



STUDY KIT 1

Title: THE CITY OF PIRAEUS IN ANCIENT AND MODERN TIMES

Topic: The largest port in Greece, the largest passenger port in Europe and the second largest in the world, the top container port in the Eastern Mediterranean and home town of Ralleio Lykeio (founded in 1856).

Keywords: PORT, NEOCLASSICAL, ANCIENT THEATRE

Subject: HISTORY, CITY PLANNING

Cross-curricular Topic: CULTURAL HERITAGE

Level: Upper secondary

Age:16+

Number of students:30

Duration in minutes: 180

Place (classroom, outdoor etc.): outdoor

Author: Anastasia Keskesiadou, Katerina Christodoulou

School: RALLEIO GENIKO LYKEIO THILEON PEIRAIA

Language: ENGLISH

Overview:

Participants will walk through the city proper of Piraeus, home town of Ralleio Lykeio, visiting one of the most important port cities in Europe and Eastern Mediterranean. They will have to stop in order to answer questions and/ or perform tasks at particular points/ monuments on the way.

Objectives:

- **To learn about important sites and famous buildings of the city of Piraeus.**
- **To learn about ancient theatres**
- **To learn about architecture and city planning in the area**
- **To exercise by walking**

**Learning material and tools:**

- **Map of ancient Piraeus and the long walls to Athens**
- **Picture of ancient Greek theatre**
- **Summary of the basic information that students need to study before visiting the site. (Annex 1)**

Preparation:

**All the material will have been uploaded on Wikiloc application
AND/OR
paper handouts in the form of Worksheets**

Evaluation:

The answers on the Student's Worksheet

Extra material:

smartphone

Detailed description/instruction:

Students are divided into multinational groups of 3 (2 Greek students, 1 foreign student). Using their smartphones OR their maps they follow the track and stop at each waypoint to answer the relevant questions and do the relevant tasks.

WAYPOINT 1: MUNICIPAL THEATRE

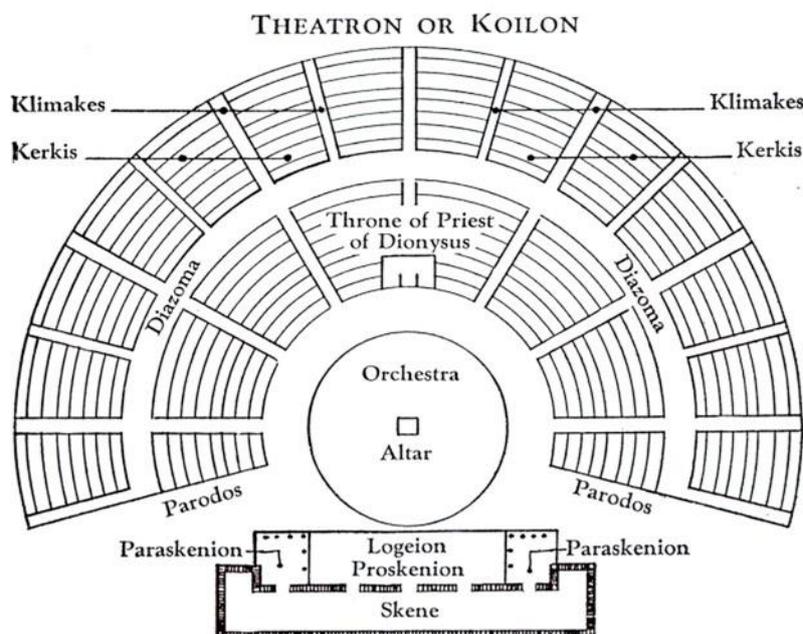
Its construction started in 1883 and finished in 1895 when Piraeus' decline period was over and the city started developing again. It is neoclassical in architectural style and can host 1200 spectators. The inside is luxurious and was designed according to the architectural standards of the Odeon in Paris. Its scene is one of the very few baroque style specimens of that era. The construction cost an astronomical sum of money for those days. At the time of its construction the population of the city was 27.000. Only about 200 of them were educated and about 200 more could read and write.

- **Taking into account the demographics of the city in 1833, why do you think the decision for such an elaborate and expensive construction was taken?**

WAYPOINT 2: THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MUSEUM-THE ANCIENT THEATRE

The Archaeological Museum was built in 1981 and displays exhibits from the wider area of Piraeus dating from the 18th century BC to the 4th century AD. This theatre was built at the beginning of the 3rd century BC. It is the only one of the two ancient theatres of Piraeus that can be seen today. It was built after the Dionysus theatre which lies at the foot of the Acropolis hill in Athens.

- **Look at the drawing of the ancient theatre drawing and identify the parts in the ancient theatre that you are looking at**



WAYPOINT 3: HELLENIC MARITIME MUSEUM

Founded in 1949, it is the biggest maritime museum in the country and presents the creation, history and development of the Greek Navy from prehistoric times to our days. Among the exhibits there are models of ancient and modern ships, paintings by some of the greatest 19th and 20th century Greek painters of seascapes, also guns, maps, flags, medals, nautical instruments, etc. There is also a specialized library in the Museum with 10,000 volumes and rich archival material and a photographic and film collection, which includes, among others, approximately 200 maps (16th -20th centuries).

