

ANCIENT GREECE



Vocabulary

Democracy – allowing citizens to make their own decisions for their own personal lives.

Olympics – the ancient Olympic Games were originally a festival, or celebration of and for Zeus.

Temple – a building devoted to the worship of a god or gods.

BC – Before Christ. A way of dating years before the birth of Jesus. The bigger the number BC, the longer ago in

The period of Greek history we will be Classical Greece (490-350BC). The Ancient Greeks did not think of themselves as belonging to a single country; what made you Greek was a shared culture and language. The Ancient Greeks have left a legacy that can be seen today in modern Europe: civilisation, democracy, scientific and mathematical knowledge and famous plays to name but a few!

Life in Ancient Greece

For the average person, most of their day was spent growing crops and caring for their animals – food was not as readily available as it is today!

However, wealthier citizens may have had the luxury of attending plays and religious festivals. The Ancient Greeks invented the theatre because they loved watching plays and most cities had a theatre.

Male citizens of Athens (a city famous for its culture) held the right to vote in democratic elections, whereas in Sparta, women ran business affairs whilst the men fought in the army.



Timeline of Key Events:

- 505 BC** Cleisthenes introduces democracy in Athens.
- 490 BC** Greek/Persian wars led by Xerxes.
- 468 BC** Sophocles writes his first tragedy.
- 461 BC** Peloponnesian wars begin between Sparta and Athens (to 446 BC).
- 449 BC** Construction of Parthenon begins.
- 443 BC** Pericles leads Athens (to 429 BC).
- 441 BC** Euripides writes his first tragedy.
- 431 BC** Second Peloponnesian wars.
- 430 BC** Outbreak of Bubonic Plague in Athens.
- 420 BC** Construction of Temple of Athena.
- 399 BC** Socrates executed for his opposition to the Thirty Tyrants.
- 386 BC** Plato found the Academy.
- 384 BC** Aristotle born.
- 359 BC** Philip II becomes King of the Greeks.
- 356 BC** Alexander the Great born.
- 356 BC** Alexander the Great defeats Persians at Issus and is given Egypt.
- 323 BC** Alexander the Great dies at Babylon.



Vocabulary

Athens – the birthplace of democracy and the heart of the Ancient Greek civilization.

Sparta – A city state governed by an oligarchy. The Spartans believed that strict discipline and a tough upbringing was the secret to making the best soldiers. It was the only state to hold a professional army.



Did You Know?

Most Ancient Greeks wore a chiton, which was a long t-shirt made from one large piece of cotton. The poor slaves, however, had to make do with a loincloth.

Key Individuals:

Philosophers: Plato, Socrates, Aristotle.

Scientists & Mathematicians: Euclid, Archimedes, Anaximander, Aspasia the Physician.

Gods/Goddesses: Zeus, Athena, Apollo, Demeter, Poseidon, Artemis, Ares, Hera (women in italics).

Writers: Playwrights (Aeschylus, Euripides, Sophocles, Aristophanes). Poets (*Sappho*). Historians (Thucydides, Herodotus).

Culture

The Greeks had style! Their trademark red and black **pottery** was very fashionable, and it was bought and sold all over the Mediterranean and even parts of Asia. They were great builders too. The Greeks built grand **temples** to their gods and superb sculptures of brave heroes. They pretty much invented the **theatre** as well. The Greeks also celebrated the arts with big **festivals**. There was always music, dancing and feasting in honour of their gods.

THE OLYMPICS



The **Olympic** Games began over 2,700 years ago in Olympia, in south west **Greece**. Every four years, around 50,000 people came from all over the **Greek** world to watch and take part.

