

Key vocabulary



Ancient Greece



Need to know Nice to know Super-specialist

ancient	city-state	Parthenon
empire	philosophy	acropolis
Athens	mythology	Corinth
Sparta	climate	Macedonia
gods	titans	Olympia
Olympics	Troy	phalanx
pottery	civilisation	polytheistic
democracy	seafaring	oligarchy
temple	legacy	Persia
theatre	citizen	hoplite

Previous Learning

Greece is a country in Europe.

Greek thinkers contributed to science, such as Archimedes.

Olympic games link back to Ancient Greece.

Greek Myths and Stories such as Aesop's Fables.

Democratic systems based on Athenian democracy.

Future Learning.

Literature, such as plays by Sophocles.

The Roman Empire was influenced by the Greeks.

Philosophy, such as the work of Socrates and Plato.

Art and Architecture, Such as the Venus de Milo or the Parthenon.

FUN FACT

Ancient Greeks use trials by jury, like we do today.

There juries were much larger, up to 500 people!

Map of Ancient Greece

Greece's position next to the sea (there are over 1400 islands) meant Ancient Greeks were a seafaring people. Trade between the islands led to the creation of 'city-states' (polis). Each city-state was ruled by a powerful city, led by a ruler or (later) government. Greece is a warm country, but winds from the Mediterranean, and rains from the north, kept temperatures livable and created fertile farming conditions.



What Was Ancient Greece Famous For?

Ancient Greece is important historically because many things in culture today, especially in modern Europe, have been influenced by the ideas of the **ancient** Greek **civilisation**.

The sculptures, architecture, philosophy, arts, politics and the scientific and mathematical ideas of **ancient** Greece are just some of the things that have had a significant impact on culture today. These things can be referred to as 'legacies' of **ancient** Greece.

Democracy

Around 508 BC, **democracy** was introduced to **ancient** Athens. Listening to the opinions of other people and debating issues was an important part of this system. After debating issues, the **ancient** Athenians would vote. At that time, the only people allowed to take part in **democracy** were adult males who were citizens of Athens.

Ancient Greece Timeline

776 BC – The first Olympic games take place in honour of Greece

600 BC – The first Greek coins are used to buy and sell goods

570 BC – Pythagoras is born. He made major breakthroughs in science and maths

508 BC – Democracy begins in Athens, giving greater power to the people

432 BC – The Parthenon, the most famous building in Athens, is completed

400-300 BC – Socrates, Plato and Aristotle live, advancing learning

336 BC – Alexander the Great is King and completes many conquests

146 BC – Rome conquers Greece, making it a part of the Roman Empire.

Famous Figures

Sophocles - Wrote over 120 plays (Mostly tragedies)

Aesop– Former slave and storyteller who told cautionary fables.

Homer– Legendary poet most famous for the Iliad and Odyssey.

Pythagoras– Philosopher and mathematician, known for right angle proof.

Archimedes– Scientist and mathematician, famous for yelling 'Eureka!' after realising link between density and volume.

Socrates — known as the father of western philosophy.

Plato– Student of Socrates, known for writing 'Republic'.

Aristotle– Student of Plato, pulled together many philosophies. His ideas influenced people for centuries.

Useful Websites

www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics

www.childrensuniversity.manchester.ac.uk/learning-activities/history/ancient-greece/introduction/

www.worldhistory.org/collection/76/daily-life-in-ancient-greece/

www.ducksters.com/history/ancient_greece.php

www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/Greece.html

<https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/history/ancient-greece/>

Recommended Titles

Mark of the Cyclops, Saviour Pirotta & Freya Hartas.

Who let the Gods out? Maz Evans.

Fleeced! Julia Wills.

Percy Jackson and the lightning thief. Rick Riordan.

A visitor's guide to Ancient Greece. Lesley Simms.

So you think you've got it bad? A kid's life in Ancient Greece. Chae Strathie and Marisa Morea.

Ancient Greek Gods



Zeus

Zeus was the king of the Greek gods, who lived on the Mount Olympus. He was also the god of the sky and the god of thunder. He was married to the goddess Hera and his symbol was the lightning bolt. Zeus was believed to be able to control the weather, creating huge storms. It was thought that he could change people into animals as punishment. His two brothers were Hades and Poseidon.

Hades

Hades (brother of Zeus and Poseidon) was the God of the Underworld. He was normally depicted as having a pitchfork and his three-headed dog, Cerberus. He rode a chariot pulled by black horses. The Underworld was where dead people went in Greek Mythology. Hades originally wasn't happy about this, until Zeus reminded him that it meant that all people would eventually be his subjects!



Poseidon

Poseidon (brother of Zeus and Hades) was the God of the sea, earthquakes, and horses. Along with his brothers, he was one of the three most powerful gods. As god of the ocean, he was especially important to sailors and fisherman. He was usually pictured with a trident, curly hair, and a beard. It was thought that Poseidon could create sea storms to ruin ships, or clear weather to help them along.

Hera

As the wife of Zeus, Hera was considered as the queen of Mount Olympus. She was most often considered to be the goddess of women, marriage and childbirth. She was normally pictured wearing long flowing robes and a crown, and holding a scepter. The women of ancient Greece prayed to Hera during childbirth, and to aid them through their marriages. As wife of Zeus, she also had power over the skies.



Apollo

Apollo was the Greek God of music, poetry, light, prophecy and medicine. He was often pictured as a handsome athletic youth with curly hair. Items associated with him are his bow and arrow and his lyre. It was believed that he could see into the future, and heal people. As a punishment, he could bring people illness and disease.

Aphrodite

Aphrodite was the Greek God of love and beauty. She was famous for being the most beautiful of all of the Goddesses. She was often shown as being a beautiful young woman with an apple, scallop shell, dove or swan. It was said that Aphrodite had a belt, which made people fall in love with the wearer. Fighting couples would look to Aphrodite to help them fall in love again.



The Olympic Games

- The first recorded Games was in 776 BC, in Olympia.
- The event was part of a festival to honour the Greek god, Zeus.
- Women were not allowed to compete in the Olympics. This was because ancient Greek women were not treated as equals to men and had fewer freedoms.
- Events included boxing, wrestling, running and chariot racing.
- Some of the evidence about the Games comes from paintings discovered on pottery.



The Trojan War

- The Trojan War is a very famous ancient Greek myth.
- Many people believe that it is a myth but that there is some historical truth behind it.
- The Trojan War (which is believed to have lasted for ten years) was between the Greek and the Trojan Armies.
- In the story, the Greeks pretended to surrender, leaving a gift of a giant horse for the Trojans. The gift was brought inside the city walls. In the night, Greek soldiers hiding inside the horse let the Greek army inside Troy's walls and the city was destroyed.



Greek Gods and Goddesses

- The ancient Greeks believed in many different gods and goddesses. Each god/goddess represented a certain aspect of humanity and each was responsible for certain parts of life too.
- Festivals were held to celebrate the gods and goddesses.
- Animal sacrifice was an important part of ancient Greek worship.
- It is believed that the 12 most powerful gods lived on Mount Olympus.
- The ancient Greek gods and goddesses were included in many of the myths that the ancient Greeks told one another.
- Zeus was the most powerful of all the gods. He was god of the sky and the king of Mount Olympus.