

Topic Fact Sheet - Ancient Greece

Key Terms

chiton	item of clothing for both men and women made from two rectangles of fabric
city-state	a city with land around it that was ruled like a country
democracy	a system of government where citizens can vote to elect the people who run it
empire	a group of countries run by one country
hoplite	A Greek foot soldier
oligarchy	A government in which a small group of people hold all the power
oligarch	A ruler within an oligarchy
tyrant	A ruler who overthrew existing kings or oligarchs and held absolute power



Athens and Sparta were two of the most powerful city-states. They went to war against each other in 431 BC.

The first Ancient Greek civilisation was formed here in 2000 BC.

The ancient Greek civilisation began around 4000 years ago and continued for nearly 2000 years.

The Minoans formed the first of these civilisations on the island of Crete around 2000 BC. While the Minoans grew wealthy from trading with other towns, this civilisation collapsed around 1450 BC.



The best Greek pottery was from Athens. At first, patterns were the fashion, then black figures painted on the reddish-brown background of the clay became popular. Finally, the colours were switched and reddish figures were left unpainted, with a black background.

Greek soldiers were called 'hoplites'. Only wealthy Greek men could become hoplites because they had to pay for their own weapons and armour.



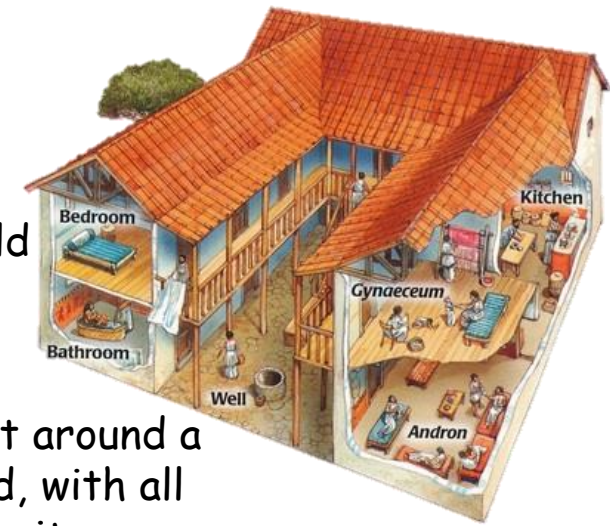
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Key Dates

2000 BC	The Minoans form the first Greek civilisation.
776 BC	First Olympic Games.
508 BC	Male citizens of Athens are allowed to vote.
490 BC	The Battle of Marathon, between the Greeks and the Persians.
472 BC	Greek theatre becomes popular in Athens.
431 BC	The Peloponnesian War between Athens and Sparta.
388 BC	King Phillip II takes control of Greece.
336 BC	Alexander the Great takes control of Greece.
146 BC	Greece falls under the Roman Empire.



Greek houses were made from flimsy mud-brick, which could be washed away in a big storm.



Houses were built around a central courtyard, with all rooms facing in to it.

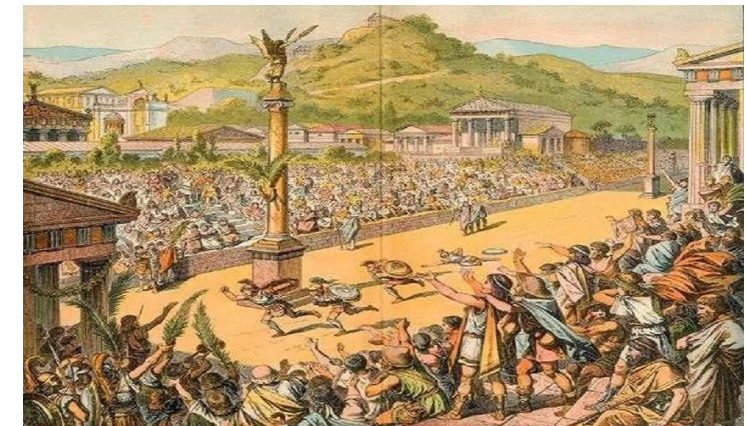
Men, women and children all wore a loose tunic, called a **chiton**, which was a long piece of cloth wrapped around the body and pinned in place.



The Greeks all believed in Gods and Goddesses. They thought they had power over everything.



Ancient Greek alphabet



The Olympic Games were held every 4 years to praise the god Zeus.