

What did the Ancient Greeks do for us?

In this unit of work the children will be taken back in time to 2500 BC when the first Minoan Greek civilisation started. They will work their way through finding out why The Greeks were so important and how they have shaped our lives today.

In this unit children will:

- Start right back when the Greeks were first founded in 2500BC. They will find out the importance of the first Greek civilisation of the Minoans.
- Understand how the Greeks and their inventions changed the way we live today.
- Discover how important politics was during the Ancient Greek times and how this has influenced today.
- Be able to name some of the Greek Gods and explain how important they were in life during Ancient Greece.
- Understand the similarities of The Greeks and The Romans how they two races of people linked and shared ideas.

Prior Learning

Year 1 – famous historical figures

Year 2 – famous historical figures

Year 3 – Ancient Egypt

Year 4 – The Romans

Cross Curricular Links

Geography – rivers

Literacy – Greek myths and legends

Greek structured poetry

Key Vocabulary

Acropolis – An acropolis is a fortified citadel within a larger city. It is usually located on top of a hill and at the centre of the city

Assembly – In Athens the Assembly consisted of the group of citizens who showed up to vote

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 the power is held by a few people

Olympics – An athletic event held by the Ancient Greeks every four years

Titans – The Titans were the first Greek Gods

Tyrant – The ruler of a Greek city-state like a king.

alphabet - the first two letters of the Greek alphabet are alpha and beta - which is where we get the word alphabet from.

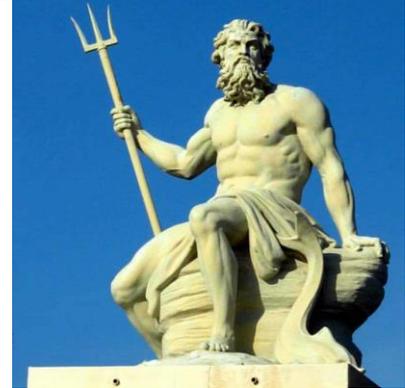
theatre - the Ancient Greeks invented the idea of written drama performed by actors.

Pythagoras - was an Ancient Greek mathematician and philosopher. Many of you will use his rules and laws in your own maths.

Minoans – the oldest Greek civilisation.

Key Knowledge

- The **Ancient Greeks** lived about 3,000 years ago.
- Ancient Greece was not a single country but was made up of many **city states**. The most famous are: **Athens**, Sparta and Corinth.
- The **Minoans** are the oldest **Ancient Greek civilisation** and originate from the island of **Crete**.
- The city states used to fight each other. The **Olympics** began in **Ancient Greece** and were a time of peace when warring states could try to come to a peaceful agreement. The original games were held in **Olympia** in **776 BC** and were part of a **religious ceremony**.
- The **Ancient Greeks** worshipped many **Gods** and **Goddesses**. **Zeus** was the king of the Gods. Others included: Poseidon, Aphrodite, Artemis, Athena, Demeter and Apollo.
- Greeks had a lot of **myths** and **legends** which featured Greek heroes and **mythical creatures**.



- The **Romans** gave a lot of the Greek Gods Roman names. Eg. **Poseidon** is the **Greek name** and **Neptune** is the **Roman name** for the same God of the sea.
- Famous **Greek** heroes included: **Heracles** (The Romans called him Hercules) Perseus and Theseus.

Key Questions

- Who was the leader of Ancient Greece?
- What did the Ancient Greeks invent?
- Why did the Greeks love sport?