

Ancient Greece

Where was Ancient Greece?



Who were the Ancient Greeks?

The Ancient Greeks lived in Greece and the countries we now call Bulgaria and Turkey over 4000 years ago. The Ancient Greece Empire spread over Europe as far as France in the East. The Ancient Greeks developed new ideas for government, science, art, philosophy and religion. The two most important cities in Ancient Greece were Athens and Sparta. The Greeks invented among other things, Trial by Jury and Democracy. The first Olympics was held in the Ancient Greek city of Olympia.

Throughout history, buildings have been constructed in the style of Ancient Greece. The British Museum is an example of this.

Timeline of events

| | |
|-------|--|
| 776BC | The First Olympics takes place. |
| 621BC | A lawyer named Draco introduces strict new laws in Athens that are punishable by death. These are called Draconian laws. |
| 600BC | The First Greek coins are introduced. |
| 508BC | Democracy is introduced in Athens. |
| 468BC | The theatre becomes a very popular form of entertainment. |
| 432BC | The Parthenon is built. |
| 386BC | The famous philosopher Socrates is put to death for corrupting the young people with his teachings. |
| 323BC | The Ancient Greeks begin to lose power and the Ancient Romans start to gain power. |
| 146BC | Rome conquers Greece making it part of the Roman Empire. |

City States in Ancient Greece

Ancient Greece was made up of lots of city-states each with its own ruler. The two most powerful city-states were Athens and Sparta. Sparta was well-known for its military strength because Spartan boys trained to become warriors from 7 years of age.

Vocabulary

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Acropolis | A fortress within a large city, usually on top of a hill. The Acropolis in Athens is the most famous one. |
| Agora | A meeting place in the centre of Ancient Greek cities. |
| Athens | A powerful Greek city and where Democracy was born. |
| Chiton | A piece of Greek clothing. Usually it was a single piece of material with a belt at the waist. |
| Democracy | A form of government where citizens have a say in how they are ruled including choosing their leaders and deciding on laws. |
| Oligarchy | A type of government where power is held by a few people. |
| Olympics | A sporting event held by the Ancient Greeks every four years. |
| Sparta | A power Greek city-state and rival to Athens, Sparta's culture was based around warfare and preparing for battle. |
| Stadion | The original Olympic event, the stadion was a running race the length of the stadium. |
| Titans | The Titans were the first Greek gods. They were overthrown by their children, the Olympians. |
| Tyrant | The ruler of a Greek city-state, a tyrant was like a king. Today the word tyrant is used to describe a ruler who rules unfairly or unjustly. he ruler of a Greek city-state, a tyrant was like a king. Today the word tyrant is used to describe a ruler who rules unfairly or unjustly. |

Ancient Greece

Fun Facts

Democracy started in Ancient Greece.



Between 40% and 80% of the population of Athens were slaves!

The Ancient Greeks exercised naked!



In Ancient Greece, throwing an apple at someone was done to declare your love for them.

The word 'dinosaur' comes from the Ancient Greek Words meaning 'terrible lizard'.



Spartan men were not allowed to live with their families until they left the army at the age of 30.

The Ancient Greeks wouldn't eat beans as they thought they contained the souls of the dead.



Married women were banned from watching the Olympics- if they did and were caught, they would be executed!

Greek Gods

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Athena | A goddess famous for her wisdom. She was always dressed in armour. Athens is named after her. |
| Poseidon | Like the sea he ruled, Poseidon could be either calm or stormy. As you might guess, the god of earthquakes had a short temper. He didn't get along with other gods. He didn't always get along with mortals, either. |
| Hermes | Hermes was the messenger god. He was young and intelligent-looking. He wore a winged hat and winged sandals, and he carried a magic wand. (We know what he looked like because so many sculptors made statues of him.) |
| Zeus | Zeus was the king of the gods. He and his brothers Hades and Poseidon were in charge of the whole universe. Hades ruled the Underworld, the world of the dead. Poseidon ruled the seas. Zeus, the greatest of the three, ruled the earth and the sky. He controlled the weather, causing wind and rain. He also caused thunder and lightning. He threw his thunderbolt like a spear. |
| Aphrodite | She was the goddess of love. |
| Hera | She was the Queen of the Gods and married to Zeus. |

Famous Figures

| | |
|--------------------------|--|
| Alexander the Great | Alexander the Great was the king of Macedonia or Ancient Greece. He is considered one of the greatest military commanders in history. He conquered much of Asia and Europe. |
| Aristotle | Aristotle is the earliest natural historian whose work has survived in some detail. He made many of the first observations of the plant and animal kingdoms. |
| Plato (428 – 354 BCE) | Plato thought about and discussed what makes people human and what is human nature. Plato believed that men and women had the same intellectual powers, and was one of the first to teach that women should receive the same education as men. |
| Socrates (470 – 399 BCE) | Many ancient Greeks considered Socrates to be a very wise man. He did not want to answer questions on the universe like all the other philosophers have done previously he wanted to question things like "what is friendship" or "what is courage". He had a very inquiring mind, which unfortunately resulted in his death. Because he questioned everything this unfortunately angered many of the leaders in ancient Greece. He questioned the existence of the gods and this angered the Greeks because it was something that had never been done before. He was accused of corrupting the young people of Athens and was sentenced to death. |