Learning the Library: Dewey Decimal System

What is Dewey? In a nutshell, the Dewey Decimal System is a method of arranging non-fiction materials by subject. There are 10 main classes (see chart) and each class has 10 divisions.

What is a call number? A call number is like an address which helps identify the location of an item on the shelf. You might think about browsing a specific call number to see all the books on a single topic.

Break it down. What that number really means.

900 - History & Geography class
930 - Ancient Civilization
938 - Ancient Greece
938.05 - Peloponnesian War

HELP! I can’t find the book I’m looking for.
HELP! I walked around the building 3 times, I still can’t find it.
HELP! Visit the librarian on-duty at the reference desk on the main floor.
1. In which Dewey class would you find a book about the history of Ancient Greece? 
   Which floor in the Library has these numbers? 
   Go up to this floor and find the book with this call number 938 A5412. What is the Title? 
   Did you have trouble finding it? 
   Break down the call number. Why does this book have this unique number? 

2. Your class is reading The Odyssey by Homer. In which Dewey class would you find this piece of literature? 
   Which floor in the Library contains these numbers? 
   Go up to this floor and find the book with the call number f 883 H766o, Ema. What is the title? 
   Did you have trouble finding it? 
   Break down the call number. Why does this book have this unique number? 

3. You are looking for a good documentary on Greek History to watch on the next no class Saturday. 
   Where are the documentaries located in the Library? 
   Now that you know the call number for Greek History, find a documentary film. What is the call number? 
   What is the title? 

4. You and some friends are trying to remember who was the Greek Goddess of Education and Knowledge. Using the Reference Collection and your understanding of the Dewey Decimal System, see if you can find a resource to find the answer. 
   On which floor is the Reference Collection? 
   In which Dewey class would you find Mythology? 
   Write down the title and call number of the book you found.