

Humanities I

Unit 2. The Life of an Athenian Leader: Pericles

Discussion and study notes.

1. Compile a list of Pericles attributes - (justify your choice of attribute)
2. Which of these personal attributes do you think contributed to Pericles' ability to lead the city?
3. How can you decide whether or not these characteristics describe a good man?
4. What criteria do you suggest may be the standard against which you can judge whether an individual is, or is not, a good man.
5. According to the criteria you have been establishing, was Pericles a good man?
6. What did Pericles do for Athens? Do you think these achievements contributed to helping Athenians lead the good life?
7. Do modern American leaders do some of the same things that Pericles did? What about public welfare, the building of monumental public works - government sponsorship of plays, pageants, and festivals. Compare - in your discussion the cultural efforts of the American system with that of Russia.
8. Why don't modern cities do more of the things that Pericles did for Athens? What is the chief difference between Pericles' Athens and a great modern city?