



# Y4 History – Ancient Greece

## City States

Ancient Greece was not a single country or empire ruled by a single government. It was made up by a number of city-states. At the centre of each of these states was a powerful city. The city ruled the area around it.

Each of the city-states had its own government. Some of the city-states were monarchies ruled by Kings, others were oligarchies ruled by a few powerful men on councils.

The two most famous and powerful city-states were Athens and Sparta. The city of Athens invented the government of democracy and was ruled by the people for many years.



## Types of Government

There were three main types of government:

- Democracy – A government ruled by the people, or assembly.
- Monarchy – A single ruler like a king.
- Oligarchy – Ruled by a small group.

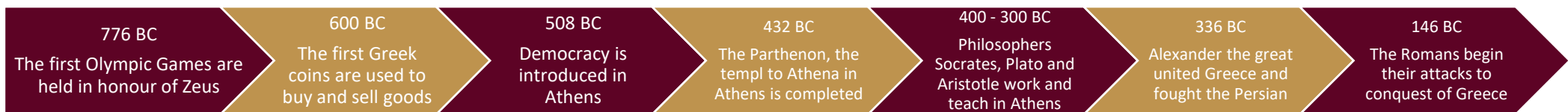
## Athenian Democracy

All Citizens voted on all the laws rather than for people, like we do. Officials did run the government but they were mostly chosen by a lottery so every citizen had a chance.

In order to vote you had to be a citizen, however not everyone was a citizen. You had to be a man and had to have completed military training.

## Vocabulary

<b>Philosophy</b>	A way of thinking about the world, universe and society.
<b>Democracy</b>	Allowing citizens to make their own decisions about their leaders and personal lives.
<b>Olympic Games</b>	Originally a sporting festival in honour of the god, Zeus.
<b>Temple</b>	A building devoted to the worship of a god or gods.
<b>Acropolis</b>	A group of ancient temples built on a high, rocky hill in Athens, Greece.
<b>Truce</b>	When two fighting sides declare peace or a break in a war.
<b>Loincloth</b>	A single piece of cloth wrapped around the hips, typically worn by men in some hot countries as their only clothing.
<b>City State</b>	A city that had its own government and traditions that ruled the area around it.



## European Expedition



# Y4 History – Ancient Greece

## Greek Gods

The Ancient Greeks believed in many different gods and that the family of Gods lived in a cloud palace above Mount Olympus. These gods were thought to have special powers and each had control over a different aspect of life.

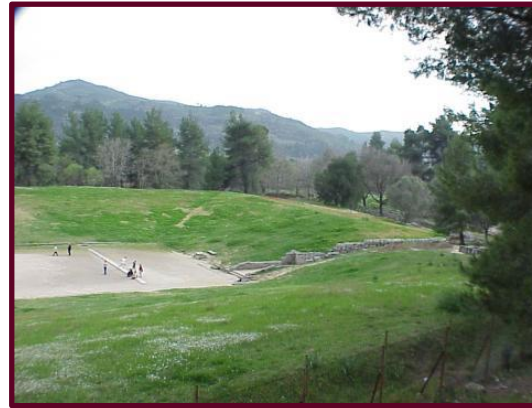
**Zeus** – King of the gods and the most powerful. God of sky and thunder and controlled the weather.

**Hera** – Zeus' wife and queen of the gods. The goddess of women, marriage and family.

**Poseidon** - The brother of Zeus who was god of the sea and earthquakes

**Apollo** – A son of Zeus who was the god of music, arts and medicine.

**Athena** - The Greek goddess of wisdom, skill and war.



## The Ancient Greek Theatre

One of the favourite forms of entertainment for the Ancient Greeks was the theatre.

It began a part of a festival to the god Dionysus but eventually became a major part of Greek culture.

Theatres were quite large and could hold up to 10,000 people. They were open-air and in a bowl shape to allow the actors' voices to be heard throughout the whole theatre. Actors wore costume and in particular masks which had different expressions on them. All the actors were men and they dressed up as women to play a female character.

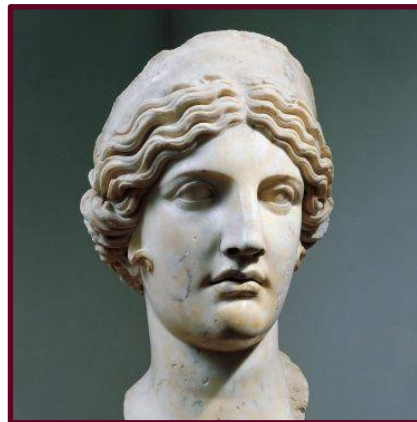
## The Ancient Olympic Games

The Ancient Greeks loved sport and the Olympic Games were the biggest sporting event in their calendar. There were no gold, silver and bronze medals. Winners were given a wreath of leaves and a hero's welcome when they returned home.

The games weren't just about sport, it was a religious festival held in the honour of Zeus. Before the games began, messengers were sent out to announce a truce so that wars were stopped allowing people to travel to the games safely.



Posiedon



Hera

