

ANCIENT GREEKS YEAR 4/5

Key Vocabulary

ancient	Something from a very long time ago.
Athenian	People from the Greek city of Athens.
city state	A small area that ancient Greece was divided into which had its own government, laws and army.
civilisation	The people, culture and way of life of a certain area.
democracy	A fair political system where adults vote for an elected government who then make decisions on how to run the country.
empire	A group of countries that is ruled by one ruler or country.
honour	To show respect and admiration for someone or something.
Persian	People from the area of Persia.
philosopher	Someone who studies the idea of right and wrong, the value of things and knowledge.
Spartans	People from the Greek city of Sparta.

The Olympic Games

- Began in 776 BC in Olympia.
- Believed to be a religious event to **honour** Zeus, the King of the Gods.
- Events included boxing, wrestling, long-distance running and chariot racing.
- Some of the evidence about the games comes from paintings discovered on vases.



Battles and Wars

Battles took place between different **city states** but when an outside enemy attacked, these **city states** would sometimes join forces.

The Battle of Marathon

- The **Athenians** were being invaded by the **Persians** and needed more soldiers to help them fight.
- Pheidippides was sent to run to Sparta to ask them to join forces with the **Athenians**. He ran 26 miles from Athens to Sparta which took him two days.
- The **Spartans** said they would help but only after they had finished celebrating a festival.
- Pheidippides ran all the way back to Athens to tell them they would have to wait.
- The **Athenian** army couldn't wait and unbelievably, with strong fighting strategies, they were victorious.
- Pheidippides ran all the way back to Athens to tell them of the army's victory but when he arrived after delivering the message, he died.



Greek Gods and Goddesses

- The **ancient** Greeks believed that their gods and goddesses controlled everything and should be respected and **honoured**.
- Temples and shrines were built as places of worship.
- Festivals were held to celebrate the gods and goddesses and people would make offerings to them in the hope of being granted good fortune.
- It is believed that the 12 most powerful gods lived on Mount Olympus.
- Stories were told about the gods and goddesses and included heroic quests and scary beasts.



Zeus

- The most powerful of all the gods.
- God of the Sky and the King of Mount Olympus.
- His temper affected the weather, and when he was angry he threw thunderbolts.

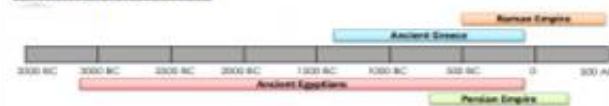


Hera

- The sister and wife of Zeus.
- She was powerful and beautiful but very jealous and vain.
- Hera is an earth goddess and the goddess of family and marriage.



CHRONOLOGY



Timeline	
2900 - 2000 BC	The Bronze Age when Early Aegean cultures start to emerge
2500 BC	The great Minoan civilisation
1200 BC	The Trojan War and the destruction of Troy
1050 - 750 BC	The Dark Ages of Greece
850 - 700 BC	Development of the first Greek Alphabet
776 BC	The first Olympic Games are staged
650 BC	The Rise of the Greek tyrants
600 BC	Greek Coin currency introduced
500 - 323 BC	The Greek Classical Period
490 BC	Greek/Persian Wars led by Xerxes
333 BC	Alexander the Great defeats the Persians at Issus and is given Egypt by the Persian Satrap
86 BC	The Roman General Sulla captures Athens

LOCATION

ANCIENT GREECE



MODERN DAY GREECE



SOCIETY

The Greeks were great thinkers, warriors, writers, actors, athletes, artists, architects and politicians.

FAMILY LIFE – most people lived in villages in the countryside. Many Greeks were poor and life was hard. Ancient Greek homes were built around a courtyard or garden.

RELIGION – The Greeks believed that gods and goddesses watched over them. They were like humans but lived forever and were more powerful. The most famous temple in Greece is the Parthenon in Athens, dedicated to the goddess Athena.



WARFARE – Greece was made up of lots of smaller states and they often went to war with one another or with foreign enemies. Soldiers would lock their shields together with their spears pointing out of the top, this was called a phalanx.



