**III. Greece’s Golden Age**

1. Philosophers Search for the Truth

* **Philosophers –**
* Great thinkers determined to find the truth
* Believed the universe was put together in orderly ways with absolute laws
* Logic and reason can help people understand these laws

1. Socrates

* One of the most important thinker in history
* Wanted everyone to question themselves and their moral duty
* Famous for his Socratic Method
* Laid much of the foundation for Western education
* **Socratic Method –**
* **399 BC –**
* Sentenced to death – Drank poison (hemlock) instead of leaving Athens
* Refuses to apologize for his beliefs

1. Plato

* Student of Socrates
* Later wrote down the beliefs of his teacher
* Founded a school for philosophers known as the Academy
* Most famous book The Republic
* Detailed his vision of the perfect society
* Government ruled by a philosopher king and the elite
* Charged with same crime as his teacher, but choose to leave Athens and live

1. Aristotle

* Student of Plato
* Developed what later became known as the Scientific Method
* **Golden Mean –**
* Many of the ideas of these three people laid the framework for Western education

1. Pericles (495 BC-429 BC)

* Led Athens for 32 years
* Respected general and statement
* **Age of Pericles** –

**Goals for Athens**

(1)

(2)

(3)

* Achieving his goals
* Created direct democracy
* Formed Delian League after the Persian Wars to strengthen the navy
* Also used money from the Delian League to beautify Athens

1. Drama and History

* Created drama as a form of expression and entertainment
* 2 Types Tragedy and Comedy
* **Herodotus** –
* **Thucydides –**

1. Athens and Sparta Go to War

* **Peloponnesian Wars –**

* Athens had the better navy
* Athens has early victories but is struck with widespread plague during the war’s second year
* Sparta had the better army
* Results in an Athens being defeated and losing its empire, wealth, and power