

Mexborough St Johns Primary School - History

Topic: Ancient Greeks

Year: 5

Strand: Civilisation

What should I already know?

- Greece is a country in the **continent** of Europe.
- The **climate** of Greece is slightly different to that of the UK.
- Human and physical geographical** features of Greece.
- Information about the Egyptian **civilisation**.

Diagrams



Greece is made up of the mainland and many islands. Its position by the sea meant that the Greeks were a **seafaring** people. City-states (**polis**) were created and **trade** happened between each of the cities. Greece is a warm country, but winds from the Mediterranean, and rains from the north, kept temperatures liveable and created **fertile** farming conditions.

Greek Society

- Greece was divided into city-states (**polis**) that each had their own laws and way of life, but that all spoke the same language. Two of the most well-known city states are Athens and Sparta.
- In Athens, Greek styles of art, **architecture**, **philosophy** and theatre were developed - these helped shaped our modern society along with science, language and maths.
- Athens had a **democratic** government - this means that the people who lived there made decisions by voting, like we do in Britain.
- In Sparta, life was very different; all that was important was being able to defend Sparta in battle.
- The first Olympic games were held in 776 in the city-state Olympia.
- Religion was very important in Ancient Greece. They were **polytheists** - they believed in different gods and goddesses that were in charge of different parts of their lives, such as a god of the sea and a goddess of wisdom. Temples were built in their honour and they featured heavily in the stories of Greek **mythology**.
- A **polis** consisted of an **urban** centre, often fortified and with a sacred centre built on a natural **acropolis (citadel)** or harbour.

Vocabulary

acropolis	the citadel of an ancient Greek city
archaeologist	someone who studies the past by exploring old remains
architecture	the art of planning, designing and constructing buildings
citadel	a strong building in or near a city, where people could shelter for safety
civilisation	a human society with its own social organisation and culture .
climate	the general weather conditions that are typical of it.
continent	a very large area of land that consists of many countries . Europe is a continent .
culture	activities such as the arts and philosophy, which are considered to be important for the development of civilisation
deities	a god or goddess
democracy	a fair political system where all adults vote for an elected government. This government then makes decisions on how to run the country.
human features	features of land that have been impacted by human activity
empire	a number of individual nations that are all controlled by the government or ruler of one particular country
fertile	rich in nutrients to support the growth of many plants
merchant	a person who buys or sells goods in large quantities
mythology	a group of myths, especially all the myths from a particular country, religion, or culture .
philosophy	the study or creation of theories about basic things such as the nature of existence, knowledge, and thought, or about how people should live
physical features	natural features of land
polis	an ancient Greek city-state
Polytheists	the worship of or belief in more than one god
seafaring	working as a sailor or travelling regularly on the sea
society	people in general, thought of as a large organized group
trade	the activity of buying, selling, or exchanging goods or services
urban	belonging to, or relating to, a town or city
warfare	the activity of fighting a war

Historical Skills and Enquiry

- Examine Greek artefacts (such as vases) and use these to make inferences about the past.
- Describe how Greek artefacts and ruins tell us about their **culture**, **military**, and **religious beliefs**.
- Describe how the Greek **society** has had an impact on modern society.
- Discuss the notion of **democracy** - compare the **democratic** process of Ancient Greece with that of modern Britain.
- Examine the timeline of the Greek **civilisation** and consider where there was rapid change and where there was very little change. Explain why this may be the case.
- Compare what was happening in the Greek **civilisation** with what was happening in Britain at the same time.
- Describe the ideas, beliefs and attitudes of all groups of people in the Greek **civilisation**.
- Compare the Greeks with the Egyptian **civilisation** using a Venn diagram.
- Present what you know about the Greeks using a variety of skills (e.g. Geography, English, Maths, Computing, etc)
- Use appropriate vocabulary to communicate about the Greeks.

Timeline
776 BC: The first Olympic games take place.

570 BC: Pythagoras is born. He made major breakthroughs in science and maths.

450 BC: Athens becomes a powerful city and controls an **empire**.

336 BC: Alexander the Great is King and helps the Greek **empire** expand further.

750 BC: Early Greek culture thrives. Homer writes The Iliad and The Odyssey.

508 BC: Democracy begins in Athens, giving greater power to the people.

432 BC: The Parthenon, the most famous building in Athens, is completed.

146 BC: Rome conquers Greece, making it part of the Roman Empire.

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Question 1: Ancient Greeks believed in many gods. They were...	Start of unit:	End of unit:
Christians		
polytheists		
atheists		
agnostics		

Question 2: The Greeks were considered influential to modern society. They contributed ideas about....(tick all that apply)	Start of unit:	End of unit:
philosophy		
theatre		
language		
art		
science		
maths		

Question 3: The Greeks exchanged goods between cities. This is called...	Start of unit:	End of unit:
buying		
trade		
selling		
stealing		

Question 4: We know how the Ancient Greeks lived because of....(tick all that apply)	Start of unit:	End of unit:
ruins		
written accounts from historians		
artefacts		

Question 5: The Greeks invented democracy. This is when...	Start of unit:	End of unit:
everybody is allowed to vote on the decisions made by the government		
the ruler dictates what should happen in a society		
priests were in charge		

Question 6: Greece is made up of many islands and is located by the sea. This meant that the Greeks were....	Start of unit:	End of unit:
pirates		
tourists		
seafaring		
sunbathers		

Question 8: The Olympics were invented by the Greeks as a...	Start of unit:	End of unit:
contest for land		
religious festival		
ritual for sacrifice		
method to see who could win the most gold medals		

Question 9: The Greek empire expanded further under the rule of:	Start of unit:	End of unit:
Homer		
Socrates		
Alexander the Great		
Plato		

Question 7: Greek vases are important to us today because they:	Start of unit:	End of unit:
can inspire artists		
keep flowers alive for longer		
tell us about Ancient Greek life because of the pictures drawn on them		
tell us how we can make our own vases		

Question 10: The Greeks were good at warfare. They used this to...(tick two)	Start of unit:	End of unit:
invade other places not under their control		
defend their land		
trade		
take part in philosophical discussions		