

**Fun Facts**

Democracy started in Ancient Greece.



Between 40% and 80% of the population of Athens were slaves!

The Ancient Greeks exercised naked!



In Ancient Greece, throwing an apple at someone was done to declare your love for them.

The word 'dinosaur' comes from the Ancient Greek Words meaning 'terrible lizard'.



Spartan men were not allowed to live with their families until they left the army at the age of 30.

The Ancient Greeks wouldn't eat beans as they thought they contained the souls of the dead.



Married women were banned from watching the Olympics- if they did and were caught, they would be executed!



**Eureka! – Year 4 – Summer 2**

**Who were the Ancient Greeks?**

The Ancient Greeks lived in Greece and the countries we now call Bulgaria and Turkey over 4000 years ago. The Ancient Greece Empire spread over Europe as far as France in the East. The Ancient Greeks developed new ideas for government, science, art, philosophy and religion. The two most important cities in Ancient Greece were Athens and Sparta. The Greeks invented among other things, Trial by Jury and Democracy. The first Olympics was held in the Ancient Greek city of Olympia.

Throughout history, buildings have been constructed in the style of Ancient Greece. The British Museum is an example of this.

**Ancient Greek Myths**

Created thousands of years ago, Greek myths were epic stories about Greek gods, passed down over generations. They are often about heroic battles and terrible creatures, and taught the importance of bravery, intelligence, and right and wrong. They showed that even the gods, like mortal men, could be punished or rewarded for their actions. Details of these ancient tales have been found on everything from pottery to temples to stone statues!

Greek myths were a huge part of the religion in Ancient Greece, and offer a glimpse into the lives of the ancient people who told them.



Olympics The acropolis



A chiton A Spartan soldier coin

**Greek Gods**

Athena	A goddess famous for her wisdom. She was always dressed in armour. Athens is named after her.
Poseidon	Like the sea he ruled, Poseidon could be either calm or stormy. As you might guess, the god of earthquakes had a short temper. He didn't get along with other gods. He didn't always get along with mortals, either.
Hermes	Hermes was the messenger god. He was young and intelligent-looking. He wore a winged hat and winged sandals, and he carried a magic wand. (We know what he looked like because so many sculptors made statues of him.)
Zeus	Zeus was the king of the gods. He and his brothers Hades and Poseidon were in charge of the whole universe. Hades ruled the Underworld, the world of the dead. Poseidon ruled the seas. Zeus, the greatest of the three, ruled the earth and the sky. He controlled the weather, causing wind and rain. He also caused thunder and lightning. He threw his thunderbolt like a spear.
Aphrodite	She was the goddess of love.
Hera	She was the Queen of the Gods and married to Zeus.

First Ancient Olympics 776 BCE	Darius I of Persia invades Greece 492 BCE	Around 300 Spartans killed at the Battle of Thermopylae 480 BCE	Construction of the Parthenon begins 449 BCE	Alexander becomes King of Macedonia 336 BCE	Death of Alexander the Great 323 BCE
Athens establishes democracy 507 BCE	The Greeks defeat the Persian army at Marathon 490 BCE	Peace between Greece and Persia 449 BCE	Plato establishes the Academy in Athens 380 BCE	Alexander invades Egypt and establishes the City of Alexandria 331 BCE	The Romans invade Greece 146 BCE