

Knowledge Organiser for Year 5 History- Ancient Greeks.

Big question: What legacy did the Ancient Greeks leave for us?

National curriculum specification

* “a study of Greek life and achievements and their influence on the western world”.

- Ask perceptive questions
- Understand the process of change (why it needs to happen)
- Understand how Britain has been influenced by the wider world
- Know and understand significant achievements and follies of mankind
- Understand historical concepts: change, cause and consequence
- Use historical sources to analyse trends, frame historically valid questions and create their own structured accounts; including written narratives and analyses
- Develop a chronologically secure knowledge and understanding of British, local and world history

Timeline of key events

776BC	The first Olympic games takes place in Olympia.
750BC	Early Greek culture begins to thrive; Homer writes The Iliad and The Odyssey.
600 BC	The first Greek coin is used to buy and sell goods.
570 BC	Pythagoras was born – going on to make major breakthroughs in science and mathematics.
508 BC	Democracy begins in Athens, giving greater power to the people.
450 BC	Athens becomes a powerful city and the controller of an Empire.
432 BC	The Parthenon, the most famous building in Athens, is completed.
300-400 BC	Socrates, Plato and Aristotle live, advancing learning.
336 BC	Alexander the Great becomes King and helps the Greek empire expand further.
323 BC	Alexander the Great dies, ending the Greek Empire.
146 BC	Rome conquers Greece, making it part of the Roman Empire.

Key facts/figures

350 Years	How long the ‘Classical’ Greek Empire lasted.
2,500 Years	Length of time the Parthenon stood for.
12	Number of main Gods in Olympus.
2918m	The height of Mount Olympus.

Key places/ people

The Acropolis of Athens	A settlement built on high ground, stood as a monument for the cities greatness.
The Parthenon	A temple in the centre of the Acropolis in Athens, a temple to Athena, Goddess of wisdom.
Mount Olympus	The highest mountain in Greece, believed to be the home of the 12 main Gods.
Knossos Palace	In Crete, the site of a palace where it was believed to the location

	of the fabled Labyrinth and the Minotour.
Socrates	Famous philosopher who taught others to questions things, resulting in his imprisonment and death for questioning things such as the existence of the Gods.
Plato	A philosopher, student of Socrates. Founded the first University in Athens called The Academy.
Aristotle	Philosopher and scientist, attended Plato's university aged 17. Dissected animals to learn more about their anatomy.
Pythagoras	Famous mathematician and philosopher known for his proof of Pythagoras' Theorem about right angled triangles.
Alexander the Great	Became king of Greece, known for strengthening and unifying the Greek empire. He used his military genius to win many battles and conquered eastern Europe and Egypt.
Zeus	King of all the Greek Gods, lived on Mount Olympus, God of the sky and God of Thunder.
Hades	Brother of Zeus and Poseidon and was the God of the Underworld.
Poseidon	God of the sea.

Key vocabulary/Tier 3	
Archaeologist	Someone who studies the past by exploring old remains.
architecture	The art of planning, designing and constructing buildings.
Citadel	A strong building in or near a city, where people could shelter for safety.
Deities	Gods or Goddesses.
Democracy	A fair political system where all adults vote for an elected government. The government then makes decisions on hoe to rule the country.
Empire	A number of individual nations that are all controlled by the government or ruler of one 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
Society	people in general, thought of as a large organized group
Trade	the activity of buying, selling, or exchanging goods or services

Key concepts	
Greece was divided into city-states (polis) that each had their own laws and way of life, but that all spoke the same language. Two of the most well-known city states are Athens and Sparta	
In Athens, Greek styles of art, architecture , philosophy and theatre were developed - these helped shaped our modern society along with science, language and maths	
Athens had a democratic government – this means that the people who lived	

there made decisions by voting, like we do in Britain.

In Sparta, life was very different; all that was important was being able to defend Sparta in battle.

The first Olympic games were held in 776 in the city-state Olympia.

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**.

A **polis** consisted of an **urban** center, often fortified and with a sacred center built on a natural **acropolis (citadel)** or harbour.

