

**Q:** What is “classical Greece,” or the “classical period” of ancient Greek culture and art?

**A:** The use of the term “classical” when studying ancient Greek and Roman culture and art can designate different things. “Classical antiquity” refers to ancient Greek and Roman civilizations as a whole. The adjective “classical” can qualify Greek and Roman cultural creations or those imitating them. Throughout your readings, you will also see references to “classical Greece,” the “classical period” of Greece, or “classical Greek art.” This refers to a period that roughly covers the fifth century BC. More precisely, it denominates a period that starts with the Persian wars in 490 BC and ends with the end of the Peloponnesian war, in 404 BC. It is usually considered a time in which great cultural and artistic achievements were made. The term “classical” can therefore describe the artistic style of that era of Greek history, a style that would be emulated in the Western world many centuries later.

Tags: [Ancient Greece](#), [Classical](#), [Classical Antiquity](#)