

Greek Theater

Most Greek cities had a theater. It was in the open air, and was usually a bowl-shaped arena on a hillside. Some theaters were very big, with room for more than 15,000 people.

All the actors were men or boys. The plays were comedies (funny, often poking fun at rulers), or tragedies (sad and serious with a lesson about right and wrong).

Greek actors wore masks made from stiffened linen with holes for eyes and mouth. Actors also wore wigs.

1. Why do you think Greek actors wore masks?
2. What else could Greek actors have done to show what their character was feeling or looked like?