

What did the Ancient Greeks do for us?

In your study of Ancient Greece you will learn how a civilization that flourished over 2500 years ago still influences our lives today. Even the Olympic games come from this time, and the Marathon race refers to a special run that was made in the heat of battle between the Athenians and their mighty enemy the Persians. You will discover that during the course of a week you will probably have used a number of words that have their origin in this period, not to mention the fact that the way we run our country, where people have a vote, is called democracy and was something we borrowed from all that time ago.

In this unit children will be able to:

- Know the main features of Ancient Greek society, especially the role of slaves and woman.
- Know the unique way that Ancient Athens was ruled at the time and know this is a democracy.
- Know why there was a Golden Age for Athens in the 5th and 6th centuries BC.
- Give three important examples of Ancient Greek achievements.
- Use a range of evidence to make deductions about what mattered to The Ancient Greeks.
- Know some of the ways in which The Greeks have influenced our lives today.

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 Questions

- How can we know so much about The Ancient Greeks who lived over 2500 years ago?
- What can we work out about everyday life in Ancient Athens from evidence that remains?
- Why was Athens able to be so strong at this time?
- What was so special about life in 5th century BC Athens that make us study it?
- What can we tell about The Ancient Greeks from their interest in the theatre and olympics?
- How have The Ancient Greeks influenced our lives today?



Fun facts!

- The Ancient Greeks believed in many different gods and goddesses. Each god/goddess represented a certain aspect of humanity and each was responsible for certain parts of life too.
- The Olympics were first held in ancient Greece in 776 BC. This is one of the legacies of ancient Greece.

Substantive Concepts

- Trade
- Power
- Settlement

