The 5th century BC

Marathon, Salamis, and the Parthenon.

The Greeks turned back the Persian Empire, and Athens built the Parthenon, invented tragedy and history, and practiced democracy.

What rose

490–479 BC. Marathon, Thermopylae, Salamis and Plataea. Source: Greco-Persian Wars

458 BC. Aeschylus's Oresteia. Source: Oresteia

447–432 BC. The Parthenon. Source: Parthenon

c. 430 BC. Herodotus's Histories; Hippocrates teaches medicine without gods. Source: Herodotus

What fell or stalled

The Peloponnesian War (431–404 BC) and the plague of Athens. Source: Peloponnesian War

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