

# Lesson #27 Worksheet: The Oracle and the Isthmus

## A Classical Kingdoms Activity Packet

**Instructions:** This packet is designed to be used with the Lesson #27 textbook reading on Delphi and Corinth. Complete the activities in each section to build your knowledge, connect ideas, and think deeply about the history and virtues presented in the lesson.

### Grammar Stage: Gather facts, words, and ideas

*What were the foundational stories and key features of Delphi and Corinth?*

#### Part 1: Core Facts

*Instructions: Read each question carefully and circle the best answer.*

1. According to myth, what did Apollo have to do to claim Delphi as his sanctuary?
  - a) Win a chariot race against Zeus
  - b) Slay a monstrous python
  - c) Build a temple in a single day
  - d) Negotiate with Poseidon
2. What was the sacred stone at Delphi, believed to mark the world's center, called?
  - a) Stele
  - b) Acropolis
  - c) Omphalos
  - d) Megalith
3. Who was the legendary founder of Corinth, famous for his cleverness?
  - a) Theseus
  - b) Herakles
  - c) Perseus
  - d) Sisyphus
4. What revolutionary engineering project helped ships cross the Isthmus of Corinth?
  - a) Aqueduct
  - b) Great Wall
  - c) Diolkos
  - d) Lighthouse
5. The Pythian Games were unique because they included competitions in what?
  - a) Naval battles
  - b) Sculpture
  - c) Music and poetry

- d) Drama
6. The Isthmian Games were held in honor of which god?
- a) Apollo
- b) Poseidon
- c) Zeus
- d) Helios

## Part 2: Vocabulary Matcher

*Instructions: Draw a line connecting each term on the left with its correct definition on the right.*

Term		Definition
1. Polis		A. A ruler who seized power by force, not necessarily a cruel one in ancient Greece.
2. Oracle		B. A paved trackway across the Isthmus of Corinth that enabled ships to be moved overland.
3. Tyrant		C. The title of the high priestess of Apollo's temple at Delphi.
4. Panhellenic		D. The Greek word for a city-state, the main political unit in ancient Greece.
5. Diolkos		E. Meaning 'all-Greek,' describing events or institutions shared by all Greek city-states.
6. Pythia		F. A person or agency believed to be a source of divine wisdom or prophecy.

## Logic Stage: Connect ideas, ask questions, and test truth.

*How did the different strengths of Delphi and Corinth shape their influence and development?*

## Part 1: Feature Match-Up

*Instructions: Read each feature below. In the blank space, write whether the feature belongs to **Delphi** or **Corinth**.*

1. Power came from its famous Oracle and spiritual authority.  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Power came from trade and control of a strategic land bridge.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. Famous for the Pythian Games, honoring Apollo with music.  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Home of the Diolkos, an early overland track for ships. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Ruled by ambitious tyrants like Cypselus and Periander.  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Considered the 'omphalos' or navel of the world. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Held the Isthmian Games, famous for thrilling chariot races.  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. Site where city-states built 'Treasures' as political statements.  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Part 2: Word Association

*Instructions: For each topic below, circle the THREE terms that are correctly associated with it.*

- A. The Oracle at Delphi  
Apollo | Pythia | Prophecy | Sisyphus | Poseidon | Diolkos
- B. The Tyrants of Corinth  
Periander | Cypselus | Trade | Democracy | Apollo | Python
- C. The Pythian Games  
Music | Laurel Wreath | Apollo | Chariots | Poseidon | Celery Wreath
- D. The Isthmian Games  
Poseidon | Equestrian Events | Melicertes | Python | Omphalos | Laurel Wreath

## Part 3: Timeline Scramble

*Instructions: The four events below are in the wrong order. Write them in the correct chronological sequence on the numbered lines.*

- The Isthmian Games are established as a major Panhellenic festival. (c. 582 BC)
- Cypselus becomes the first tyrant of Corinth. (c. 657 BC)
- The Bacchiadae clan rules Corinth as an aristocracy. (c. 750 BC)
- The Pythian Games are reorganized as a major Panhellenic festival. (c. 586 BC)

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### **Part 4: Logic Quizzes**

*Instructions: Answer the following questions based on your reading.*

##### **Quiz 1: Sources of Power**

1. What was the title of the priestess who delivered prophecies at Delphi?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. Why was it so important for Greek city-states to consult the Delphic Oracle before founding a new colony?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

##### **Quiz 2: The Great Games**

1. What type of competition was unique to the Pythian Games?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. According to myth, why did Sisyphus first establish the Isthmian Games?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

##### **Quiz 3: Religion and Politics**

1. What is a 'treasury' in the context of a sanctuary like Delphi?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What does the phrase 'competitive piety' mean in relation to the treasuries at Delphi?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### **Rhetoric Stage: Speak clearly, write wisely, and lead well.**

*How did the relationship between religion and politics shape the Greek world?*

##### **Reflective Prompt**

*Instructions: Write a thoughtful response to the prompt below. Consider the historical*

*facts and the classical virtue of Prudence (practical wisdom).*

The Corinthian tyrants, like Periander, were autocratic rulers but also oversaw great periods of prosperity and innovation. Considering the classical virtue of **Prudence**, do you think Periander's decision to build the *Diolkos* was a virtuous act for his city? Explain how a leader's actions can be judged by their outcomes versus their motivations.

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### Share Your Wisdom Checklist

*Instructions: Check the box next to each activity you complete with your family or friends.*

- ☐ I had a wise, interesting discussion about the Reflective Prompt.
- ☐ I shared at least 3 facts from this lesson with someone.
- ☐ We generated a new sense of wonder about history.

## ANSWER KEY

### Grammar Stage

- **Part 1: Core Facts**
  1. b) Slay a monstrous python
  2. c) Omphalos
  3. d) Sisyphus
  4. c) Diolkos
  5. c) Music and poetry
  6. b) Poseidon
- **Part 2: Vocabulary Matcher**
  1. D
  2. F
  3. A
  4. E
  5. B
  6. C

### Logic Stage

- **Part 1: Feature Match-Up**

1. Delphi
2. Corinth
3. Delphi
4. Corinth
5. Corinth
6. Delphi
7. Corinth
8. Delphi

- **Part 2: Word Association**

- A. Circled: Apollo, Pythia, Prophecy
- B. Circled: Periander, Cypselus, Trade
- C. Circled: Music, Laurel Wreath, Apollo
- D. Circled: Poseidon, Equestrian Events, Melicertes

- **Part 3: Timeline Scramble**

1. The Bacchiadae clan rules Corinth as an aristocracy. (c. 750 BC)
2. Cypselus becomes the first tyrant of Corinth. (c. 657 BC)
3. The Pythian Games are reorganized as a major Panhellenic festival. (c. 586 BC)
4. The Isthmian Games are established as a major Panhellenic festival. (c. 582 BC)

- **Part 4: Logic Quizzes**

- **Quiz 1:** 1. The Pythia; 2. The Oracle's blessing gave the new colony divine approval and legitimacy.
- **Quiz 2:** 1. Music and poetry; 2. As funeral games for his dead nephew, Melicertes.
- **Quiz 3:** 1. A small, temple-like building for a city to store its offerings to the god; 2. City-states tried to outdo each other with impressive religious gifts as a form of propaganda and rivalry.