



Ancient Greece

Year 4 are going to take a step back into the lives of the Ancient Greeks. We will explore the birth of the Olympics, Greek mythology, early Greek cookery and the significance of pottery in storytelling.

History

Key Questions

- What do you already know about Ancient Greece?
- What contributions did Ancient Greece give to modern life now?
- Why is a historical timeline so important to understanding history?
- How did life differ for Ancient Greeks living in different city states?



Timeline

- 776 BC – First Olympic Games.
- 750 BC – Early Greek Culture, Homer writes the Iliad and the Odyssey.
- 490 BC – First Persian War – The Battle of Marathon (people run still run marathons today in honor!)
- 440 BC – Greek theatre thrives in Athens.
- 432 BC – The Parthenon in Athens is finished being built.
- 431 BC – War between Athens and Sparta.
- 339 BC – The invention of the catapult.
- 336 BC – Alexander the Great becomes King.
- 229 BC – The Romans first start to interfere in Greece.
- 146 BC – Greece is made part of the Roman Empire.
- 0 AD – Jesus Christ is born.
- 455 AD – End of Roman Empire.
- 1896 AD – Modern Olympic games begin.

Key Vocabulary

Empire	A group of states or countries reigned by a single ruler.
Mythology	A traditional story that is set in the distant past and features supernatural beings or Gods and Goddesses.
Olympics	An international sports competition held every 4 years in honour of the God Zeus.
Invasion	When an unwanted person or group of people (such as an army) enter another country or region.
Democracy	A system of government where people control outcomes by majority voting.
Oligarchy	A small group of people having control of a country or organization.
Legacy	The long-lasting impact of particular events, actions

Key Content

Approximately 2,500 years ago, Greece was one of the most important places in the world. The Greek civilization was known for their warriors, athletes, theatre, architecture, writers and artists. At around 800BC, the Greeks became a prominent force. They held the first Olympic games, successfully fought off the Persians more than once, and began to make significant scientific discoveries.

Ancient Greek culture still influences the world we live in today,

The Ancient Greeks were the first civilization to create a democracy. Greece was divided up into small states, or cities. The most prominent being Athens, Sparta, Corinth and Olympia. Each state had their own government, laws and army. The city states didn't always get along, and so they often fought.

The Romans eventually invaded Greece, taking control of the city states and making Greece part of the Roman Empire. Despite this, the Romans respected the Greeks and copied much of their culture!



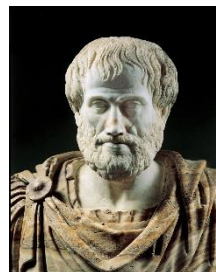
Greece is situated in Southern Europe at the border of Asia. It has a Mediterranean climate and is made up of a mountainous mainland and many different islands that can be found in the Aegean Sea.

Key People



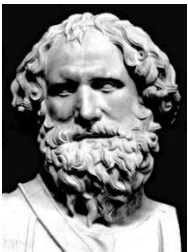
Alexander the Great

He was king of Macedonia and Persia. A great military leader who created the largest



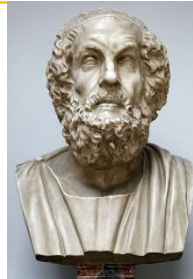
Aristotle

An Ancient Greek philosopher who made huge contributions to mathematics, science



Archimedes

A leading mathematician, scientist and astronomer. He discovered the laws of how levers and pulleys



Homer

An Ancient Greek poet who is famous for his tales of the heroes and Gods of mythology.

Home Learning Suggestions

1. You could make a model of an Ancient Greek temple using things you can find in your house.
2. There are many famous Greek mathematicians, scientists, poets and philosophers. Write a fact file about one or more of them and present your research in an interesting way.