

Important facts

- Greece was divided into city states (polis) that each had their own laws and way of life. 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 shape our modern society along with science, language and maths.
- Athens had a democratic government. People who live there made decisions by voting.
- 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 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 the featured heavily in the stories of Greek mythology.
- A polis consisted of an urban centre often fortified and with a sacred centre built on a natural acropolis or harbour.

Key Vocabulary

architecture



The art of planning, designing and constructing buildings

chronology

The order of events in time

circa

Latin meaning 'around'

citadel

A strong building in or near a city, where people could shelter for safety

Deity

A god or goddess



democracy

A fair political system

invasion

To try and take over a place by force

military

Relating to or belonging to the army

mythology

A group of myths, can relate to a particular country, region or culture

polis

An ancient Greek city state



polytheists

Those who worship more than one god

trade

Buying, selling or exchanging goods

warfare

the activity of fighting a war

Important Places

- Athens- The city named after Athena
- Macedonia- Home to Alexander the Great
- Mount Olympus- The highest mountain in Greece
- Peloponnese- Where the Spartans lived
- Sparta- The city-state famous for training warriors



Timeline

776 BC: The first Olympic games take place.

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

c. 450 BC: Athens becomes a powerful city and controls an empire.

336 BC: Alexander the Great is King and helps the Greek empire expand further.

c. 750 BC: Early Greek culture thrives. Homer writes The Iliad and The Odyssey.

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

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

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

