

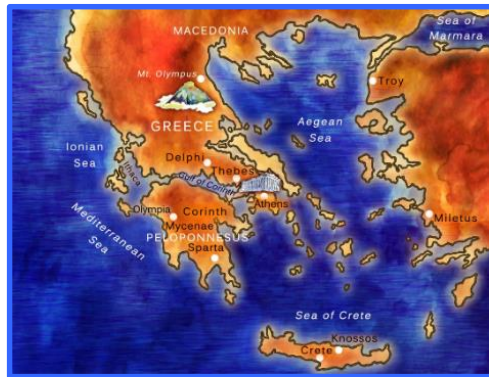


ANCIENT GREECE: WHY IS ANCIENT GREECE STILL IMPORTANT TODAY?



Map of Ancient Greece

Greece's position next to the sea (there are over 1400 islands), meant Ancient Greeks were a seafaring people. Trade between the islands led to the creation of 'city-states' (polis). Each city-state was ruled by a powerful city, led by a ruler or (later) government. Greece is a warm country, but winds from the Mediterranean, and rains from the north, kept temperatures livable and created fertile farming conditions.



Ancient Greece was not a country. It was made up of city states. There were often battles between these city states but sometimes they would join together to defend themselves from a common enemy. Important city states of ancient Greece included Athens, Corinth and Sparta

Ancient Greek City States



Mount Olympus



The Acropolis

Key Vocabulary

ancient	Something from a very long time ago.
civilisation	A human society with well developed rules and government, often where technology and the arts are considered important.
city states	Small areas that ancient Greece was divided into, each with their own governments, laws and army
empire	A group of countries or states that are ruled by one ruler or country.
legacies	Things that exist after someone dies or after a civilisation or event ends.
democracy	A system where the citizens of a country or state are involved in the way it is run.
Top Takeaways	Top Takeaways
philosophy	The study of ideas about knowledge, truth and the meaning of life.

Greek Gods and Goddesses

The ancient Greeks believed in many different gods and goddesses. Each god/goddess represented a certain aspect of humanity and each was responsible for certain parts of life too.

- Festivals were held to celebrate the gods and goddesses.
- It is believed that the 12 most powerful gods lived on Mount Olympus.
- Zeus was the most powerful of all the gods. He was god of the sky and the king of Mount Olympus.



The Olympics



The Olympics were first held in ancient Greece in 776 BC. This is one of the legacies of ancient Greece. Events included boxing, wrestling, running and chariot racing. Women were not allowed to compete in the Olympics. This was because ancient Greek women were not treated as equals to men and had fewer freedoms. The idea for the marathon also originates from this time.

Democracy

Ancient Athens is where democracy began in around 508 BC. Listening to the opinions of other people and debating issues was an important part of this system. After debating issues, the ancient Athenians would vote. At that time, the only people allowed to take part in democracy were adult males who were citizens of Athens. The legacy of democracy still exists today in many parts of the world.



Alexander the Great

Top Takeaways

After finishing this topic you should be able to:

- Find out when and where the Ancient Greeks lived.
- Place important events on a timeline.
- Understand what city-states were.
- Explore Alexander the Great's impact.
- Analyse what happened at the Battle of Marathon.
- Know about the Greek gods and goddesses.
- Understand the importance of the Olympics.
- Explore key ideas from Greek philosophy.
- Find out about daily life for Ancient Greek children.
- Explore the impact and legacy of Ancient Greece on modern life.

Myths

The Trojan War is a very famous ancient Greek myth.

- Many people believe that it is a myth but that there is some historical truth behind it.
- The Trojan War was between the Greek and the Trojan Armies.
- In the story, the Greeks pretended to surrender, leaving a gift of a giant horse for the Trojans. The gift was brought inside the city walls. During the night, Greek soldiers hiding inside the horse let the Greek army inside Troy's walls and the city was destroyed



Ancient Greece Timeline

776 BC – The first Olympic games take place in honour of Greece

600 BC – The first Greek coins are used to buy and sell goods

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

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

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

400-300 BC – Socrates, Plato and Aristotle live, advancing learning

336 BC – Alexander the Great is King and completes many conquests

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