

Year 5 History – Ancient Greece



Who were the Ancient Greeks?

The Ancient Greeks lived in Greece and the countries we now call Bulgaria and Turkey over 4000 years ago. At its peak spread to other parts of Europe, Africa and Asia.

Greece is mountainous with thousands of islands, leading to many smaller states making up Ancient Greece.

There were often battles between these city states but sometimes they would join together against a common enemy. Important city states included Athens, Corinth and Sparta.



Ancient Greece sport

The first Olympic Games were held at Olympia in 776 BCE in honour of the gods and as part of a wider religious festival.

Ancient Greeks believed that they would offend the Gods if they were to cheat in the Games.

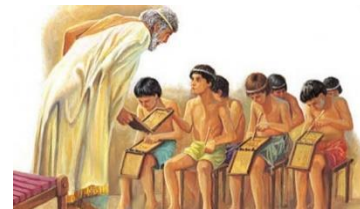
Images on Ancient Greek pottery show us the sports that comprised the ancient Games and that only men could compete.

Key Vocabulary

Acropolis	An acropolis is a fortified citadel within a larger city. It is usually located on top of a hill and at the centre of the city
Democracy	A form of government where citizens have a say in how they are ruled including choosing their leaders and deciding on laws
Olympics	An athletic event held by the Ancient Greeks every four years
Titans	The Titans were the first Greek gods
Tyrant	The ruler of a Greek city-state like a king
Parthenon	An important Greek temple (religious building) in Athens
Empire	Many countries that are ruled by one leader
Athens	The largest and most powerful city state
Sparta	A military city state surrounded by mountains to protect it from invaders.

Education in Ancient Greece

Spartan society focused heavily on military strength, requiring boys to join the army at a young age and neglecting other forms of education. In contrast, Athens valued culture and intellectual development, encouraging diverse education in arts and sciences. This emphasis on learning produced many revolutionary scholars. While Spartans lived a simple, militaristic life, Athenians enjoyed a rich cultural environment with less emphasis on military training.



What did the Greeks believe?

The Greeks had many gods and goddesses and lots of stories and myths that surrounded them.

The Ancient Greeks believed in 12 major gods and goddesses who lived on Mount Olympus.

Greek Gods were associated with different things, e.g. Hera, Queen of the Gods, was associated with marriage and family.

The popular myth of Persephone and the Underworld shows us how the Ancient Greeks explained the change of the seasons.

2500BC The Great Minoan civilisation.	The Great Minoan civilization and the Mycenaeans lived on the Greek mainland. They spoke the Greek language and traded goods with nearby countries.	1200BC The Trojan War and the destruction of Troy.	1100BC- 800BC It is called the 'Dark Ages' because historians do not have many clues about what happened during that time.	776BC The first Olympic Games were held as a festival.	490 BC The Battle of Marathon is won	470-322BC Three of the most famous philosophers of all time (Socrates, Plato and Aristotle) studied and taught in Ancient Greece	336BC-323BC Alexander the Great becomes king.	146 BC Greece falls under the Roman Empire
Minoan & Mycenaean Ages (2200BC-1100BC)		Greek Dark Ages (c. 1100-800 BC)		Archaic Period (c. 800-490 BC)		Classical Period (c. 490-323 BC)		Hellenistic Period (c. 323-146 BC)