**Greek Culture**

**ESSENTIAL QUESTION What makes a culture unique?**

**GUIDING QUESTIONS**

1. How did Greek dramas develop?

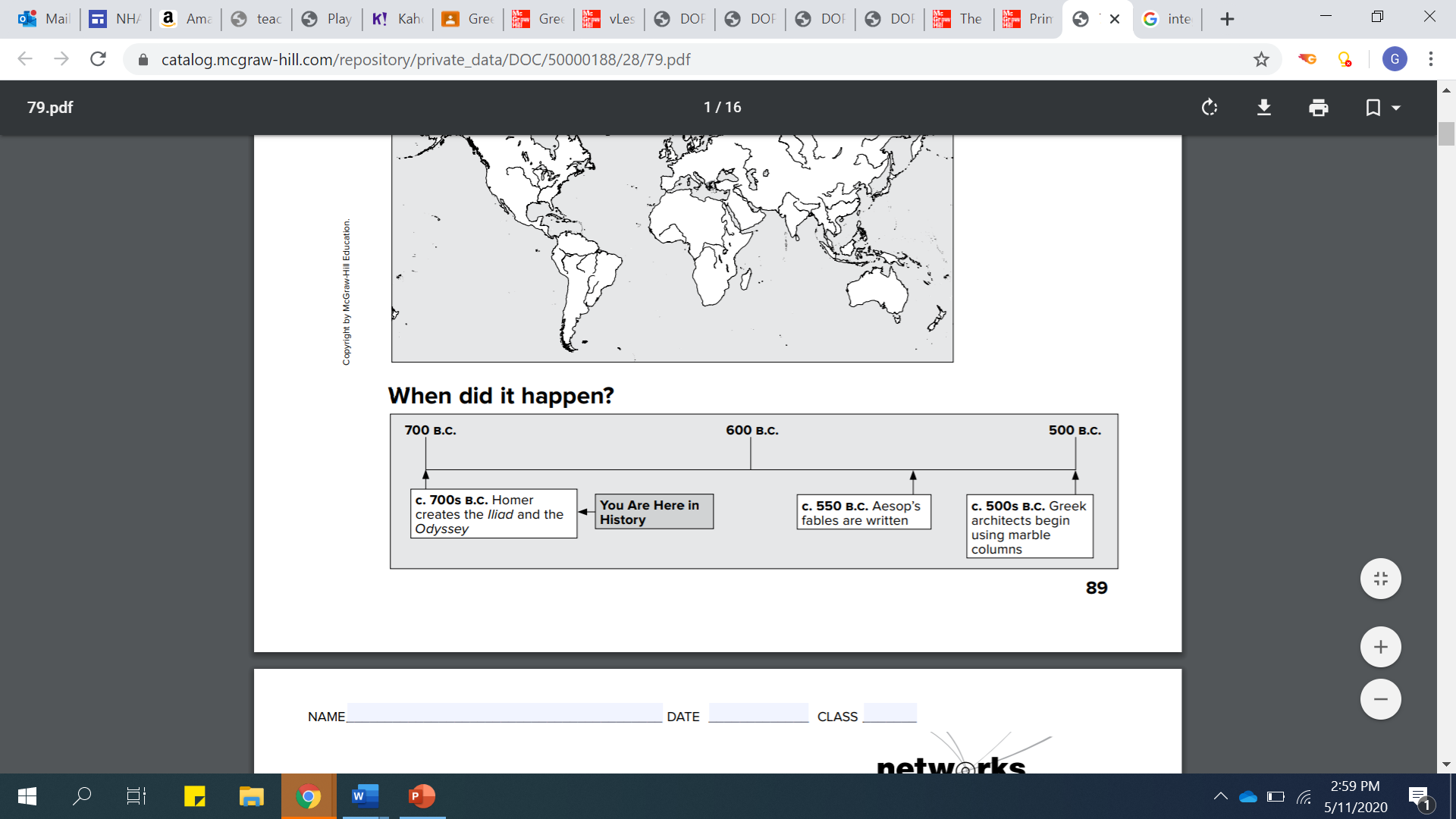
2. What ideas did the Greeks express in their art and architecture?

**Terms to Know**

**drama** a story that is told by the actions and spoken words of actors

**tragedy** a drama in which characters struggle to overcome problems, but fail

**comedy** a drama that tells a humorous story



**The Impact of Greek Drama**

A drama is a story told by people who act out the events. They play the parts of the characters in the story, saying their words and acting out their feelings and actions. Movies, plays, and television shows are often dramas.

The Greeks developed two types of drama—**tragedy and comedy**. A tragedy has an unhappy ending. The characters in a tragedy cannot solve their problems no matter how hard they try. The first Greek plays were tragedies.

Later the Greeks wrote comedies. A comedy ends happily. Today, we use the word comedy to mean a funny story. For the Greeks, a comedy was any drama with a happy ending. In ancient Greece, women were not allowed to act. Men played all the parts, even the female characters. For the Greeks, dramas were part of religious festivals.

Greek dramas dealt with big ideas, such as the meaning of good and evil and the rights of people.

CFU: List **three** kinds of writing that were started by the ancient Greeks.

1

2

3

**Greek Art and Architecture**

Greek artists created art that expressed the ideals of order, balance, and harmony. This style of art is now known as the classical style.

Greek artists painted on pottery, using red and black paint. Large vases often have pictures from myths. Small pieces, like cups, have pictures from everyday life.

The Greeks built beautiful buildings. These buildings had large columns to support the roof. The most important buildings were the temples. Each temple was dedicated to a god or goddess. The Parthenon of Athens honored the goddess Athena.

Many Greek temples were decorated with sculpture. Sculpture, like all of Greek art, expressed artists' ideas of perfection and beauty.

1 How did Greek drama influence how people are entertained today?

2 Why were temples built?

3 How did the Greeks design their buildings?

4 What ideas did the Greeks express in their art and architecture?

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