

Building on Knowledge and Skills

Just like our pre-historic ancestors, the Ancient Greeks influenced the world through their inventions and achievements. Unlike in the Stone Age, Iron Age and Bronze Age, the Greeks recorded through writing, therefore there are lots of written sources of evidence, as well as artefacts which tell us what life was like in Greece. In Year 4, you will learn about The Romans, who eventually conquered the Greeks. You may be familiar with the modern Olympic Games, however less so with the first Olympic Games, which was held in Ancient Greece.

Books, texts, primary and secondary sources you may use:

- Groovy Greeks—Horrible Histories—Terry Deary and Martin Brown
- DK Eyewitness—Ancient Greece
- New KS2 Discover & Learn: History - Ancient Greeks Study Book (CGP KS2 History)



Suggested Family Experience:

- Visit the Temple of Theseus built for George First Lord Lyttleton which is located at the south of Wychbury Hill and is a Grade I listed building.
- You might like to walk through your local town or city to see if you can find examples of buildings which have features of Greek architecture. For example, columns.

National Curriculum:

Ancient Greece — A study of Greek life and achievements and their influence on the Western world.

Local:

During the Iron Age, people built bigger and more elaborate hill forts, like the Wychbury Ring on Wychbury Hill near the border of Halesowen.

National:

During the Iron Age period in Britain, farming techniques improved dramatically. The invention of the iron-tipped plough made cultivation of heavy clay soil possible.

International:

Around 800BCE, The Greeks adapted an 'alphabet' style of writing letters, which is still around the world today. Homer, the Greek poet, wrote Lliad and the Odyssey, which are two epic poems that are foundational works of ancient Greek literature.

The Parthenon, in Athens, is a temple to the goddess Athena and one of the most famous pieces of architecture from ancient times. Built on a hill called the Acropolis between 447 and 432 BCE, the Parthenon was a symbol of the power and wealth of Athens. It has influenced architects, designers and artists to this day. The temple was filled with sculptures, statues, carvings and friezes, which tell stories from Greek mythology and of life at that time.

Vocabulary you will use:

Word	Definition
ancient	Belonging to the very distant past and no longer in existence
architecture	The art of designing and constructing buildings
artefact	An object made by a human being, which is of cultural or historical interest
Athenian	A person from Athens, a city in Greece
citizens	Inhabitant of a city or town
city state	A community in Ancient Greece
culture	The ideas and behaviour of a particular group of people
democracy	Everyone having an equal vote
modern	Something in the present of recent times
Parthenon	Temple on top of the hill of the Acropolis at Athens dedicated to the Greek goddess Athena
society	People living together in a community
Spartan	A person from Sparta, an ancient city in Greece
temple	A building which people use to worship a god or gods

Quick Summary

The Ancient Greeks were one of the most influential civilisations in history. Their legacy can be seen everywhere today. The English language has many words that come from Ancient Greek, and our political system was first seen in the Ancient Greek city of Athens.

Ancient Greece was made up of separate city-states and conflict between them was frequent. The Peloponnesian War, for example, was between Athens and Sparta. At times these individual city-states came together to fight a common enemy, as they did when fighting the Persian army from the north. Although the Romans eventually conquered the Greeks, Greek culture and language spread far and wide. The army commander Alexander the Great and famous Roman thinkers were all influenced by this great civilisation.

Ancient Greece 800 - 401 BCE

Main events

776 BCE: First Olympic Games

480 BCE: Athenians defeated the Persian army at the Battle of Salamis

447—442BCE: Parthenon built

431—404 BCE: The Peloponnesian War (Athens defeated by Sparta)

146 BCE: Greeks defeated by the Romans at the Battle of Corinth

Questions we'll ask you throughout the unit to check your knowledge and understanding.

What was life like in Ancient Greece?

What were the achievements of the Ancient Greeks?

What influence did the Ancient Greeks have on the Western World?

Who were the Ancient Greeks?



Although many lived in villages, Greek cities had beautiful temples with stone columns and statues, and open-air theatres where people sat to watch plays. Life was however hard and many Greeks left to find new lands to settle.



Modern Greece

About 2,500 years ago, Greece was one of the most important places in the ancient world.

Click [here](#) or scan the QR code to see what it was like in an ancient Greek family.



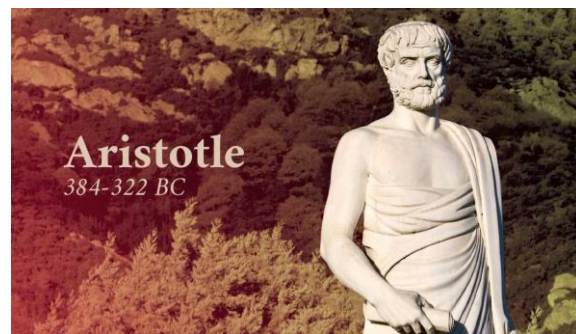
The Greeks (a name given later by the Romans) who called themselves **Hellenes** and settled in **Hellas**, colonised not only mainland Greece but areas of Europe around the Mediterranean Sea including Italy, Sicily, Turkey, North Africa, and as far west as France. With a warm dry climate, farming and fishing was popular.

