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- **Where did drama first develop?**
- **How did Greek drama evolve?**
- **Which features of modern drama are similar to or the same as the ancient Greek drama?**
- **Which features are different?**
 - Drama first developed in Athens from its religious ceremonies in honor of the god Dionysus. The first "dramas" were choral and dance presentations and some were based on stories, such as the Iliad or Odyssey and other hero epics. Eventually an actor was added to respond to the chorus. This was first done by the playwright and actor, Thespis. (We still call actors "thespians" today to honor him as the first actor.) A later playwright added a second actor.
 - Sophocles made even more changes. He added a third actor and reduced the chorus from 18 to 15.
 - In Oedipus Rex, the chorus had 15 members, all teenage boys. They represent the elderly citizens of Athens.
 - Part of the chorus would be sung and danced with the accompaniment of musical instruments like the double flute, drums, tambourine, and sometimes the kithara (something like a guitar).
 - Only men would be actors, no women.
 - There were only three actors with speaking parts.
 - Masks were worn by the actors. When an actor went off stage, he would come back on in another role wearing a different mask. There could only be three actors at a time delivering lines, plus the chorus (which often functioned as an additional character).
 - The theater was in the open-air; there were no spotlights, curtains, microphones, or special effects. The audience had to use its imagination to fill in the scenes with detail. Performances were during the day and began at sunrise.
 - The focus of the performance was upon the language of the play, the poetry and song. Translations into English cannot fully capture the beauty of the original Greek poetry.
 - The contests were part of the Great Dionysia (the biggest celebration after Panatheneia) and were held in March. This celebration lasted for six days. The first day was the day of the sacred parade and sacrifices. The next two days were for the dithyrambic dancing contests. During the last three days the drama contests were presented.
 - The playwright was required to present four plays: three tragedies and one satyr comedy.
 - Ten judges were elected and from them five were chosen by lottery to decide the winner. The winner was announced and the Honorable Archon (magistrate) put on the winner's head a crown of ivy, the holy plant of the god Dionysus.