

oxford encyclopedia of ancient greece and rome

Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Greece and Rome is a comprehensive reference work that offers in-depth coverage of the history, culture, and impact of the ancient civilizations of Greece and Rome. Published by Oxford University Press, this encyclopedia serves as a vital resource for scholars, students, and anyone interested in the classical world. It encapsulates the vast expanse of knowledge on various topics related to ancient Greece and Rome, making it an indispensable tool for research and study.

Purpose and Scope

The primary purpose of the Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Greece and Rome is to provide a broad yet detailed overview of the classical world. It covers a multitude of subjects, including but not limited to:

1. History: From the Bronze Age through the Roman Empire and beyond.
2. Literature: Major works, authors, and genres that emerged during these periods.
3. Philosophy: Key philosophers, schools of thought, and their contributions.
4. Art and Architecture: Important styles, notable works, and their cultural significance.
5. Religion and Mythology: The pantheon of gods, myths, rituals, and their societal roles.
6. Society and Daily Life: Insights into the social structures, economy, and daily practices of ancient peoples.

This encyclopedia is organized in a user-friendly manner, with contributions from a diverse range of scholars, ensuring a well-rounded perspective on each topic.

Features of the Encyclopedia

One of the standout features of the Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Greece and Rome is its thoroughness. Each entry is meticulously researched and written to maintain academic rigor while remaining accessible to a broad audience. Key features include:

1. Comprehensive Entries

Each entry typically includes:

- Overview: A succinct summary of the topic.
- Historical Context: Information about the time period and relevant events.
- Key Figures: Important individuals associated with the topic.
- Influence and Legacy: How the topic has impacted subsequent culture and society.
- Further Reading: Suggestions for additional resources and scholarly works.

2. Thematic Organization

The encyclopedia is organized thematically, allowing users to explore related topics easily. This organization facilitates interdisciplinary study, connecting history, literature, art, and philosophy.

3. Illustrations and Maps

Visual aids such as maps, photographs, and illustrations enhance the understanding of complex subjects. These images provide context and help to visualize the geographical and cultural landscapes of ancient Greece and Rome.

4. Cross-Referencing

Entries are well cross-referenced, enabling readers to navigate seamlessly between related topics. This interconnectedness enriches the research experience by providing a more holistic understanding of the ancient world.

Contributors and Scholarly Rigor

The Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Greece and Rome benefits from the contributions of leading scholars in the field of classical studies. Each author is selected for their expertise, ensuring that the information presented is both accurate and insightful. The editorial team maintains rigorous standards of scholarship, providing a reliable resource for both academic and casual inquiries.

Significance in Classical Studies

The significance of the Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Greece and Rome in the field of classical studies cannot be overstated. Its importance can be highlighted in several key areas:

1. Educational Resource

For students and educators, the encyclopedia serves as:

- A foundational text for introductory courses in ancient history and culture.
- A source for research projects, essays, and presentations.
- A tool for interdisciplinary studies, connecting various aspects of the ancient world.

2. Reference for Scholars

Researchers and scholars utilize the encyclopedia for:

- Quick access to reliable information.
- Comprehensive bibliographies for further research.
- Contextual understanding of specialized topics.

3. Public Engagement

The encyclopedia also engages the public by:

- Making ancient history accessible to non-specialists.
- Providing insights into how ancient cultures shape modern societies.
- Inspiring interest in classical studies through well-written and engaging entries.

Digital Access and Modern Relevance

In today's digital age, the Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Greece and Rome is also available online, providing unprecedented access to its wealth of information. The digital version includes features such as:

- Search Functionality: Users can quickly find specific topics or terms.
- Regular Updates: New research and developments in the field are incorporated to keep the content current.
- Multimedia Resources: Enhanced with videos, audio, and interactive content that enrich the learning experience.

Moreover, the relevance of ancient Greece and Rome persists in contemporary discussions about democracy, philosophy, art, literature, and ethics. The lessons drawn from these civilizations continue to inform modern thought and societal structures, making the study of their history ever pertinent.

Conclusion

In summary, the Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Greece and Rome is an invaluable resource that captures the essence of the ancient world in a richly detailed and accessible format. It serves multiple audiences—from academics and students to general readers interested in the classical past. With its comprehensive coverage, scholarly rigor, and modern accessibility, the encyclopedia not only preserves the legacy of ancient Greece and Rome but also ensures that their influence remains a vital part of contemporary discourse. Whether for academic research, personal interest, or educational purposes, this encyclopedia stands as a testament to the enduring fascination with the classical civilizations that have shaped our world.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Greece and Rome?

The Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Greece and Rome is a comprehensive reference work that covers various aspects of ancient Greek and Roman civilization, including history, culture, literature, and art.

Who are the contributors to the Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Greece and Rome?

The encyclopedia features contributions from a range of scholars and experts in the field of classical studies, including historians, archaeologists, and literary scholars.

How is the Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Greece and Rome organized?

The encyclopedia is organized alphabetically by topic and includes entries on a wide array of subjects, such as mythology, philosophy, politics, and daily life in ancient Greece and Rome.

Is the Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Greece and Rome available online?

Yes, the Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Greece and Rome is available online through the Oxford Reference platform, providing access to its entries and features for subscribers and institutions.

What types of entries can be found in the Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Greece and Rome?

Entries include biographical sketches of important figures, overviews of significant events, discussions of cultural practices, and analyses of literary works from ancient Greece and Rome.

Can the Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Greece and Rome be used for academic research?

Yes, it is an authoritative source commonly used for academic research, providing well-researched and peer-reviewed information suitable for students and scholars.

What is the significance of the Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Greece and Rome for understanding Western civilization?

The encyclopedia is significant as it provides insights into the foundations of Western civilization, including the origins of democracy, philosophy, and art, which were heavily influenced by ancient Greece and Rome.

Are there illustrations or maps included in the Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Greece and Rome?

Yes, the encyclopedia often includes illustrations, maps, and photographs to enhance the understanding of the topics covered and to provide visual context.

How often is the Oxford Encyclopedia of Ancient Greece and Rome updated?

While the printed version of the encyclopedia is a fixed edition, the online version may receive updates and revisions to reflect new research and scholarship in the field of classical studies.

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