

Keystage history

Knowledge organiser

Ancient Greece



Ancient Greece - timeline

Why this period is important

In your study of Ancient Greece you will learn how a civilization that flourished over 2500 years ago still influences our lives today. Even the Olympic games come from this time, and the Marathon race refers to a special run that was made in the heat of battle between the Athenians and their mighty enemy the Persians. You will discover that during the course of a week you will probably have used a number of words that have their origin in this period, not to mention the fact that the way we run our country, where people have a vote, is called democracy and was something we borrowed from all that time ago. The Ancient Greek word used to describe someone who didn't take the importance of voting seriously was...can you guess? an idiot. Although many of the myths and legends you will learn about come from an earlier period, Ancient Greece is best remembered for the achievements of men and women living in the 5th and 6th century -the Golden Age of Athens. Mathematicians, scientists, poets and philosophers from this period massively influenced what came after and many such as Archimedes have become household names

Ancient Egypt

Ancient Greece

Roman Empire

2000 BC

1200 BC

776BC

650BC

490BC

400BC

350BC

150BC

Palace at Knossos, Crete

Trojan wars

First Olympic games

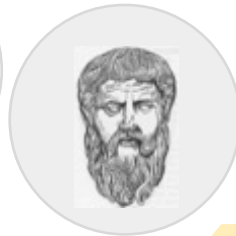
Homer

Battle of Marathon

Wars between Athens and Sparta

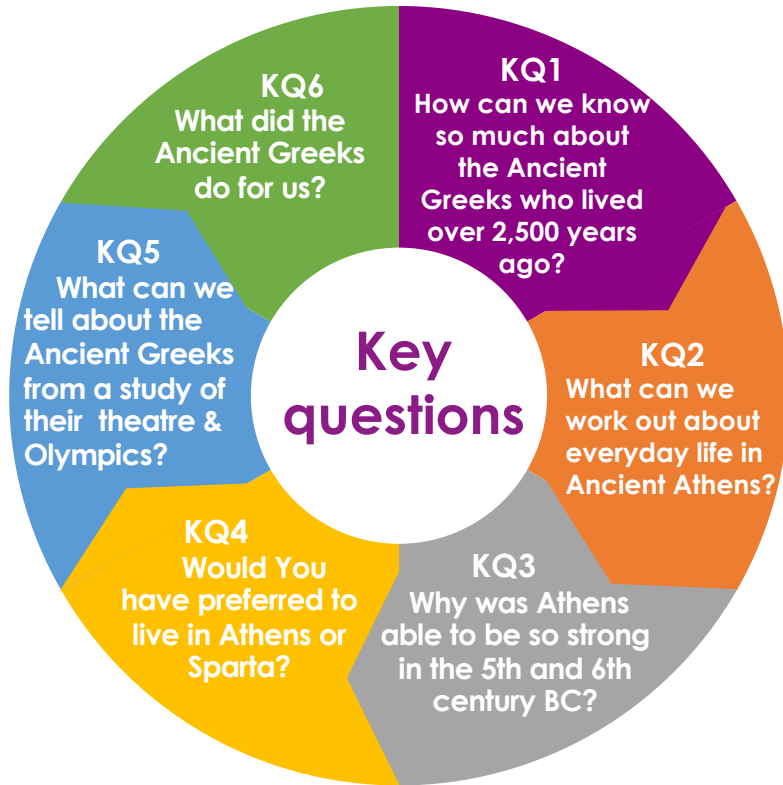
Archimedes

Romans conquer Greece



Golden age of Athens

Ancient Greece



Key vocabulary

Acropolis	The Acropolis was a large rocky area high above Athens containing important buildings such as the Parthenon . Built in the fifth century BC , following the victory against the Persians and the establishment of democracy.
Agora	Busy central area, where people came together to meet and trade, like a marketplace
City state	A city that became powerful and formed its own state with its own government
Democracy	Rule by the people
Helot	Spartan worker owned by the state
Hoplite	Heavily armed Athenian foot soldier
Ostrakon	Piece of broken pottery on which was written the name of a person to be sent out of the country. We use the word ostracism today to describe someone who has been rejected.
Parthenon	Temple in Athens, on the Acropolis, built for the goddess Athena in the 5 th century
Polis	Greek city state

Top takeaways

Having studied this topic I should be able to:

- Explain the main features of Ancient Greek society, especially the role of slaves and women
- Explain the unique way that Ancient Athens was ruled at the time, democracy
- Explain why there was a Golden Age for Athens in the 5th and 6th centuries BC
- Give 3 important examples of Ancient Greek achievements
- Make deductions about what mattered to the Ancient Greeks by studying pot evidence
- Explain ways in which the Greeks have influenced our lives today

Ancient Greece – who's who?

ARCHIMEDES	c. 287 –212 BC	Archimedes lived in Sicily where the king was called Hiero. As Archimedes was such a clever scientist he was often asked by Hiero to help him solve the problems he faced. Archimedes invented a machine called an Archimedes screw.
EUCLID	about 330 BC	He was a mathematician who worked out and wrote down many rules of geometry and maths.
THALES OF MILETUS	640 – 550BC	He was the first Greek thinker to offer a scientific explanation of natural events. He did not rely on myths to explain things.
HIPPOCRATES	c.470 – 400 BC	He was known as the Father of medicine Hippocrates did not believe that illnesses were inflicted by the gods.
SAPPHO	c.612-580 BC	Her poetry has continued to inspire and influence poets for almost 3000 years. She lived on an island where women had a great deal of freedom
PLATO	c.427-347 BC	He started an open-air school of philosophy in a park and sports ground outside Athens. The park was sacred to Academus so Plato's school became known as the Academy, a word still used today for some types of school.
PYTHAGORAS	550 – 500 BC	Pythagoras discovered many things about maths , astronomy and music. Most famously, he investigated a range of number patterns and noticed that any triangles which had sides of three, four and five units were right angled.
PERICLES	c.495 – 429 BC	Pericles was renowned as a brilliant speaker and leader of men. He was an Athenian statesman who was so influential that his time in power became known as the Age of Pericles.
ARISTOTLE	384 – 322 BC	He was both a philosopher and a scientist . He was the first to try to classify all living things into groups. He was the first person to actually put into writing the way we work in science today.
HERODOTUS	484 – 424BC	Herodotus was a historian . His histories are not just an important source of written evidence they are also the first surviving attempt to write history at all.
SOCRATES	469 – 399 BC	This man had attitude! He was a philosopher . He spent his time correcting people's mistakes. You can imagine he was not always the most popular man in town, but boy was he clever!
HOMER	C8th BC	The wisest of all Greeks All we know about him is that he was a wandering poet and was probably blind. However, his two great poems The Iliad and The Odyssey are proof of his brilliance.

Ancient Greece - map