- **Why is the Hellenic Maritime Museum located in Piraeus?**



WAYPOINT 4: LASKARIDI FOUNDATION

Neoclassical architecture is an architectural style produced by the neoclassical movement that began in the mid-18th century. In its purest form, it is a style principally derived from the architecture of classical antiquity. Intellectually, neoclassicism was symptomatic of a desire to return to the perceived "purity" of the arts of Rome, to the more vague perception ("ideal") of Ancient Greek arts. Neoclassical architecture is characterized by grandeur of scale, simplicity of geometric forms, Greek—especially Doric (order)—or Roman detail, dramatic use of columns, and a preference for blank walls. The new taste for antique simplicity represented a general reaction to the excesses of the Rococo style.

- **Identify the neoclassical architectural elements in the building that you are looking at.**

WAYPOINT 5: THE PORT OF ZEA- ANCIENT SHIP YARD AND NAVAL BASE

It was one of the military naval bases of ancient Athens. To the west we can see parts of the fortified wall constructed by Konon in the 5th century. To the east there are shipyards where triremes (ancient warships) were kept and repaired.

Zea was named Pashalimani in the 18th century AD because it was the port of the Ottoman conquerors.

- **Why were the naval bases and shipyard constructed in antiquity?**
- **How did the name Pashalimani come upon?**

Annex 1: PIREAUS

<https://www.wikiloc.com/wikiloc/map.do?lt=37.983164&ln=23.718845&z=12&k=1&act=&q=&place=Piraeus>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piraeus>

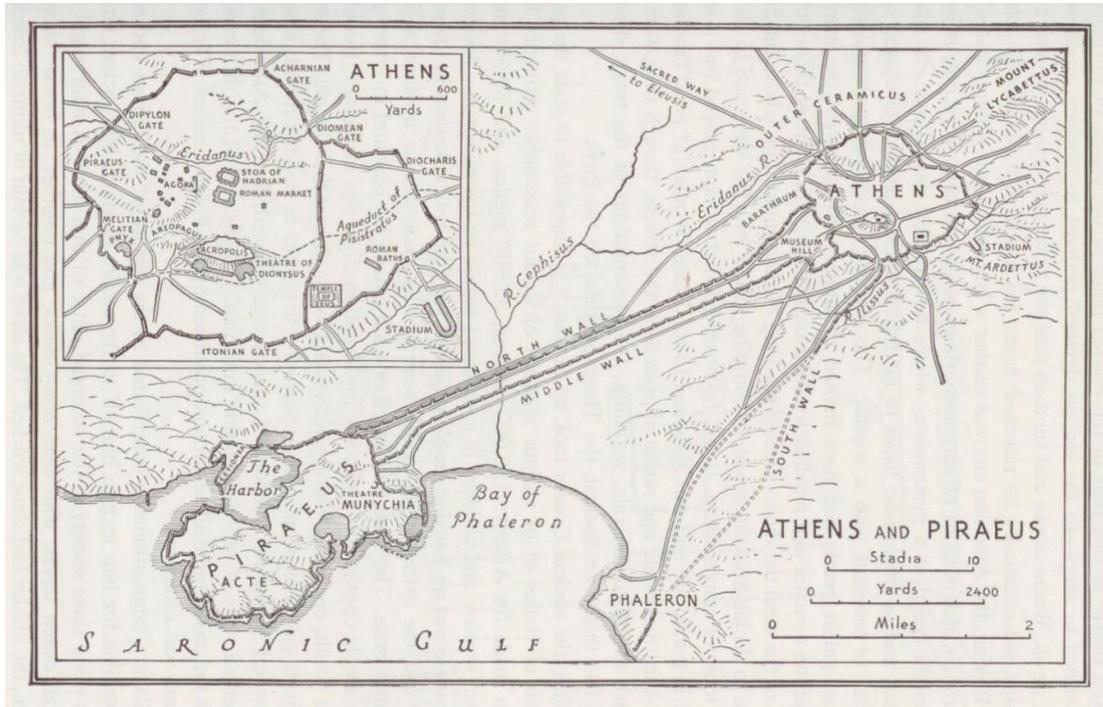
Piraeus is located within the Athens urban area, 12 kilometers southwest from its city center and lies along the east coast of the Saronic Gulf. It is the fourth largest municipality in Greece and the second largest within the urban area of the Greek capital, following the municipality of Athens.

