

Key Dates

2200 BC	Minoan civilisation
1450 BC	End of the Minoan civilisation
1400 BC	Start of the Mycenaean civilisation
1100 BC	End of the Mycenaean civilisation; beginning of the Dark Ages in Ancient Greece
800 BC	End of the Dark Ages; beginning of the Archaic period
580 BC	Pythagoras was born
500 BC	Democracy started in Athens
480 BC	Start of the Classical Golden Age
336 BC	Alexander the Great became king
323 BC	Start of the Hellenistic period
146 BC	The Romans invade Ancient Greece.
31 BC	The Romans take control of the Greek Empire.
30 BC	End of the Hellenistic period

Key Events, Facts and People

The Ancient Greeks lived around 3,500 years ago and their legacy shapes the world we live in today. They are famous for being at the forefront of developments in history, philosophy, athletics, culture, architecture, literature, politics, art, pottery, maths, science and festivals.

Ancient Greece was a civilization that dominated much of the Mediterranean area thousands of years ago. At its peak under Alexander the Great, ancient Greece ruled much of Europe and western Asia.

The Greeks came before the Romans and a lot of the Roman culture was influenced by the Greeks.

Philosophy



Philosophy (meaning 'love of wisdom') was developed by the ancient Greeks. Famous philosophers such as Pythagoras, Socrates, Plato and Aristotle still influence our thinking today: Pythagoras created the first maths formula, Socrates developed the Socratic method used to discuss ideas, Plato's ideas on ethics are still debated today, and Aristotle laid the foundations for modern science.

Key Vocabulary

assembly	A democratic organisation in ancient Athens where all men could vote on laws.
democracy	Means 'rule by the people' - the people elect the government.
direct democracy	A system of government in ancient Greece which gave all men the right to vote.
ethics	Moral principles
government	The system of rules and the people who make them, to rule a country.
period	A historical section of time with distinct features.
philosophy	The 'love of wisdom' in which people think and ask basic questions about human life.
oligarchy	A system of government in ancient Greece in which only a few people held power.
representative democracy	People elect representatives or other people to speak for them.

Key Questions

- Who were the Greeks and when did they live?
- What did the Greeks believe?
- How was Ancient Greece governed?
- Did the Ancient Greeks give us democracy?
- How do Greek philosophers influence us today?
- What did the Greeks do for us?

Unit Outcomes

- ✓ Describe the features of ancient Greece.
- ✓ Identify the key periods in the ancient Greek civilisation.
- ✓ Make inferences about Greek gods.
- ✓ Research a Greek god.
- ✓ Compare Athens and Sparta.
- ✓ Understand the different types of democracy.
- ✓ Explain how Athenian democracy worked.
- ✓ Explain what philosophy is.
- ✓ Identify the achievements of the ancient Greek philosophers.
- ✓ Identify the ancient Greeks' legacies and their impact

The Ancient Greeks gave us

The Greeks loved sport. They enjoyed the discus, javelin, long jump, boxing and horse racing. Athletes prayed to the goddess of Victory - Nike. The Olympics began in Ancient Greece, as did the marathon. Today, the Olympics are held every four years.



The Ancient Greeks invented theatre and also many different genres, including the comedy and tragedy.



Links to other Subjects

The English language

Α Β Χ Δ
Ε Η Γ Ι
Κ Λ Μ Ν
Ω Ο Φ Π
Ψ Ρ Σ Τ
Θ Υ Ξ Ζ

Many words in the English language (such as character, comedy, democracy, dinosaur, drama, planet, geography, and technology) originated from Greek. The Greek alphabet (alphabetum) contributed ten letters to the English language. Moreover, the word alphabet comes from the Greek letters alpha and beta.



English - a narrative about myths and legends

Reading - The Orchard Book of Greek Myths - Geraldine McCaughrean
Greek Heroes - Geraldine McCaughrean

ICT - planning a route and creating a planning brochure to Greece

Music - explore and name musical instruments from Ancient Greece

Art - Study Ancient Greek vases and pottery (style, colour, pattern) before sculpting own vase from clay

Gods and goddesses



The ancient Greeks believed 12 gods and goddesses lived on Mount Olympus. The Greeks prayed to them at home and in temples and ran sporting events and festivals in their honour. They believed that if something went wrong, the gods were unhappy with them. The characters, images and abilities of the Greek gods and goddesses have influenced modern-day movies, animations, books, comics and video games.