

Ancient Greece Knowledge Organiser

Vocabulary

city states - a city and the surrounding area with its own government and laws.
democracy - Greek word that means **people power**. In Ancient Greece men who were Greek citizens could vote.
Athens - a powerful city state where democracy began.
Sparta - a powerful city state that was a rival to Athens. Sparta's culture was one of battle and warfare.
civilisation - the stage of human social and cultural development and organisation that is considered most advanced.
culture - the ideas, customs/habits, and public behaviour of a particular people or society

Ancient Greek Alphabet

Α	Β	Γ	Δ	Ε	Ζ	Η	Θ	Ι	Κ	Λ	Μ
Alpha	Beta	Gamma	Delta	Epsilon	Zeta	Eta	Theta	Iota	Kappa	Lambda	Mu
Ν	Ξ	Ο	Π	Ρ	Σ	Τ	Υ	Φ	Χ	Ψ	Ω
Nu	Xi	Omicron	Pi	Rho	Sigma	Tau	Upsilon	Phi	Chi	Psi	Omega

City States

Ancient Greece wasn't a single country or empire united under a single government, it was made up of a number of city-states. At the centre of each city-state was a powerful city. The city ruled the lands and area around it. The Greek name for a city-state was "polis". Each city-state, or polis, had its own government. The city of Athens invented the government of democracy and was ruled by the people for many years. The two most powerful and famous city-states were Athens and Sparta, but there were other important and influential city-states in the history of Ancient Greece.

Life in Ancient Greece

Ancient Greece had a warm, dry climate, as Greece does today. Most people lived by farming, fishing and trade. Others were soldiers, scholars, scientists and artists. For many Greeks, life was hard. They were often poor and resources like water, farmland and timber for building could be scarce. For this reason lots of Greeks sailed away to find new lands to settle.

Map of modern Greece



Map of Ancient Greece



Olympic Games

The ancient Olympics were held every four years, during a religious festival honouring Zeus. The Games were named after their location at Olympia.

Greek Mythology

Ancient Greek mythology tells us legends about gods, goddesses, heroes, monsters, warriors and fools. They were an important part of everyday life because they explained everything from religious rituals to the weather, and gave meaning to the world that people saw around them. Most myths are fantasy, such as the legends of King Midas or Hercules, other stories, like the Trojan War, have a basis in historical fact.

Architecture

The Ancient Greeks developed a style of architecture that is still used today. Their temples, theatres and public buildings were built using columns. There were three different styles of columns:



doric



ionic



corinthian



The Parthenon is an Ancient Greek temple that is located in modern day Athens.

Education

In city states, other than Sparta, boys from wealthy families went to school and learnt music, art, literature, science, maths, and politics. Girls didn't go to school. In Sparta, boys were taken away from their families at aged 7 and sent to military school to learn to fight. This was seen as more important than reading and writing. Girls went to school to learn to fight too.

776 BC

The first ever recorded Olympic games are held in Olympia, Greece.

700 BC

Homer writes his poems *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey* at around this date.

508 BC

Male citizens of Athens are given the vote.

500 BC

The Classical Golden Age begins, with lots of interest in the arts, imagination and buildings.

432 BC

The Parthenon, a temple in Athens, is built and dedicated to the goddess Athena.

472 BC

Greek theatre becomes popular.

460 BC

Hippocrates is born. His ideas on the human body and medicine are still used today.

323 BC

Alexander the Great dies.

146 BC

Romans occupy mainland Greece.