In pre historic times, Pireas was an island, separated from the mainland by a wide canal of



seawater. In later times this canal was covered with silt and Piraeus was connected to Attica. It was first inhabited about 3000 years BC. Piraeus has a long recorded history, dating to ancient Greece. The city was largely developed in the early 5th century BC, when it was selected to serve as the port city of classical Athens and was transformed into a prototype harbor, concentrating all the import and transit trade of Athens. During the Golden Age of Athens, the Long Walls were constructed to connect Athens with Piraeus. Consequently, it

became the chief harbor of ancient Greece



Piraeus declined gradually after the 4th century AD, growing once more in the 19th century, especially after Athens' declaration as the capital of Greece. Piraeus started to take its modern form after the Greek Revolution against the Turks when five settlers settled there in 1829. It was later developed by waves of internal immigrants, especially from the islands of Crete, Hydra, the area of Mani (in the south of Peloponnese) but mainly from hundreds of thousands of Greek war refugees from Asia Minor in 1922. The Municipality of Piraeus was established in 1835. It was then that the Municipal Theatre was constructed and many schools were founded by rich ship owners and merchants (amongst them Ralleio, which was founded in 1856), who came to live in the area in big neoclassical style homes, designed by the German architect Ernst Moritz Theodor Ziller, a major designer of royal and municipal buildings in Athens and other Greek cities at the time.

In the modern era, Piraeus is a large city, bustling with activity and an integral part of Athens, acting as home to the country's biggest harbor and bearing all the characteristics of a huge marine and commercial-industrial center. The port of Piraeus is the chief port in Greece, the largest passenger port in Europe and the second largest in the world, servicing about 20 million passengers annually. Piraeus is placed among the top ten ports in container traffic in Europe and the top container port in the Eastern Mediterranean.

Piraeus is bounded by the Mount Aigaleo to the northwest, and the Saronic Gulf to the south and west, and connected with the rest of the Athens Urban Area to the east and northeast. The "city proper" of Piraeus consists of a rocky peninsula, originally an island, featuring three



natural harbors. In addition to the central one, called Kantharos in ancient times, the smaller harbors to the east are still in use: Zea and Mikrolimano.

The city is also one of the oldest industrial centers in Greece. Some of the biggest processing industries were established there in the second half of the 19th century, including potteries, flour mills, silk industries, tobacco industries, weaving factories etc. Most of them are still in operation.



STUDENT NAMES

NAME	NATIONALITY

Waypoint 1: THE MUNICIPAL THEATRE

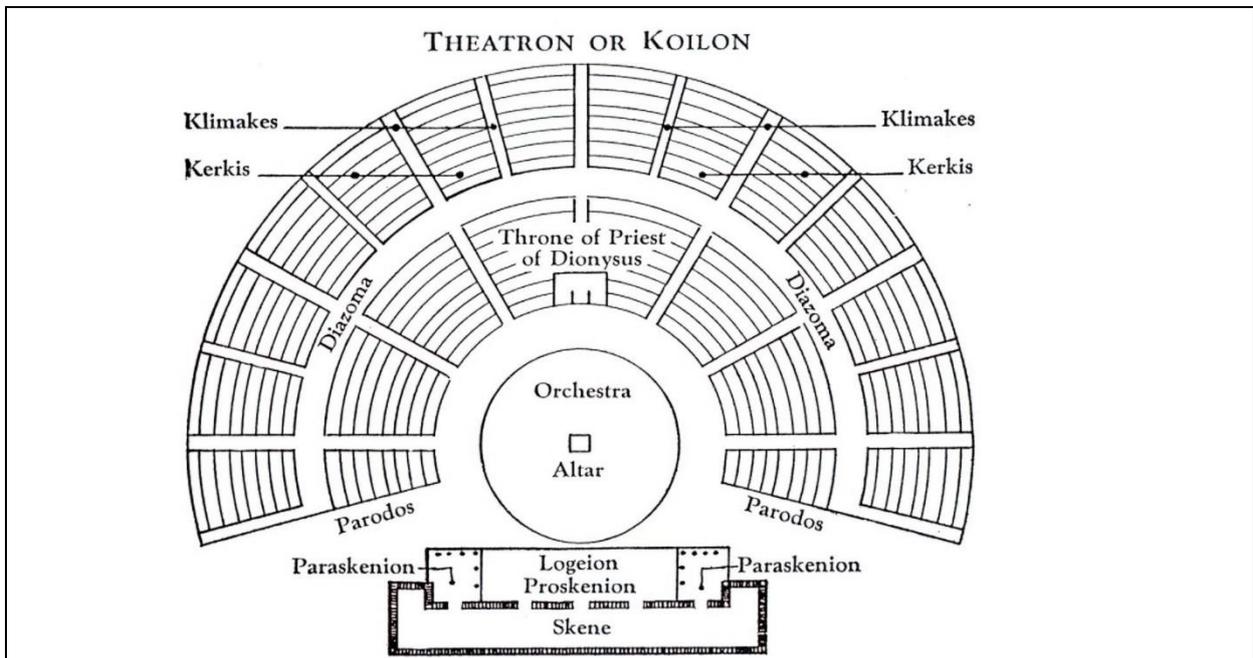
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