



Unit of work
What were the achievements of Ancient Greece?

Year group
4

Prior learning

- Greece is a country in the continent of Europe.
- The climate of Greece is slightly different to that of the UK.
- Human and physical geographical features of Greece.
- Information about the Egyptian civilisation.
- The Romans invaded Britain.

National Curriculum

- NC strand: Ancient Greece – a study of Greek life and achievements and their influence on the western world.

Knowledge/ Skills

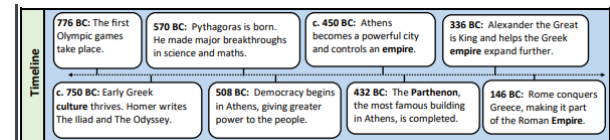
•Examine Greek artefacts (such as vases) and use these to make inferences about the past. •Describe how Greek artefacts and ruins tell us about their culture, military, and religious beliefs. •Describe how the Greek society has had an impact on modern society. •Discuss the notion of democracy - compare the democratic process of ancient Greece with that of modern Britain. •Examine the timeline of the Greek civilisation and consider where there was rapid change and where there was very little change. Explain why this may be the case. •Compare what was happening in the Greek civilisation with what was happening in Britain at the same time. •Place the chronology of key events of the Greek civilisation on a time line with a chronology of the history of Britain. Where are the overlaps? •Describe the ideas, beliefs and attitudes of all groups of people in the Greek civilisation. •Compare the expansion of the Greek empire with that of the British Empire under Queen Victoria.

Greece was divided into citystates (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 centre, often fortified and with a sacred centre built on a natural acropolis (citadel) or harbour

Vocabulary and definitions

Vocabulary	
acropolis	the citadel of an ancient Greek city
archaeologist	someone who studies the past by exploring old remains
architecture	the art of planning, designing and constructing buildings
chronology	the order of events in time
circa	Latin meaning 'around'. c. 800 BC means around 800 BC.
citadel	a strong building in or near a city, where people could shelter for safety
civilisation	a human society with its own social organisation and culture.
climate	the general weather conditions that are typical of a place
continent	a very large area of land that consists of many countries. Europe is a continent.
culture	activities such as the arts and philosophy, which are considered to be important for the development of civilisation
deity	a god or goddess
democracy	a fair political system where all adults vote for an elected government. This government then makes decisions on how to run the country.
empire	a number of individual nations that are all controlled by the government or ruler of one particular country
fertile	rich in nutrients to support the growth of many plants
invasion	to try and take over a place by force
merchant	a person who buys or sells goods in large quantities
military	relating to or belonging to the army
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
seafaring	working as a sailor or travelling regularly on the sea
society	people in general, thought of as a large organized group
trade	the activity of buying, selling, or exchanging goods or services
urban	belonging to, or relating to, a town or city
warfare	the activity of fighting a war

Timeline



Greece is made up of the mainland and many islands. • Its position by the sea meant that the Greeks were a seafaring people. • City-states (polis) were created and trade happened between each of the cities. • Greece is a warm country, but winds from the Mediterranean, and rains from the north, kept temperatures liveable and created fertile farming conditions.

Significant people –
Hippocrates
Leonidas
Archimedes