



## **Hip Hop History: The Ancient Greeks**

Verse:

A long time ago on the island of Crete  
Minoan civilization spread 'til it influenced the Greeks  
The Mycenaean people, we know them for  
Their involvement in the legend of the Trojan War  
Each Greek community became a city-state,  
Or **polis**, which centered around a marketplace  
And a government center, the polis was small  
**Citizens** with legal rights would meet to make laws  
On a high hill stood the **acropolis**  
The art and practice of government is **politics**  
Some city-states were ruled by kings, monarchies  
Others were run by an **aristocracy**  
Many citizens were farmers who owned land  
**Tenant farmers** paid rent to grow plants  
Foreigners, or **metics**, were often merchants  
People in **slavery** were captured or purchased  
The Greeks used to have an **oligarchy**  
A type of government where a small group rules, see  
Other city-states functioned with **tyrannies**  
Run by a strong ruler, but not a king  
Later, "rule by the people" was a shock to see  
This type of government was called a **democracy**  
Sparta functioned as a **military state**  
Males stayed in **barracks**, military housing while they trained

Chorus:

What is power? Who should have it?  
The rich? A system that's aristocratic?  
Power in the hands of tyrants, perhaps?  
Maybe rule by the people more democratic