LEGACY – Over 3000 years later we are still using Ancient Greek ideas in maths, science and art. Our alphabet is based on the Greek one and in the dictionary you'll find hundreds of words that come from the Greek language.

The Greeks development of democracy is still our main form of government today. They also invented the theatre and the Olympic Games which we still enjoy today.

Alexander the Great (the King of Macedonia) led his army all over Greece, Persia, Egypt and even parts of India and spread the ideas of the Greeks. When he died the Romans continued to spread their ideas to more countries, including Britain.

The Ancient Greeks

Descriptive Words



What Were the Ancient Olympics Like?

anticipated, busy, noisy,
packed, planned, popular,
renowned, special

What Was Ancient Greek Food Like?

cooked, enjoyed, fresh, harvested, healthy,
hunted, mixed, prepared, sweet

What Was Ancient Greek Architecture Like?

angular, carved, designed,
impressive, magnificent,
measured, precise,
spectacular, sturdy

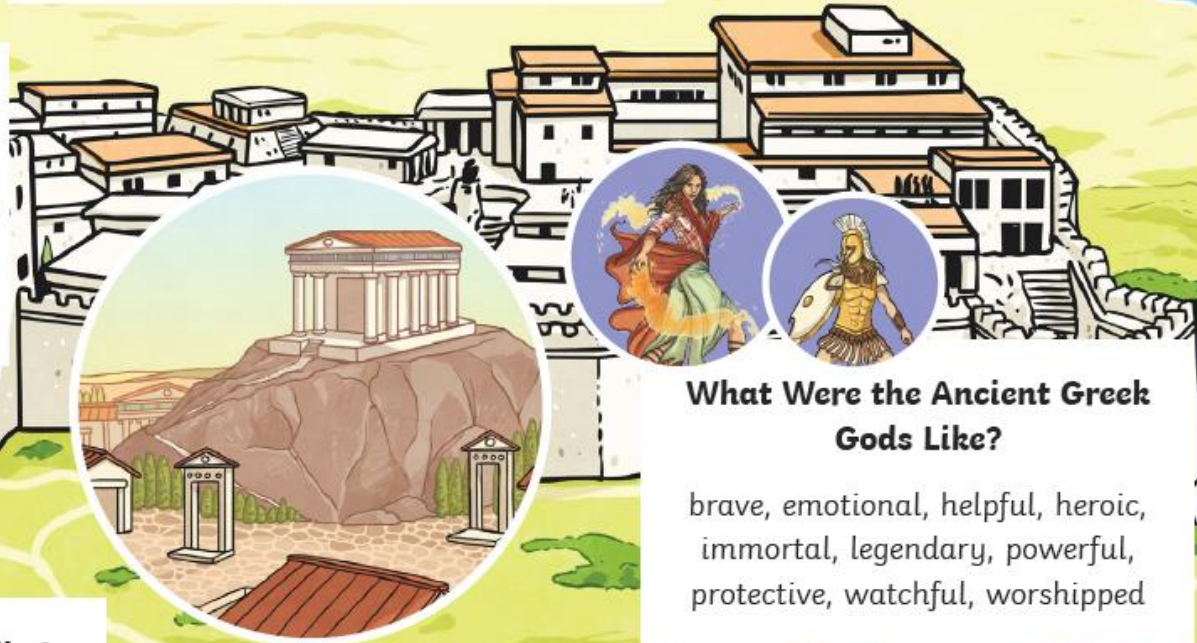
What Were the Ancient Greek People Like?

artistic, competitive, creative,
important, intelligent, inventive,
musical, organised, philosophical,
political, religious, social



What Was Ancient Greek Clothing Like?

airy, colourful, dyed, light, long, loose, pinned,
plain, practical, seasonal



What Were the Ancient Greek Gods Like?

brave, emotional, helpful, heroic,
immortal, legendary, powerful,
protective, watchful, worshipped

What Was the Landscape Like?

beautiful, breathtaking, coastal, dry, dusty, hot,
inhabited, mild, mountainous, rocky