



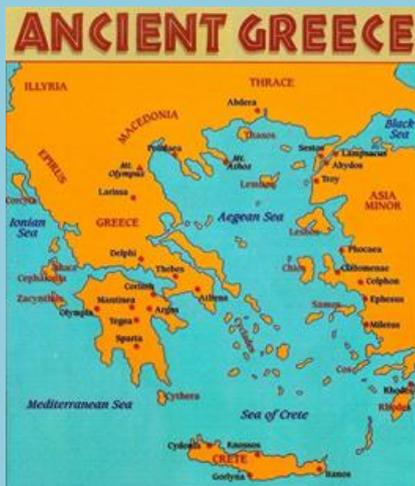
Spring Year 5/6 Greeks

Key facts

- Greece was divided into city states (polis) that each had their own laws and way of life, but that all spoke the same language. Two of the most well-known city states are Athens and Sparta.
- In Athens, Greek styles of art, architecture, philosophy and theatre were developed - these helped shaped our modern society along with science, language and maths.
- Athens had a democratic government - this means that the people who lived there made decisions by voting, like we do in Britain.
- 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 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, such as a god of the sea and a goddess of wisdom. Temples were built in their honour and they featured heavily in the stories of Greek mythology.
- A polis consisted of an urban centre, often fortified and with a sacred centre built on a natural acropolis (citadel) or harbour.

Greece is made up of the mainland and many islands.

Its position meant that the Greeks were a seafaring people.



Key dates

776 BC: The first Olympic games take place. **c. 750 BC:** Early Greek culture thrives. Homer writes *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*. **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. **c. 450 BC:** Athens becomes a powerful city and controls an empire. **432 BC:** The Parthenon, the most famous building in Athens, is completed. **336 BC:** Alexander the Great is King and helps the Greek empire expand further. **146 BC:** Rome conquers Greece, making it part of the Roman Empire.

Vocabulary

Acropolis	means 'high city' in Greek - a rocky mound or hill where they built their important temples
Athens	largest and most powerful Greek state. It was a city with lots of beautiful public buildings, shops and public baths
citadel	a strong building in or near a city, where people could shelter for safety
deity	a god or goddess
democracy	a political system where adults vote for an elected government. This government then makes decisions on how to run the country.
hoplite	a heavily armed foot soldier of ancient Greece
Parthenon	a marble temple, built on the highest part of the Acropolis
philosophy	the study or creation of theories about basic things such as the nature of existence, knowledge, and thought
polis	an ancient Greek city-state
polytheists	the worship of or belief in more than one god
Sparta	a powerful city-state with a famous martial tradition.
trireme	an ancient oar-driven warship powered by about 170 oars men.

Useful links and resources <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z87tn39>

<http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/Greece.html> <https://www.britishmuseum.org/learn/schools/ages-7-11/ancient-greece>

Historical Skills and Enquiry

- Examine *Greek* artefacts (such as vases) and use these to make inferences about the past.
- Describe how *Greek* artefacts and ruins tell us about their culture, military, and religious beliefs.
- Describe how the *Greek* society has had an impact on modern society.
- Discuss the notion of democracy - compare the democratic process of ancient *Greece* with that of modern Britain.
- Examine the timeline of the *Greek* civilisation and consider where there was rapid change and where there was very little change. Explain why this may be the case.
- Compare what was happening in the *Greek* civilisation with what was happening in Britain at the same time.
- Place the chronology of key events of the *Greek* civilisation on a time line with a chronology of the history of Britain. Where are the overlaps?
- Describe the ideas, beliefs and attitudes of all groups of people in the *Greek* civilisation.
- Compare the expansion of the *Greek* empire with that of the British Empire under Queen Victoria.