

George: Good morning everyone and welcome to our class assembly about Tinos island

Ioanna: (says above in Greek)

Safiya: I'm prepped and ready for our spontaneous trip abroad. Where are you thinking?

Georgina: I really don't know... lets look around for some inspiration.

Jonathan: Did you say inspiration? I can help with that! Being a pilot, I have travelled to many places... hmm... ever heard of Tinos island?

Georgina: No! wheres that?

Jonathan: Well...

Everton: Tinos is a beautiful Greek island located in the Aegan sea.

Joseph: It has gorgeous beaches, sparkling turquoise waters and a host of interesting things to see and visit.

Axiah: It's a small island of about 200 square kilometers and has less than 9000 people.

Joshua: It's a great place to visit and the locals are really friendly. In some towns, you will find small festivals where people will dance to traditional music like so

(WHOLE CLASS DANCE)

Michelle: The island is the homeland of renowned great artists of marble carving such as Gyzis, Lytras, Chalepas, Filippotis and Sochos, who have been the last famous names to have held the baton of the island's marble-carving tradition.

Osase: According to the legend, the famous sculptor of the ancient times, Fidas, had taught the secrets of his art to the locals. Their admirable craft is displayed in chapels, fountains, arches and pigeon lofts.

Micah: The island of Tinos is famous for the many intricately designed dovecotes found here. They are fortress like stone structures with two levels of which the lower level is usually used to store utensils and other items.

Manna: It is decorated with both geometric patterns including triangles and rhomboids and non-geometric patterns including cypress trees and variations of the sun. It is believed that these elaborate patterns are the reason why the pigeons are attracted to dovecotes.

Safiya: This place sounds great!

Georgina: Wait a minute... there's something really important I'd like to know...
What's the food like?

Jonathan: Ah yes!

Nathan: Tinos is populated with small, hillside villages where fresh ingredients ensure that Greek dishes and island staples are perfectly created.

Markella: Wherever you go, Tinos delicacies such as agkinaroryzo (a must-try dish of artichokes on rice), wholesome rabbit stew or succulent sun-dried tomatoes will never disappoint.

Ciara: Located between the new and old harbours of the island are Tinos' markets. Bustling with fresh fruit, delicacies and vegetables, this is where you can really feast on the best of the island produce.

Nikolina: Tinos also harnesses the optimal conditions to produce a variety of rich and fresh local cheeses such as traditional Tinos "Kopanisti" cheese.

George: Food is seasonal, so depending on when you visit you can find anything from wild mushrooms to creamy artichokes, capers, Tinos' famous chickpeas and salsitsi – a distinctive kind of salami found especially on the island.

Georgina: Thank you, it's sorted! We are off to Tinos!

Safiya: Wait... we don't even know any key places to visit?

Jonathan: I would definitely recommend the famous church of Panayia Evangelistria...

Alexandra: The Church of Panayia Evangelistria in Tinos is dedicated to an icon discovered in 1823. According to the tradition, Sister Pelayia, a nun from the Monastery Kehrovouniou had a vision: the Mother of God appeared asking her to unearth a buried miracle-working icon.

Ivor: Legend has it that the icon was dug up in a field and as soon as it was brought to light, a hard protective shield like glass covered it.

Jenny: The icon portrays the Virgin Mary kneeling and Her head bent in prayer, pronouncing words written in an open book. Opposite to the Virgin, stands the Archangel Gabriel holding in his left hand a lily, while the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove descends from heaven.

Cheryl: It is also an important place for pilgrims. Every year on the 15th of August many pilgrims make their way travelling 800 metres from the ferry wharf to the church on their hands and knees as sign of devotion.

Safiya: Interesting! We will definitely visit that.

Georgina: Just out of curiosity, are there any fascinating stories on greek mythology?

Jonathan: Hm I can think of two...

Joel: In ancient times, Tinos was called Ophioussa this translates as ophis meaning snake due to the great quantity of snakes crawling on the island. Another name was Ydroussa deriving from hydria meaning water places because of its abundant water.

Alessia: According to mythology, Poseidon, who was the island's protector, chased the snakes away from the island and for that, his worship was very important. This is why an important temple was dedicated to him in Kionia

Abu: Also, Tinos is home to a mountain called Tsiknias - a place believed to have been visited by one of the strongest men on earth...

Safiya: Mr Vradis?

Abu: No! Hercules, the son of Zeus of course!

Georgina: Ah! I am so excited!

Safiya: Ok last question I promise... where can I go to hear traditional live music?

Jonathan: Oo I know!

Daniel: The Tinos World Music Festival was founded in 2013 aiming to include the island of Tinos in a broader intercultural network

Sophia B: It commonly takes place during the months of July, August, and September and has performances by significant musicians from the Balkans and the East Mediterranean. Look! Here is one of their best live bands... Tinos class!

(SING CLASS SONG)

Safiya: Wow, thank you so much for all your help!

Jonathan: Just doing my pilot duties (takes hat off)

Georgina: Byeee... We are off to Tinos!

George: Thank you for listening to our class assembly.

Ioanna: (says above in Greek)