

**Greeks, Gods and Games**  
**History Knowledge Organiser Year 6 Term 3-4**

**Key People**

**Key Questions**

- How did they give us Democracy?
- How did their Alphabet impact on the words used in our language now?
- What cultural impact did the Greek Theatres have?
- Why is the Olympics significant in Greek History?
- What beliefs did the Ancient Greeks have?

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

**Key Knowledge**

What I should already know

Greece is a country in the continent of Europe. The climate of Greece is slightly different to that of the UK. Human and physical geographical features of Greece.

What I will know by the end of the unit

- Democracy began in Ancient Greece when citizens of Athens were invited to vote when a new law was passed. We live in a democratic society in Britain today
- The Greeks developed the first writing system. We still use many of their symbols today and lots of words we use are derived from Greek words. For example, the word *dinosaur* comes from the Greek meaning 'terrible lizard'. What others can you find?
- The Greeks invented theatre! They came up with many of the genres too including tragedy and comedy
- The Olympics began as a religious festival in honour of Zeus and celebrated the fittest and strongest Greek men
- Religion was very important in Ancient Greece. They were **polytheists** - they believed in different gods and goddesses that were in charge of different parts of their lives, such as a god of the sea and a goddess of wisdom. Temples were built in their honour and they featured heavily in the stories of Greek mythology
- In Athens, Greek styles of art, architecture, philosophy and theatre were developed - these helped shaped our modern society along with science, language and maths.
- In Sparta, was very different; all that was important was being able to defend Sparta in battle.

**Aesop:** a Greek storyteller who created many fables such as 'The Tortoise and the Hare' and 'The Wind and the Sun'.

**Aristotle-** a Greek philosopher during the Classical period in Ancient Greece

**Gods and goddesses**



**Key Vocabulary**

**Archaeologist-** someone who studies the past by exploring old remains architecture the art of planning, designing and constructing buildings

**City states (polis):** were like very small countries with just one city. Each had their own government. Famous city states include Athens, Sparta, Thebes and Corinth.

**Civilisation-** a human society with its own social organisation and culture.

**Climate-** the general weather conditions that are typical of it. **Culture-** activities such as the arts and philosophy, which are considered to be important for the development of civilisation

**Democracy-** a fair political system where all adults vote for an elected government. This government then makes decisions on how to run the country.

**Empire-** a number of individual nations that are all controlled by the government or ruler of one particular country

**Mythology** a group of myths, especially all the myths from a particular country, religion, or culture.

**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

**Polis -** an ancient Greek city-state polytheists the worship of or belief in more than one god

**Settlement-** a locality or populated place is a

**Useful websites**

- <https://www.mysteriesintime.co.uk/ancient-greece-for-kids>
- <http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/Greece.html>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z87tn39>

**Map of Ancient Greece**



**Parthenon**



Ancient Greek temple, dedicated to the goddess Athena



**Mount Olympus:** Home to the 12 major gods and goddesses known as the Olympians