



## What legacy have the Ancient Greeks left behind?

### KEY INFORMATION

- Greece's position next to the sea 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 liveable and created fertile farming conditions.
- Ancient Greece was not a country. It was made up of city states. There were often battles between these city states but sometimes they would join together against a common enemy. Important city states of ancient Greece included Athens, Corinth and Sparta.

### PRIOR KNOWLEDGE - where Greece is located on a map of Europe.



### KEY VOCABULARY

1	<b>ancient</b>	Something from a very long time ago
2	<b>civilisation</b>	In this context, the word 'civilisation' is used to describe a human society with well-developed rules and government, often where technology and the arts are considered important.
3	<b>city states</b>	Small areas that ancient Greece was divided into, each with their own governments, laws and army.
4	<b>empire</b>	A group of countries or states that is ruled by one ruler or country.
5	<b>legacies</b>	Things that live on after someone dies or after a civilisation or event ends.
6	<b>democracy</b>	<b>Democracy</b> is a system where the citizens of a country or state are involved in the way it is run.
7	<b>primary source</b>	Information and objects that come from the time being studied.
8	<b>secondary source</b>	Interpretations of information and objects which are produced after the time being studied.

### KEY QUESTIONS

- Who were the ancient Greeks and what have they left behind?
- How did life for men, women and children differ?
- What impact did the Greeks have on culture?
- What was Athenian democracy?
- How important were the Greek gods &
- Why was Alexander so great?

### KEY PLACES

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**The Acropolis**  
The Acropolis of Athens is the best known acropolis in Greece –an acropolis is a settlement built on high ground. It was built during the rules of Pericles, a golden age for Athens, as a monument to the city's greatness.
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**The Parthenon**  
The Parthenon is a temple in the middle of the Acropolis in Athens. It was a temple to Athena, the goddess of wisdom, and originally had a statue to her. It has now stood for nearly 2,500 years, a superb architectural achievement.
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**Mount Olympus**  
Mount Olympus is the highest mountain in Greece. It was believed in Ancient Greek times that when things needed to be decided in the mystical world, the 12 main Gods would gather at Mount Olympus, and that many lived there.

## OTHER INTERESTING FACTS TO EXPLORE OR KNOW

### Olympic Games

The Olympics actually started in Ancient Greece. The games began in 776BC in Olympia.

### The Battle of Marathon

The Battle of Marathon took place in 490 BC between the Athenians and the Persians.

Ancient Greece is important historically because many things in culture today, especially in modern Europe, have been influenced by the ideas of the ancient Greek civilisation.

The sculptures, architecture, philosophy, arts, politics and the scientific and mathematical ideas of ancient Greece are just some of the things that have had a significant impact on culture today. These things can be referred to as 'legacies' of ancient Greece.

## WEBSITES AND PLACES OF INTEREST TO VISIT

The British Museum

BBC Bitesize -

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z87tn39/articles/zxytpv4>

National Geographic -

<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/history/greece/10-facts-about-the-ancient-greeks/>

Dorling Kindersley - <https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/history/ancient-greece/>

### 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 as the queen of Mount Olympus. She was most often considered to be the goddess of women, marriage and childbirth. She was normally pictured wearing long flowing robes and a crown, and 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 God of love and beauty. She was famous for being the most beautiful of all of the Goddesses. She was often shown as being a beautiful young woman 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.

### Timeline

3500 BC

AD 1

AD 1500

