



History Knowledge Organiser

Spring Term

Ancient Greeks

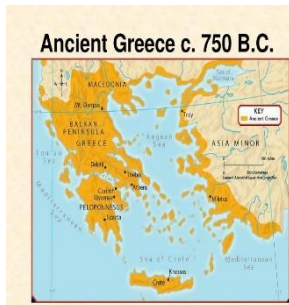
Year 6

Key Knowledge

Learn this information

Ancient Greece

- Greece was divided into city states (polis) that each had their own laws and way of life, but all spoke the same language. Two of the most well-known city states are Athens and Sparta.
- A polis consisted of an urban centre built on a natural acropolis (a type of fortress) or harbour.
- Athens had a democratic government - this means that the people who lived there made decisions by voting.
- In Sparta, life was very different; all that was important was being able to defend Sparta in battle.
- The first Olympic Games were held in 776 BC in the city state Olympia.
- Religion was very important in ancient Greece. They were polytheists - they believed in different gods and goddesses that were in charge of different parts of their lives. For example, the god of the sea or the goddess of wisdom. Temples were built in their honour and they featured heavily in the stories of Greek mythology.



What did the Ancient Greeks do for us?

A lot of Ancient Greek culture is still evident in our lives in Britain today.

- Democracy is the system adopted by Great Britain today, as the people of the country are allowed to vote for the political party we want in charge.
- Many towns and cities have some elements of architectural style, including Doric, Ionic and Corinthian style columns.
- There are many Greek myths and legends which are still told today.
- The ancient Greeks loved sport like we do. They enjoyed the discus, javelin, long jump and boxing. These events are still held in today's Olympic Games.
- Greek men and boys also trained in a gymnasium. We also go to the gym today and, like the Greeks, watch sport in open-air 'stadion' (stadiums).
- Our alphabet is based on the Greek one and there are hundreds of words we use today that come from the Greek Language.

Key Vocabulary

Understand these key words

Vocabulary	Definition
ancient	Something from a very long time ago.
city states	Small areas that ancient Greece was divided into, each with their own governments, laws and army.
Athens	The capital city of Greece.
Athenian	Relating to ancient or modern Athens or its people.
Marathon	Ancient town on the plain of Marathon.
Vote	Voting is a process by which a group of people can decide things fairly when they do not all agree.
Architecture	The science of the design of structures or buildings.
Campaign	A series of planned movements carried out by armed forces.
Hobnail	A short heavy-headed nail used to reinforce the soles of boots.
Parthenon	The temple on the Acropolis in Athens built in the 5 th Century BC.
Legacy	Anything handed down from the past.
Primary source	Information and objects that come from the time being studied
Secondary source	Interpretations of information and objects which are produced after the time being studied.

Key Knowledge

Learn this information

The Olympics

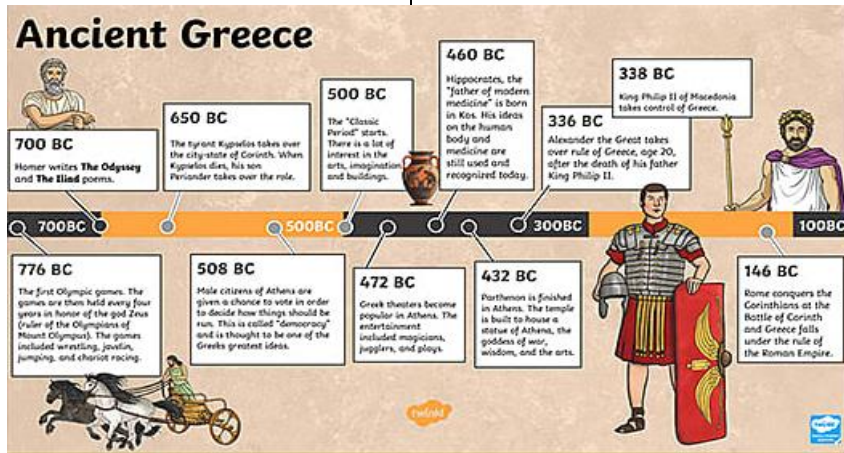
The Olympics were first held in ancient Greece in 776 BC. This is one of the legacies of ancient Greece. Events included boxing, wrestling, running and chariot racing. Women were not allowed to compete in the Olympics.



This was because ancient Greek women were not treated as equals to men and had fewer freedoms. The idea for the marathon also originates from this time.

Democracy

Ancient Athens is where democracy began in around 508 BC. 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. The legacy of democracy still exists today in many parts of the world.



Key Concepts

Society	A group of people living together within a community.
Culture	The ideas or behaviours of a particular group of people/society.
Trade	The action of buying or selling goods.
Monarchy	A form of government that has one ruler, usually either a king or queen.
Ruler	The person in charge who makes overall decisions for a country or empire.
Civilisation	A human society with well-developed rules and government, often where technology and the arts are considered important.
Empire	A group of countries or states that are ruled by one ruler or country.
Democracy	A system where the citizens of a country or state are involved in the way it is run.
Power	The power or ability to act in a certain way.
Discrimination	The unfair treatment of different categories of people.
Kingdom	A country, state, or territory ruled by a king or queen.
Religion	A particular system of faith and worship.