






















# Knowledge Map: Myth and Religion: Festivals (Greece)

In this topic, you will study some of the key festivals that took place in Greece and Rome. For Greece, you will examine the Great Panathenaia that was held to honour the city's patron goddess Athena. You will also study the City Dionysia held in honour of Dionysus, god of wine and revelry. For Rome, you will study the Lupercalia held in honour of Lupercus and the Saturnalia held for Saturn. When examining these festivals, you will need to draw comparisons between their origins, officials, the sacrifices that took place and the people who attended the festival.

## Festivals in Ancient Greece and Rome

1	Festivals in the Greek and Roman World	Greeks and Romans had a twelve month year but did not divide their week into seven days. In Greece, they set aside 140 days of the year for religious celebrations, festivals, and entertainment days.												
<b>City Dionysia</b>														
2	Origins of the Festival	The origins lie in a town called Eleutherae in Attica, that united with Athens. Originally, they presented a wooden statue of Dionysus to them, but it was rejected by Athens. A plague on Athens forced the Athenians to think they had upset Dionysus so they readily accepted the statue and built a festival of theatre and revelry to honour him.												
3	Sanctuary of Dionysus	The sanctuary of Dionysus was built to the south side of the Acropolis. It contained an altar and temple but also a theatre in which plays would be performed.												
4	The Eponymous Archon	The organisation for the festival was undertaken by the Eponymous Archon, an elected official. He would select three tragic playwrights and five comic playwrights who would have to write plays, seventeen in total. He would also have to choose a choregos to finance the plays.												
5	Dithyramb	The dithyramb competition saw 100 members from each of Athens' tribes take part in a choral dance in honour of Dionysus.												
6	The Grand Procession	The procession took place before the first day of the festival and recreated the events of Eleutherae and the wooden statue. The statue would be brought from a shrine just outside the city to the sanctuary.												
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8	Pompe	The pompe was a grand procession that took place on the first morning. The statue of Dionysus was carried from the outskirts of the city to the sanctuary of Dionysus with drinking and dancing. Model phalluses were also carried in respect of Dionysus being the god of fertility. 												
9	Dithyrambic Contests	After the pompe, the dithyrambic competitions took place and were a choral song danced to by the tribes in honour of Dionysus. 												
10	Komos	The komos happened in the evening of the first day and saw only Athenian men present leather phalluses to present to the god. The komos involved lots of drinking and dancing. 												
11	Opening Ceremony	The opening ceremony involved the priest of Dionysus sacrificing a piglet followed by each of the ten generals of Athens pouring a libation (a drink) in honour of the twelve Olympian gods. 												
12	Theoric Fund	The contests were not free to watch so Athenians set up a Theoric Fund to help the poor attend a festival. 												
13	Comedy Plays	The themes of the comedy plays were usually war, politics or social life, and reflected the political freedom of Athens. Slaves and masters would often swap roles in plays, and politicians were openly mocked. The only surviving comedies we have of the time come from one playwright, Aristophanes. 												
14	Tragedy Plays	Unlike comedies, tragedies were performed in a trilogy. For this reason, a day was devoted to three playwrights. This suggests tragedy took prominence over comedy. Tragedies were usually based on well-known historical or mythological events. It focused on human suffering and sought to ask questions about human nature. We have surviving plays from three playwrights: Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides. 												
15	Satyr Plays	The satyr play accompanied the tragic trilogy. It was often intended as a comic respite from the previous tragedy. It did not have to be related to the tragedies performed. 												
16	The Judgement	The plays were all judged and the prize giving was awarded on the last day. The playwright with the most votes won a garland of ivy, a symbol of Dionysus. 												

## The Great Panathenaia

17	Panathenaia	An annual festival in Athens celebrating Athena's birthday. It marked the most important part of the year for Athenians as she was the patron goddess of Athens and involved athletic and literary competitions.																		
18	Great Panathenaia	An Athenian festival to Athena that took place every four years and contained more athletic and literary competitions than the annual Panathenaia. It lasted eight days.																		
19	Founded by Theseus	The festival was believed to have been founded by Theseus in an effort to unite the regions of Athens.																		
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21	Rhapsodic Contests	A rhapsode is someone who recites poetry. The verses recited were chosen from Homer's <i>Iliad</i> and <i>Odyssey</i> . Rhapsodes would have to have an excellent memory. 																		
22	Musical Contests	There were four main musical competitions based around two Greek musical instruments: the aulos, and the kithara. 																		
23	Sporting Events	Three of the eight days were given over to sporting events for Athenians to take part in. Women were not permitted to take part. The prizes for winning were worth a great deal. 																		
24	Panathenaic Amphorae	The winners of the sporting contests would receive a Panathenaic Amphorae which would have a picture of Athena on one side, and a picture of the sporting event it was won in on the other. It was usually filled with olive oil. 																		
25	The Stadion	This is a running event in which the competitors would run the length of the stadium. 																		
26	Wrestling	It is suggested that Theseus introduced wrestling after he defeated King Cerceyon. The aim in wrestling was to get your opponent to 'fall' onto their back or shoulders. To make it harder, contestants were covered in oil. 																		
27	Boxing	Unlike modern boxing, Greek boxing did not involve protective head gear, and rather than gloves, hands were wrapped in leather. The aim was to knock out your opponent. 																		
28	Pankration	Pankration means 'all strength'. The pankration was a mixture of boxing and wrestling with the addition of kicking moves. It had only two rules: no biting or eye-gouging. 																		
29	Pentathlon	The ancient pentathlon consisted of the discus, javelin, long jump, stadion, and wrestling. 																		
30	Equestrian Events	These events included a four-horse chariot race and a mounted javelin contest where contestants had to hit targets while riding horses. 																		
31	Apobates	The greatest of the equestrian events was the Apobates, which means <i>dismounter</i> . The race involved fully armoured charioteers dismounting their chariots whilst racing and running alongside their horses, before mounting them again. 																		
32	Tribal Contests	All Athenians were divided into ten tribes and competed against each other in: strength trials, a boat race near the port town of Piraeus, and a war-dance competition. 																		
33	All-Night Celebration and Procession	An all-night celebration took place the day on the Acropolis before the procession the next day. It involved a torch race, followed by singing and dancing. The procession the next day involved the peplos, a greek dress, presented to Athena Parthenos.																		
34	The Sacrifice	The procession is followed by the sacrifice at the altar of Athena Polias. No expense was spared, and up to one hundred oxen (a hecatomb) and other animals were sacrificed. The sacrificial meat was then shared amongst the Athenians.																		
35	Parthenon	The Panathenaic procession is depicted on the Ionic frieze of the Parthenon. The procession starts on the western part of the temple and follows two routes down the northern and southern sides of the Parthenon.																		