian War
- 458 Aeschylus, *Oresteia*
- 461-429 Pericles dominant in Athenian politics; the "Periclean Age"
- c. 450-420 Herodotus composes his *Histories of the Persian War*
- 447 Parthenon begun in Athens
- 441 Sophocles, *Antigone*
- 431-404 Peloponnesian War (Athens and allies vs. Sparta and allies)
- 429 Pericles dies
- 429? Sophocles, *Oedipus the King*
- c. 424-400 Thucydides writes the History of the Peloponnesian War
- 411 Aristophanes, *Lysistrata*
- 404 Athens loses Peloponnesian War to Sparta
- 399 Trial and death of Socrates
- c. 399-347 Plato writes his philosophical dialogues
- 335-323 Aristotle writes his philosophical treatises