

WHO WERE THE ANCIENT GREEKS?

YEAR 5: AUTUMN

COVERAGE:

- Identify how sources can tell us about the past.
- Study the landscape of Greece and how it impacted the way in which people lived.
- Make comparisons between the two main city-states at the time – Athens and Sparta.
- Greek gods – why they were important and how did the people worship them.
- Profile a Hoplite.
- Investigate Greek clothing and understand why Greeks dressed this way.
- Re-enact the battle of Marathon and understand why it was a significant battle.
- Investigate democracy in during this time and why it was a significant step for the citizens.
- Understand how and when the Olympic Games began.
- Write coded messages using the Greek alphabet and make comparisons with our own alphabet.
- Understand why theatre was important to the Greek citizens.
- Study life as a child during the ancient Greek empire – games and education.
- Profile Alexander the Great – what changes did he bring?
- Study Greek myths – link with English

KEY LANGUAGE AND VOCABULARY:

- acropolis
- amphitheatre
- Athens
- chiton
- citizen
- city-state
- civilisation
- democracy
- empire
- hoplite
- Parthenon
- oligarchy
- oracle
- Sparta
- temple
- tyrant

KNOWLEDGE AND FACT SHEET

Topic Fact Sheet – Ancient Greece

Key Terms

| | |
|------------|--|
| citizen | One of a group of people who have the right to vote in their country. |
| city-state | A small area of land around a city 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 under one ruler. |
| hoplite | A Greek foot soldier. |
| oligarchy | A government in which a small group of people hold the power. |
| tyrant | A ruler who overthrew existing kings or queens and had absolute power. |

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, pottery was painted on the reddish-orange background of the clay because it was so popular. Finally, the colours were washed and red clay figures were left on painted 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.

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.

Key Dates

| | |
|---------|---|
| 4000 BC | Start of the first civilisation in Greece |
| 2000 BC | Start of the Minoan civilisation on Crete |
| 1450 BC | End of the Minoan civilisation |
| 1200 BC | Start of the Mycenaean civilisation |
| 1100 BC | End of the Mycenaean civilisation |
| 800 BC | Start of the Archaic period |
| 500 BC | Start of the Classical period |
| 476 BC | End of the Ancient Greek civilisation |

Greek houses were made from flinty 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.

Some letters: A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Ancient Greek alphabet

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

KEY QUESTIONS:

- Why did the Greeks worship different Gods?
- What is the landscape of Greece and how did it impact how people lived?
- What did the Greeks wear?
- How did the Olympic Games begin?
- What key battles took place?
- What is different about the Greek alphabet?
- How has the Greek language impacted our own language?
- What was life like for Greek children?
- What did the Greeks do for entertainment?
- What was democracy in Ancient Greece?
- How can we use sources to find out about the past?
- What were the two main city-states at the time?
- Where is Greece located on the map and what seas surround it?
- Who was Alexander the Great?
- When did the Ancient Greek civilisation begin?

KEY SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE:

- Locate Greece on a world map and identify what the landscape is like
- Make comparisons between modern and ancient Greece
- Compare the two main city-states of the time and understand how life was different for the people who lived there.
- Understand why the Greek gods were so important and find out what which gods the Greeks worshiped.
- Understand when and how the Olympic Games started and how they are different to the modern Games.
- Understand how and why democracy was developed during this time.
- Understand what significant battles took place and what effect these battles had on the people.
- Investigate the Greek alphabet and make comparisons with our alphabet.
- Investigate Alexander the Great and understand why he was so 'great'.
- Understand what life was like for children during this time.

ENRICHMENT: Pupils produce a 'museum of artefacts' with items created during the topic. Pupils to write and rehearse a guided tour around the 'museum' (invite parents?) and take part in a battle reconstruction.

Visits:

Greek Day at Orchard Primary

PUPIL LEADERSHIP:

- House Captains
- Sports Leaders
- Anti-bullying Ambassadors