



Autumn 1: Ancient Greece

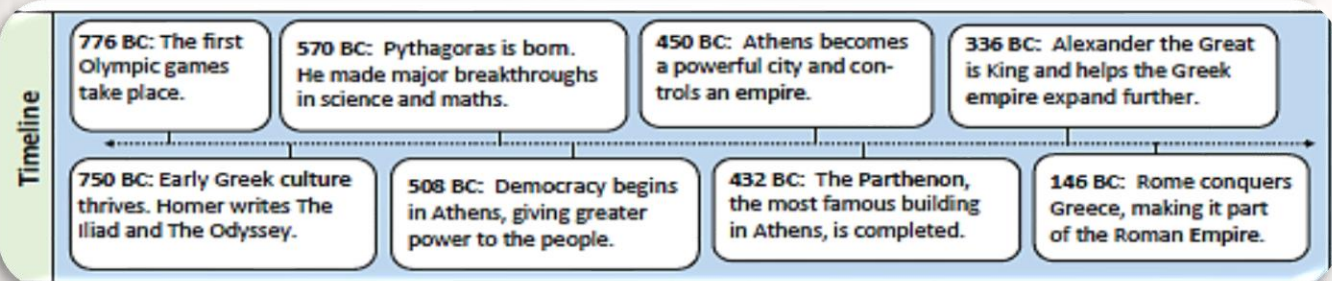
Key Questions

- How can we possibly know so much about the Ancient Greeks who lived over 2,500 years ago?
- What can we work out about everyday life in Ancient Athens from the pottery evidence that remains?
- Why was Athens able to be so strong at this time?
- What was so special about life in 5th Century BC Athens that makes us study it?
- What can we tell about the Ancient Greeks from their interest in the theatre and festivals like the Olympics?
- In what ways have the Ancient Greeks influenced our lives today?



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.

Culture and society
The Ancient Greeks were a very advanced civilisation in many ways. They were the founders of modern day theatre and their impact is still felt today in art, maths, science, philosophy, literature and politics.





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Key Vocab and Glossary

- Athens: largest and most powerful city-state in ancient Greece
- The Acropolis: a settlement built on high ground. It was built in Athens by Pericles during 'The Golden Age of Athens' as a monument to the city's greatness
- The Parthenon: a temple to Athena, the goddess of wisdom, in the middle of the Acropolis in Athens.
- Mount Olympus: highest mountain in Greece and the home of the ancient Greek gods
- Knossos Palace: the home of the Minotaur who lived under the palace on the island of Crete
- Deities: another name for gods and goddesses
- Democracy: a fair political system where all adults vote for an elected government which then makes decisions on how to run the country.
- Philosophy: the study of how people think, why and how they exist and knowledge and thinking generally
- Sparta: a warrior city-state in Ancient Greece that rivalled Athens
- Persia: a large and powerful empire that controlled land from Egypt to India

Ancient Greek Gods

Zeus



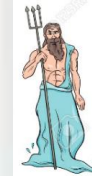
Zeus was the king of the Greek gods, who lived on the Mount Olympus. He was also the god of the sky and the god of thunder. He was married to the goddess Hera and his symbol was the lightning bolt. Zeus was believed to be able to control the weather, creating huge storms. It was thought that he could 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 the queen of Mount Olympus. She was the goddess of women, marriage and childbirth. She was normally pictured wearing long flowing robes and a crown, 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 goddess of love and beauty. She was famous for being the most beautiful of the goddesses. She was often shown 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.

Useful Links

- <http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/greece/athens.htm>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z87tn39>
- <https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/history/greece/10-facts-about-the-ancient-greeks/>