

## TEGEA

Founded by Tegea, son of Lykæon and grandson of Pelasgos, "Tegea" was one of the most important cities of ancient Arcadia and home of the last mythical Arcadian kings.

In the city there was a temple of Athena Alea, built by Scopas. According to the legend, the temple was named after the grandson of Arcada, Alley, who built it.

Inside the temple was an ivory statue of Athena, a statue of Aesculapius, another of Health and the teeth of the boar Erymanthos which were brought to Rome when the Romans annexed the region in the Roman Empire.

Goddess Athena was the patron goddess of the city and in her honor the "Alleaea" races were taking place.

In Tegea there was even a second sanctuary of "Athena Poliatis" and another in the "agora", dedicated to Aphrodite. The city had gymnasium, theater, stadium, "agora" and a House with three hundred members.

During its heyday the city was having 40,000 residents and its own currency.

Prominent Tegeans were the poets Clonas and Anyti, the historian Arianthos, the tragedian Aristarchus, the lawmakers Antisthenes and Krissos. Famous were also the heroes Ancaeos and Epochos, Atalanti, Echemos, Agapinoros and Diotima. Here according to mythology Pan was also born.

Tegeans had taken part in the expedition of the Argonauts, the Trojan War, the Battle of Plataea, the Persian Wars and the Peloponnesian War on the side of the Spartans.

