

Key Vocabulary

Athenian	Olympics
City-state	Marathon
Civilisation	Gods/Goddesses
Democracy	Philosopher
Empire	Spartan
Persian	War/battle
Olympics	Vote

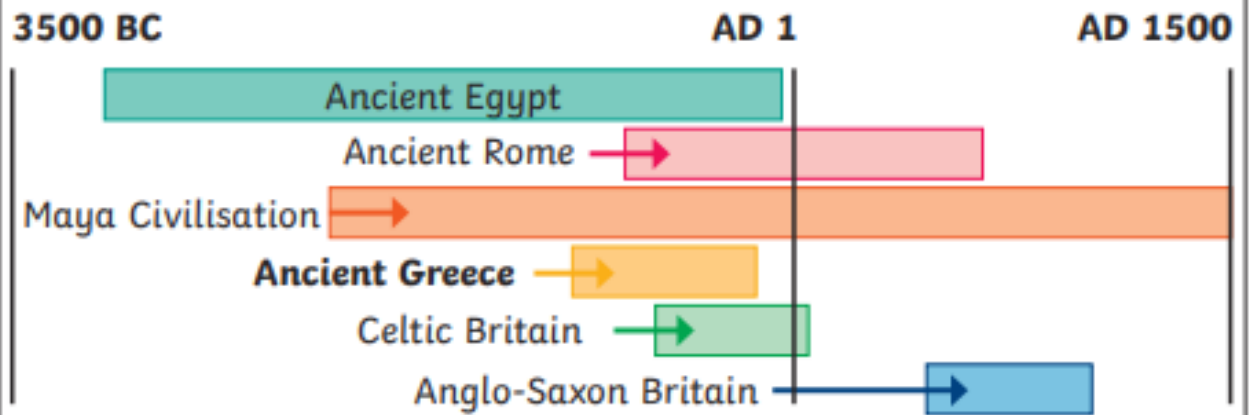
Key Questions:

- Can you explain who the Ancient Greeks were?
- Can you explain the impact the Ancient Greeks had on modern day Britain?
- Can you describe the rise and fall of Ancient Greece?
- Can you place the Ancient Greek period on a timeline?

City States

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.

Timeline



What Was Ancient Greece Famous For?

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.

Democracy

Around 508 BC, **democracy** was introduced to **ancient** Athens. Listening to the opinions of other people and debating issues was an important part of this system. After debating issues, the **ancient** Athenians would vote. At that time, the only people allowed to take part in **democracy** were adult males who were citizens of Athens.

Alexander the Great's Empire

Independent **city states** existed for most of the **ancient** Greek period. However, near the end of this period, King Philip II of Macedonia ruled over all of **ancient** Greece. Later, his son - Alexander the Great - took over the **empire** along with other lands that he conquered.



The Olympic Games

- The first recorded Games was in 776 BC, in Olympia.
- The event was part of a festival to honour the Greek god, Zeus.
- Women were not allowed to compete in the Olympics. This was because **ancient** Greek women were not treated as equals to men and had fewer freedoms.
- Events included boxing, wrestling, running and chariot racing.
- Some of the evidence about the Games comes from paintings discovered on pottery.



The Trojan War

- The Trojan War is a very famous **ancient** Greek myth.
- Many people believe that it is a myth but that there is some historical truth behind it.
- The Trojan War (which is believed to have lasted for ten years) was between the Greek and the Trojan Armies.
- In the story, the Greeks pretended to surrender, leaving a gift of a giant horse for the Trojans. The gift was brought inside the city walls. In the night, Greek soldiers hiding inside the horse let the Greek army inside Troy's walls and the city was destroyed.
- Many poems were written about the Trojan War during the **ancient** Greek period. The most famous poems were written by a poet called Homer.

Greek Gods and Goddesses

- The **ancient** Greeks believed in many different gods and goddesses. Each god/goddess represented a certain aspect of humanity and each was responsible for certain parts of life too.
- Festivals were held to celebrate the gods and goddesses.
- Animal sacrifice was an important part of **ancient** Greek worship.
- It is believed that the 12 most powerful gods lived on Mount Olympus.
- The **ancient** Greek gods and goddesses were included in many of the myths that the **ancient** Greeks told one another.
- Zeus was the most powerful of all the gods. He was god of the sky and the king of Mount Olympus.

