Ancient Greece Culture and Achievements

The Ancient Greeks were brilliant people that helped the modern world, from creating ship anchors to the vending machine. So here are five inventions that were created in the Ancient Greece era.

1. The Thermometer
It's said that the thermometer is dated back to the Greeks of Alexandria who discovered that air expands. That idea many years later helped Galileo convert the device into a scientific instrument that distinguished temperature. So Galileo may have went farther but Ancient Greece still deserves some credit and so does Philo of Byzantium who invented the thermoscope that also helped Galileo with his studies. (Source: mlahanas)

2. The Vending Machine
Hero of Alexandria created the vending machine. His vending machine though was a lot different than what we have now though. Hero's vending machine was like this, a person would deposit the coin into a slot, and the coin would fall into a pan. The pan was attached to a lever, and the coin's weight would cause the lever to open a valve and holy water would gush out. When the coin would continue to tilt the pan down and then its counterweight would snap the pan into, closing the valve. So that's the ancient vending machine.

Here's a photo of what it would have looked like, vending machine. (Photo source: underthepier and fact source: I09.com)

3. Map
The first Greek Scholar to invent a geographical map was Anaximander and Dikaiarch also gave the concept of latitude and longitude. Maps are one of the most ancient Greek inventions used today. So next time you’re going traveling thank the Greeks for the detailed maps. (Source: mlahanas)

4. Alarm Clock
While not many people are probably happy with the alarm clock because alarm clocks tell us to get up for work or school. Though then again they make sure we’re not late, so that’s a good thing. The alarm clock was created in 200 BC by Ctesibius. The first alarm clock was made with a dial and a pointer for the time. The alarm system would drop pebbles into a gong at a pre-set time. (Source: Buzzle)

5. The Anchor
The first anchor was invented by Eupalamas and it was made out of wood. Anacharsis then invented in 592 B.C. the first metal anchor. So I think everybody can agree how important this invention is, because of course the anchor is an important part of ship even though it's a simple thing. (Source: Buzzle)
Ancient Greek Inventions #1 - Alarm clock

The first alarm clock was conceptualized in ancient Greece. It was thought up by Ctesibus, a Hellenistic engineer and inventor. During those days, time was usually indicated using a water clock. Ctesibus then used an elaborate system comprised of dropping pebbles on to a gong to make a sound. This sound was set to happen at specific time intervals, giving rise to a rather crude yet effective version of the modern alarm clock.

Pluto himself is also credited with creating a version of an alarm clock that combined water filling up a vessel and making pebbles drop to make a sound.
Ancient Greek Inventions #2 - Odometers

Odometers are measuring tools that help quantify distance. They were originally used to figure out how much distance has already been travelled by a vehicle. Although there is still a dispute around the original Greek inventor of the odometer (some say it’s Hero of Alexandria while others point out to Archimedes), there’s no doubt that the invention of the odometer has helped the ancient Greek civilization. It helped the Greeks to create roads and bridges for travelling, set milestones at specific distances, and helped develop their empire, boosting their economic standing.

Ancient Greek Inventions #3 - Central heating

Where would we be without central heating? Imagine hard cold winters, and nothing to help you get warm. In ancient Greece, the Temple of Ephesus was kept heated through flues planted on the floor. The flues circulated the warm air generated through a fire, providing a comfortable temperature throughout. The concept was mostly forgotten by the following generations but was rediscovered during the Industrial Revolution and continuously developed until it reached the product we are familiar with these days.

Ancient Greek Inventions #4 - Thermometer

The thermometer is constantly being used for a wide array of needs these days, from health care to chemistry. The original technology behind it is quite old, dating back almost 2,000 years ago. It was the Greeks of Alexandria that first figured out how air expands when exposed to high temperatures. It was Philo of Byzantium who first applied this technique to determine the temperature and the concept was later on improved by Galileo. It was Galileo who introduced the concept of a “scale” to quantify the process but his work was based on the original invention of the ancient Greeks.

Ancient Greek Inventions #5 - Maps

It seems logical nowadays to always have a map leading you from one spot to another but in the old days, the concept wasn’t as prevalent. Before the ancient Greeks introduced maps, guides were vague, prone to mistakes and misinterpretations, and mostly written by sailors in a descriptive manner.

It was the Greek Anaximander who conceptualized the idea of longitude and latitude to standardize land plotting. Other Greeks like Strabo and Eratosthenes further created maps spanning the world.
Ancient Greek Inventions #6 - Crane

The crane was an important tool that is still being used today for construction purposes. Unlike the original Greek design, however, the modern crane is sturdier and capable of carrying heavier weight. The original concept the ancient Greeks came up with, didn’t change—an elongated item was attached to ropes that help hoist up heavy objects for building. In ancient Greece, the cranes were usually powered by donkeys and other animals capable of carrying burdens as well as the use of individuals of great strength.

Ancient Greek Inventions #7 - Levers

Levers are simple designs that had a huge impact on various industries especially in construction. It’s no wonder the Greeks were the first ones to make use of the idea.

Levers use a pulley system to lift up heavy objects using a minimum amount of force. The item was first described by the Greek mathematician Archimedes during the 260 BC. It was already in use even before that time, but the Greeks are attributed with introducing the use of levers into ‘mainstream use’.

Ancient Greek Inventions #8 - Wheelbarrow

There’s no question that many of the inventions attributed to the ancient Greeks had something to do with buildings and constructions. The wheelbarrow, a one-wheel transportation equipment that can be held and pushed by users to carry relatively light loads, is also attributed to the ancient Greeks. It is mentioned in an inventory from the building of the temple of Eluisis as a ‘one wheeler’. Many researchers believe a product of similar likeness was probably used in farming even before the Greeks times, but no evidence to the matter has survived to prove so.

Ancient Greeks Inventions #9 - Cannon

Believe it or not, the ancient Greeks had a significant part in the development of cannons, or at least the concept behind them, for use at war. The old Greek cannons operated through compressed air, launching projectiles to a target. It is believed that the cannon was conceptualized by Ctesibius of Alexandria. He was a doctor and an inventor, and many consider him the first published scientist in the area of pneumatics (the science of compressed air).
Greek Fire:

Invented in the Early Middle Ages in the Greek Roman Empire (aka Byzantine Empire). An ancient flame thrower. When it hit an enemy ship the flame could not be put out by water. Instead it strengthened and kept burning. It is believed to have helped the Empire stay alive as long as it did.
Steam Engine:

Invented by Heron of Alexandria roughly 100 CE. It was never put to practical use but was the first steam engine ever invented. They were not used again until the near the industrial revolution.
Drama

- First plays started being shown at City Dionysus
- Believed to have patterned celebrations after the Egyptian pageants honoring their god Osiris
- Early plays consisted of only 1 person
- Later plays started consisting of 3 people
- Musical Chorus became involved and played 1/2 the lines during the play
- "Tragedy" means goat song
- Well known tragedy writers include, Sophocles, Euripides, and Aeschylus
- Sophocles won 24 contests
- Never came less then 2nd
- Aristophanes started bringing out Comedy
- Only 33 comedies and 11 tragedies remain from this time period
- Greeks inspired drama in the Western World

Philosophy

- Greece played a huge pivotal role in shaping Western philosophy
- Greek creation of philosophy was explained as "the love of wisdom"

**Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle were three of the most famous philosophers**

- Focused more on human roles than on world material
- Pyrrho's school of Skepticism

Presentation of Ancient Greece Inventions

http://prezi.com/pa3e4x3lak-q/ancient-greek-inventions/

Virtual Museum of Ancient Greece Inventions

http://kotsanas.com/gb/categories.php