

# Ancient Greece Knowledge Organiser Year 5 Summer Term

## Who were the Ancient Greeks?

The Ancient Greeks lived in Greece and the countries we now call Bulgaria and Turkey over 4000 years ago. The two most important cities in Ancient Greece were Athens and Sparta.



## Ancient Greek Myths

Created thousands of years ago, Greek myths were epic stories about Greek gods,

passed down over generations. They are often about heroic battles and terrible creatures, and taught the importance of bravery, intelligence, and right and wrong. They showed that even the gods, like mortal men, could be punished or rewarded for their actions. Details of these ancient tales have been found on everything from pottery to temples to stone statues!

Greek myths were a huge part of the religion in Ancient Greece, and offer a glimpse into the lives of the ancient people who told them.

## Timeline of events

|                |                                                                                                                          |
|----------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 776BC          | The First Olympics takes place.                                                                                          |
| 621BC          | A lawyer named Draco introduces strict new laws in Athens that are punishable by death. These are called Draconian laws. |
| 600BC          | The First Greek coins are introduced.                                                                                    |
| 508BC          | Democracy is introduced in Athens. Leading to a Golden era, up to 323BC                                                  |
| 490BC          | Battle of Marathon, when Athens defeated the Persian forces of King Darius I.                                            |
| 468BC          | The theatre becomes a very popular form of entertainment.                                                                |
| 432BC          | The Parthenon is built.                                                                                                  |
| 431BC<br>404BC | The Peloponnesian war, in which Sparta eventually defeated Athens.                                                       |
| 386BC          | The famous philosopher Socrates is put to death for corrupting the young people with his teachings.                      |
| 323BC          | The Ancient Greeks begin to lose power and the Ancient Romans start to gain power.                                       |
| 146BC          | Rome conquers Greece making it part of the Roman Empire.                                                                 |



Olympics



A Spartan soldier



The acropolis



coin



Mount Olympus

## Vocabulary

|                     |                                                                                                                                              |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Acropolis</b>    | A fortress within a large city, usually on top of a hill. The Acropolis in Athens is the most famous one.                                    |
| <b>Agora</b>        | A meeting place in the centre of Ancient Greek cities.                                                                                       |
| <b>Athens</b>       | A powerful Greek city-state and where Democracy was born.                                                                                    |
| <b>City state</b>   | A city along with surrounding areas that rules independently (Athens and Sparta are two examples).                                           |
| <b>Civilisation</b> | The stage of human social and cultural development and organisation that is considered most advanced.                                        |
| <b>Culture</b>      | The ideas, customs/habits, and public behaviour of a particular people or society.                                                           |
| <b>Oligarchy</b>    | A type of government where power is held by a few people.                                                                                    |
| <b>Olympics</b>     | A sporting event held by the Ancient Greeks every four years.                                                                                |
| <b>Sparta</b>       | A powerful Greek city-state and rival to Athens, Sparta's culture was based around warfare and battle.                                       |
| <b>Stadion</b>      | The original Olympic event, the stadion was a running race the length of the stadium.                                                        |
| <b>Titans</b>       | The Titans were the first Greek gods. They were overthrown by their children, the Olympians.                                                 |
| <b>Trade</b>        | This is the buying and selling of goods.                                                                                                     |
| <b>Tyrant</b>       | The ruler of a Greek city-state, a tyrant was like a king. Today the word tyrant is used to describe a ruler who rules unfairly or unjustly. |

## Impact on our lives today



### Knowledge Item 1

Democracy began in Ancient Greece.

**demos**= people

**kratos**= rule



### Knowledge Item 2

Ancient Greek myths are still read today. Monsters include Medusa and the minotaur. Heroes include Odysseus and Perseus.

### Knowledge Item 3



Greek architecture has influenced the design of buildings all over the world. The British Museum (London) is an example of this.

### Knowledge Item 4



The Greek alphabet and language influenced us too. Our alphabet was developed using some of the alphabet that the Ancient Greeks used. In fact, the first two letters in the Greek alphabet were 'alpha' and 'beta', which is where we get the word 'alphabet' from!

### Knowledge Item 5



The Olympics started in Ancient Greece.

## Greek Gods

|                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Athena</b>    | A goddess famous for her wisdom. She was always dressed in armour. Athens is named after her.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Poseidon</b>  | Like the sea he ruled, Poseidon could be either calm or stormy. As you might guess, the god of earthquakes had a short temper. He didn't get along with other gods. He didn't always get along with mortals, either.                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Hermes</b>    | Hermes was the messenger god. He was young and intelligent-looking. He wore a winged hat and winged sandals, and he carried a magic wand. (We know what he looked like because so many sculptors made statues of him).                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Zeus</b>      | Zeus was the king of the gods. He and his brothers Hades and Poseidon were in charge of the whole universe. Hades ruled the Underworld, the world of the dead. Poseidon ruled the seas. Zeus, the greatest of the three, ruled the earth and the sky. He controlled the weather, causing wind and rain. He also caused thunder and lightning. He threw his thunderbolt like a spear. |
| <b>Aphrodite</b> | She was the goddess of love.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Hera</b>      | She was the Queen of the Gods and married to Zeus.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |



Zeus



Poseidon



Athena

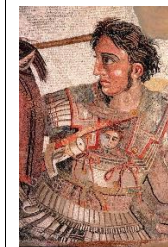
## Key People

**Alexander the Great** was the king of Macedonia or Ancient Greece. He is considered one of the greatest military commanders in history. He conquered much of Asia and Europe.

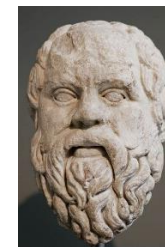
**Aristotle** is the earliest natural historian whose work has survived in some detail. He made many of the first observations of the plant and animal kingdoms.

**Plato** thought about and discussed what makes people human and what is human nature. Plato believed that men and women had the same intellectual powers.

Many ancient Greeks considered **Socrates** to be a very wise man. He did not want to answer questions on the universe like all the other philosophers have done previously he wanted to question things like "what is friendship" or "what is courage". He had a very inquiring mind, which unfortunately resulted in his death.



Alexander the Great



Socrates