Influence on Society



The Greeks were great thinkers, warriors, writers, actors, athletes, artists, architects and politicians. They sailed the sea to trade and find new lands. The Greeks took their ideas with them and they started a way of life that's similar to the one we have today. Even after 3,000 years, we're still using ancient Greek ideas in maths, science and art. Our alphabet is based on the Greek one. Check a dictionary and you'll find hundreds of words that come from the Greek language.

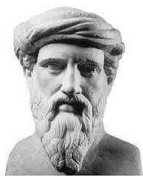
Ancient Greece was not one single country, but a group of hundreds of city-states. Some cities were small, some much larger, like Athens and Sparta. Often at war with each other, they developed different forms of government. Greek introduced *demokratia* or 'rule by the people'. The Athenians invented one of the earliest examples of democracy in history and is one of Ancient Greece's most lasting legacies. Democracy is a system that allows citizens to vote on important matters. However, women, children and slaves were not allowed to vote.



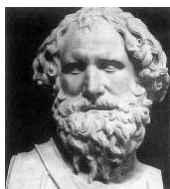
How did Greek ideas spread so far? It's down to Alexander, the young king of Macedon. Wherever he went, Alexander took Greek ideas. When he died in 323BC, the Romans took over. They admired the Greeks' way of life and carried Greek ideas to even more countries - including ours!



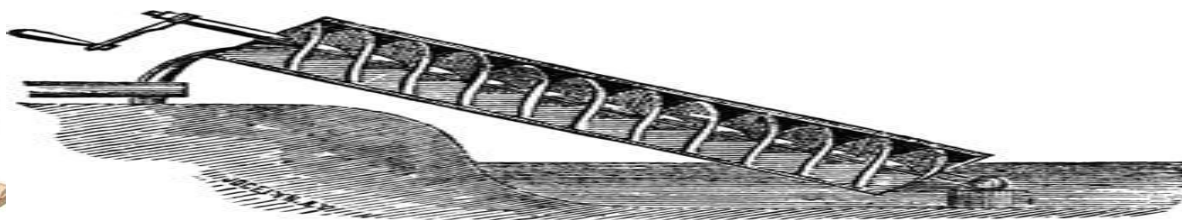
Legacy of the Greeks



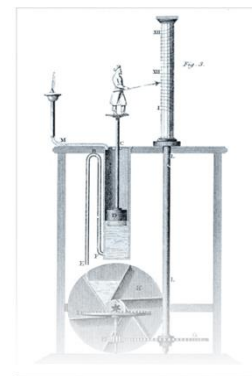
The Greeks were fascinated by numbers and how they applied to the real world. **Pythagoras** was a famous Ancient Greek mathematician. He helped people to better understand circles, lines, angles and triangles.



The Greeks were one of the first civilizations to study medicine as a scientific way to cure illnesses and disease. They had doctors who studied sick people with the most famous Greek doctor being **Hippocrates** who taught that diseases had natural causes and they could sometimes be cured by natural means. **Archimedes** was a famous Ancient Greek scientist. He invented the Archimedes Screw, which was an efficient way to move water up a hill.



The Greeks loved to study the world around them. **Aristotle** studied animals in great detail. He really helped the world to classify different animals. The Greeks used maths to describe the stars and planets (astronomy). They thought that the Earth may orbit the Sun and came up with a fairly



The Greeks also invented:

- The first alarm clock, which used water. (See diagram)
- Central heating.
- Cranes to lift heavy objects
- Watermills, which were powered by water, to grind grain in mills.

Culture & Pastimes

Ancient Greek Olympics

The Greeks loved sport and the Olympic Games were the biggest sporting event in the ancient calendar.

The Olympic Games began over 2,700 years ago in Olympia, in south west Greece. Every 4 years, around 50,000 people came from all over the Greek world to watch and take part. The ancient games were also a religious festival, held in honour of Zeus, the king of the gods.

There were no medals. Winners were given a wreath of leaves and a hero's welcome back home. Athletes competed for the glory of their city and winners were seen as being touched by the gods. Click [here](#) or scan the QR code to see how the Olympic Games began.



Modern day Olympics

The modern Olympics were started in 1896 by a French man called Pierre de Coubertin. Pierre loved sports and felt that the world's countries would have more of an opportunity for peace if they gathered together to play sports. He designed the five colour rings which stand for North and South America, Africa, Asia, Europe, and Australia. At the beginning of the games a flame is lit. The flame begins in Olympia and is passed from torch to torch until the location of the games is reached. The location changes every time the Olympic games are played.

Evidence of the Past



What is a historian? How does a historian get their information?



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The influence of Ancient Greek architecture and design can be seen everywhere in modern life (even in Birmingham town hall), particularly in the Western world. Libraries, banks, museums and public buildings, sporting arenas, town squares and places of worship all share some of the characteristic features of Ancient Greek buildings. The best-known feature, the Greek column, (a large cylindrical post) comes in three styles, or orders; Doric, Ionic and Corinthian. Large amounts of pottery, which have survived thousands of years, are important historical sources from Ancient Greek times. We can use pottery to date archaeological sites and to ask questions about everyday Greek life.

