

National Junior School History Knowledge Organiser

History Topic

Ancient Greece

A study into the lives, beliefs and achievements of the Ancient Greeks.

Year 6

Autumn



Background understanding for teachers and parents.

About 2,500 years ago, Greece was one of the most important places in the ancient world. They sailed the seas took their ideas with them and they started a way of life with many similarities to the one we have today. They played a key role in the western world's understanding of: democracy, education, geometry, philosophy. There were three ages of Ancient Greece, but the one we focus on most is in around 480BC when Greece entered a golden age which lasted for 200 years. The people built fantastic temples, made scientific discoveries, wrote plays and founded the first proper democracy. Historians call this Classical Greece.

Timeline of key events

776 BC	The first Olympic games takes place.
750 BC	The scholar Homer writes 'Odyssey' and 'The Iliad'.
508 BC	The first democracy begins in Athens.
490 BC	Persian invaders defeated by the Greeks in the battle of Marathon.
450 BC	The powerful city of Athens now control an empire.
472-410 BC	Many famous Greek plays are written and performed at the theatre in Athens.
432 BC	Parthenon is finished in Athens.
431 – 404 BC	Peloponnesian war between Athens and Sparta.
404 BC	Sparta defeats Athens.
336-323 BC	Alexander the great conquers much of the known world.
146 BC	Greece is conquered by Rome and become part of the Roman Empire.

Key Vocabulary

Acropolis	A fortified citadel within a larger city. It is usually located on top of a hill and at the centre of the city. The most famous acropolis is the Acropolis of Athens.
Agora	A public open space used for assemblies and markets.
Architecture	The art or science of designing and creating buildings.
Athens	A powerful city state.
City-state	A city-state consisted of a large city and the surrounding areas. Ancient Greece consisted of a number of independent city-states such as Athens, Thebes, and Sparta.
Democracy	A form of government where citizens have a say in how they are ruled including choosing their leaders and deciding on laws.
Government	The system used for being in charge of a country.
Olympians	Second order of Greek Gods.
Olympics	An athletic event held by the Ancient Greeks every four years.
Philosophy	The science of thinking.
Sparta	A power Greek city-state and rival to Athens, Sparta's culture was based around warfare and preparing for battle.
Titans	The first order of 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.

Key People

Socrates (c.469-399 BC)	Philosopher whose ideas helped to develop the scientific method we use today – Socrates would always start off with a hypothesis about something, and tested that to see if it was correct.
Archimedes (c.287-212 BC)	Mathematician and philosopher. He discovered a way of measuring the volume of an object by putting it in water.
Alexander the Great (356-332 BC)	King Macedon (Greek state) and was a celebrated leader for never losing a battle. He extended the Greek empire as far east as India.
Battle of marathion key figures	King Darius I (Persia) Militades (Athens) Pheidippides (runner who ran to Sparta for help and Athens to relay news of the victory)
Olympian Gods	Apollo (god of music, poetry, art, oracles, archery, plague, medicine, sun, light and knowledge,) Ares (war,) Dionysus (Grapes and wine), Hades (underworld,) Hephaestus (fire, metalworking, stone masonry, forges and the art of sculpture,) Hermes (messenger, sports and athletics,) Pan (Nature,) Poseidon (Seas and storms) and Zeus (God of the sky, lightning, thunder, law, order, justice, King of the Gods and the "Father of Gods and men".)

Prior Knowledge

Children will have experience of similar societies including their style of government, myths and achievement through their Roman (Y3) and Egypt topic (Y4.)