

The Olympic Games

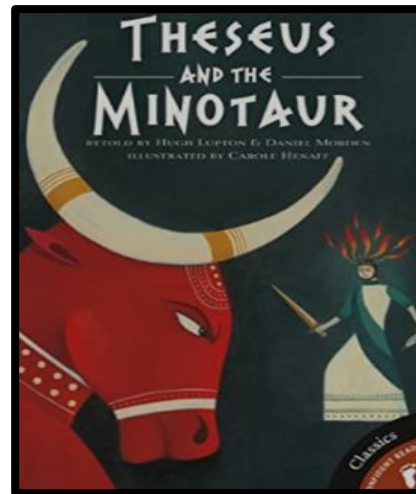
The first recorded Games was in 776 BC, in Olympia.

- The event was part of a festival to honour the Greek god, Zeus.
- 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.
- Events included boxing, wrestling, running and chariot racing.
- Some of the evidence about the Games comes from paintings discovered on pottery.



Greek Myths

The Ancient Greeks used myths about Gods to help them understand things happening around them such as the forces of nature. There were sea gods, woodland gods, sky gods, underwater gods, half-gods and human heroes undertaking courageous or romantic adventures.



Gods and Goddesses

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.
- Animal sacrifice was an important part of ancient Greek worship.
- It is believed that the 12 most powerful gods lived on Mount Olympus.
- The ancient Greek gods and goddesses were included in many of the myths that the ancient Greeks told one another.
- Zeus was the most powerful of all the gods. He was god of the sky and the king of Mount Olympus.



City States (POLIS)

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 against a common enemy. Important city states of ancient Greece included Athens, Corinth and Sparta.



How did the Ancient Greeks Influence my Life?



The Ancient Greeks lived in Greece and the countries we now call Bulgaria and Turkey over 4000 years ago. The two most important cities in Ancient Greece were Athens and Sparta.

Greece is in southern Europe
Surrounded by 3 seas

- Mediterranean
- Ionian
- Aegean

The mainland is 80% mountains.

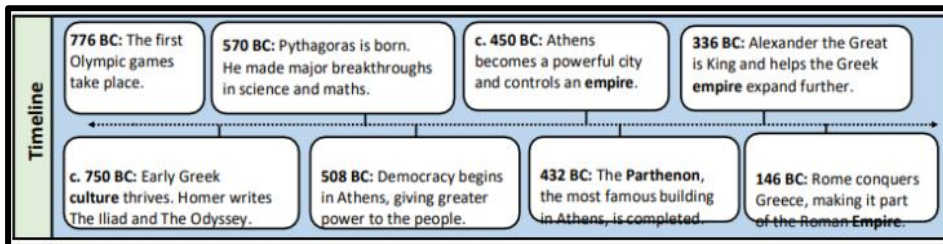
Boats were essential for trade and travel in ancient times

Greece has around 6000 islands!

What Was Ancient Greece Famous For?

Ancient Greece is important historically because many things in culture today, especially in modern Europe, have been influenced by the ideas of the ancient Greek civilisation.

The sculptures, architecture, philosophy, arts, politics and the scientific and mathematical ideas of ancient Greece are just some of the things that have had a significant impact on culture today. These things can be referred to as 'legacies' of ancient Greece.



Democracy

Around 508 BC, democracy was introduced to ancient Athens. 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.



These vases are a PRIMARY SOURCE of evidence. Primary sources are firsthand accounts or direct evidence of an event or period under study. These types of sources include, but are not limited to letters, interviews, photographs, and cultural artifacts such as coins, everyday objects, and works of art

Vocabulary

Acropolis	A fortress within a large city, usually on top of a hill. The Acropolis in Athens is the most famous one.
Agora	A meeting place in the centre of Ancient Greek cities.
Athens	A powerful Greek city-state and where Democracy was born.
City state	A city along with surrounding areas that rules independently (Athens and Sparta are two examples).
Civilisation	The stage of human social and cultural development and organisation that is considered most advanced.
Culture	The ideas, customs/habits, and public behaviour of a particular people or society.
Oligarchy	A type of government where power is held by a few people.
Olympics	A sporting event held by the Ancient Greeks every four years.
Sparta	A powerful Greek city-state and rival to Athens, Sparta's culture was based around warfare and battle.
Stadion	The original Olympic event, the stadion was a running race the length of the stadium.
Titans	The Titans were the first Greek gods. They were overthrown by their children, the Olympians.
Trade	This is the buying and selling of goods.
Tyrant	The ruler of a Greek city-state, a tyrant was like a king. Today the word tyrant is used to describe a ruler who rules unfairly or unjustly.