

Ancient Greece – History – Year 5 – Knowledge Organiser.

Democracy.

Map of Ancient Greece.

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.



Democracy began in the city of Athens- giving more power and voice to the people, they were the first civilization to use a group of people to decide cities laws and paved the way for future governments.

Only men could vote in Ancient Greece and 30,000 men were part of the democracy.

The assembly included all citizens and would decide important laws-like whether or not to go to war.

The council oversaw the day to day running of the government.

The courts handled lawsuits and trials.

Olympics

- The Olympic Games began over 2,700 years again Olympia, Greece
- The Games were part of religious festival held in honour of Zeus, King of the Gods and took place every four years
- They included events such as running, discus, javelin, long jump, wrestling, boxing and chariot racing and the pentathlon



Key Vocabulary

Legacy - This or ideas that are passed down from one generation to another

Culture - The beliefs, customs, arts etc., of a particular society, group, place or time

Government - The system used for being in charge of a country

Democracy - Decisions about who should lead a country are made by the majority of its people

Architecture - The art or science of designing and creating buildings

Philosophy - The study of the basic ideas about knowledge, right and wrong, reasoning and the value of things

Empire - A group of countries that are run by the government or another country

Myth A well-known story, which was made up in the past to explain natural events

War

In ancient times Greece wasn't a single country like today - it was made up of smaller states - who often went to war.

Two of the biggest armies in Greece were the Sparta and Athens - Spartans were trained for war from birth

A Hoplite was a foot soldier - who fought with a long spear and used a large shield for protection.

Hoplites fought as a team using a phalanx structure - they lined up in ranks and linked their shields together.

Gods

- Aprodit**e Goddess of Love and Beauty and Protector of the sailors
- Hera** Goddess of Marriage and Queen of Olympus
- Zeus** God of the Sky and King of Olympus
- Poseidon** God of the Sea
- Apollo** God of Light and Music
- Athena** Goddess of Wisdom
- Hermes** Messenger of the Gods

Alexander the Great



Alexander the Great gained a strong and united Greece when he became King. He used his military genius to then win battle after battle, conquering eastern Europe and Egypt.

Key Fact: He died aged only 32. He accomplished a lot in his short life!

776 BC - The first Olympic games take place in honour of Greece	600 BC - The first Greek coins are used to buy and sell goods	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	432 BC - The Parthenon, the most famous building in Athens, is completed	431 - 404 BC Peloponnesian war between Athens and Sparta	336 BC- Alexander the Great is King and completes many conquests	146 BC - Rome conquers Greece, making it a part of the Roman Empire.
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