

Key Knowledge:

Overview

- In **ancient** times, Greece was not a unified country. It had no central government and instead it was split up into **city states** which had their own government and laws.
- Much of the information that we have of the **Ancient** Greek times comes from pottery from the time and the paintings on these **vases**.
- **Myths** that the **Ancient** Greeks told include: Theseus and the Minotaur, Pandora's Box, Daedalus and Icarus,

Olympics

The **Olympic** games began over 2,700 years ago in Olympia. The games were part of a religious festival held in honour of **Zeus** and took place every four years. They included sports such as running, chariot racing, boxing long jump and wrestling. The **Ancient Olympic** games ended in AD 300 before the modern **Olympics** begun in 1896 in **Athens** with very different sports.



Greek Gods

The Titans were the first or elder gods. These included the parents of **Zeus**. They were overthrown by their children, led by **Zeus**. These Gods are described below.

Zeus	The most powerful of all gods and the king of Mount Olympus.
Poseidon	The god of the sea. The most powerful god except for Zeus .
Ares	The god of war, he was a cruel god and a coward. The son of Zeus and Hera.
Aphrodite	The goddess of love and beauty and the daughter of Zeus .
Hermes	A messenger god, he was the speediest god of them all.
Athena	The goddess of wisdom, her symbol was an owl.
Hades	Hades was the god of the underworld. His brothers were Zeus and Poseidon.
Hera	Queen of the gods and the wife of Zeus . The goddess of marriage, families and birth.
Demeter	The goddess of agriculture and seasons. She controlled the seasons and how well crops grew.
Apollo	The god of many things including sun, music, poetry and art. He was the son of Zeus .
Artemis	The goddess of the hunt, wild animals and young girls. The twin sister of Apollo.
Hephaestus	The god of fire, metal working and sculpture. The son of Zeus and Hera and married to Aphrodite
Dionysus	The god of wine and theatre and was the son of Zeus .
Hestia	The goddess of heart and home. She is the sister of Zeus , Poseidon, Hades and Hera.

Key Vocabulary:

Acropolis	The citadel of an ancient Greek city
Ancient	Belonging to the very distant past.
Athens	The largest and capital city of Greece, they were often at war with Sparta.
BC	Before Christ. A way of dating years before the birth of Jesus. The bigger the number BC , the longer ago it was.
City-state	Greek cities that operated as separate states or countries with their own rules and government.
Civilisation	A particular society at a particular time and place For example, the Ancient Greek civilisation
Democracy	A form of government where citizens have a say in how they are ruled including choosing their leaders and deciding on laws.
Empire	A number of individual nations that are controlled by government or ruler of one particular country.
Mythology	A collection of mythological stories belonging to a culture or religion.
Olympics	An athletic event held by the ancient Greeks every 4 years. The sports involved now have changed significantly from the ancient times.
Parthenon	A former temple on the Athenian acropolis dedicated to the Goddess Athena.
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.
Sparta	A powerful city state during the Ancient Greek times. They were often at war with Athens and were famous for their soldiers.
Trojan Horse	Wooden Horse constructed by the Greeks to obtain entry into the city of Troy.
Vase	Pots made on a potters wheel often painted with aspects of daily life from which historians have learned from.
Zeus	The king of the Gods.

Key Knowledge:

Famous Wars

Trojan War – This war took place around 1300 **BC** between the city of Troy and the **Ancient** Greeks. The war lasted for 10 years and the Greeks won the war by tricking the Trojans into thinking they had won by leaving them a **trojan horse** and hiding soldiers inside. The soldiers then escaped from the horse and defeated the city of Troy.

Athens vs **Sparta** – **Athens** and **Sparta** were two very different **city states** in the **ancient** Greek times and were often at war. **Athens** ruled as a **democracy** and gave children a good education for boys whereas **Sparta** was strictly focussed on war. Girls were not as important in **Athens**. **Sparta** won the wars but never took power over Greece as long as **Athens** stopped trying to fight them.

Battle of Marathon – This war took place in 490 **BC** between the Athenians and Persians. The battle was won by the Greeks and was the end of the first attempt by the Persians to conquer Greece.

Significant People:

Aristotle - **Philosopher** and student of Plato; His ideas influenced western **civilisation** for centuries to come.

Alexander the Great. (356-332 **B.C.**) King of Macedonia who conquered Greece, Persia, Egypt, and the Indus Valley, extending the **empire** as far away as India. He died at 34 years of age.

Homer - Legendary author famous for writing the Iliad & Odyssey

Hippocrates (460-370 **B.C.**) A famous doctor known as the 'father of Western medicine'. Doctors today still take the 'Hippocratic Oath' promising to be good at their job and do their best for patients.

Pythagoras - **Philosopher** & mathematician most known for his right angle proof.

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.
- Explain the timeline of the Greek **civilisation** and consider where there was rapid change and where there was little change and explain why.
- Describe what life was like in the **Ancient** Greek times and consider how lives could be different between the different **Ancient** Greek **city states**.
- Explain how the **Trojan Horse** was used to help the Greeks win the Trojan war.
- Present what you know about the **Ancient** Greeks using a variety of skills.

Timeline of Events

