

Year 5 – Spring Term History – Who were the Ancient Greeks?

Vocabulary and Glossary

acropolis	The upper fortified area of a Greek city that is usually built on a hill.
architect	Someone who designs buildings and makes sure that they are built correctly.
Athenian	A person from Athens.
citadel	A central fortified area of a city or town.
city-state	A city and the area surrounding it with an independent government.
civilisation	A highly developed culture, including its social organisation, government, laws and arts.
democracy	A political system, which allows people to have a say in the way their country is governed.
empire	A group of countries or states ruled by a single authority, such as an emperor or monarch.
mythology	A collection of religious and cultural stories.
Parthenon	A temple on the acropolis in Athens.
warrior	A soldier with skill and experience in fighting.

When and where did the Ancient Greeks live?

Ancient Greek lands were made up of the Greek mainland, surrounding islands and Greek colonies across the Mediterranean Sea. Ancient Greece was almost entirely surrounded by sea, and the mountains on the mainland made travelling by land difficult.

Ancient Greek history is divided into seven main periods or civilisations: Neolithic, Minoan civilisation (c3000-c1100 BC), Mycenaean civilisation (c1600-c1100 BC), Dark Age (c1100 –c800 BC), Archaic period (c800-c500 BC), Classical period (c500 BC–323 BC) and Hellenistic period (323 BC – 30 BC).



What were the features of the Ancient Greek city-states?

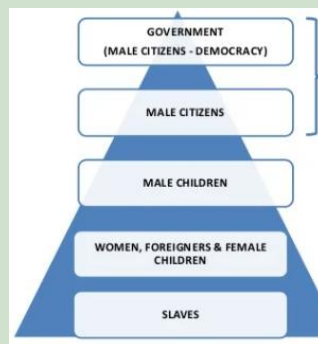
A city-state, or *polis*, was the community structure of Ancient Greece, rather than it being one united country. Each city-state was organised with an urban centre and the surrounding countryside as each included a city and its surrounding villages, farms and land. There grew to be over 1,000 city-states in Ancient Greece. Each city-state had its own government and hierarchy, although they spoke the same language and followed the same religion. The design of each city was also similar. They all had a connection to the sea for trade and transport, outer walls for protection, a variety of buildings inside the city walls and an acropolis built on a hill. Temples and government buildings were often built on the acropolis. Greek city-states likely developed because of the physical geography of the Mediterranean region. These physical barriers caused population centres to be relatively isolated from each other. City-states were often at war with each other in a bid to gain power and land.



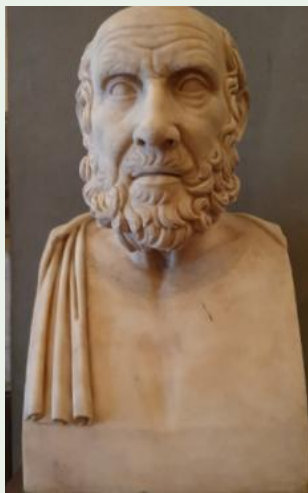
Who were the Ancient Greeks?

What was the hierarchy of Ancient Greece and how did this compare to other civilisations?

In Ancient Greece, class and gender determined the roles people could play in society and at home. The government was very important and the citizens had to obey the laws. Men who were born in Ancient Greece could vote and participate in the government but people who were foreigners weren't able to interact with the government at all, even though they might have lived in their city-state for more than 10 years. Women were not able to do anything relating to the government. Male children had an advantage over females because they went to school, while the girls stayed home and were taught basic skills, like cleaning and cooking. Women were seen as less important than men so they had to take care of the house, children, cooking and cleaning. Slaves couldn't vote and whenever they disobeyed their masters, they could get severely punished. Similarly to Ancient Rome and the Shang Dynasty, slaves were at the bottom of the social hierarchy but differences include that Roman women had slightly more freedom and were seen as citizens compared to women in Ancient Greece.



Who were the most significant Ancient Greeks?



Ancient Greece is known for its many great thinkers, including philosophers, political leaders, scientists, mathematicians, historians and writers. Key philosophers include Pythagoras (c580-c500 BC) (also a mathematician), who developed a method to help people calculate the longest side of a right-angled triangle, Socrates (c470-c399 BC), who used questions to help people to examine their knowledge and beliefs, and Plato (c427-347 BC), who founded the first university in Athens. Alexander the Great (356-323 BC) was a significant military leader, expanding Greece's territory to create the ancient world's largest empire. Key political leaders were Cleisthenes (c570-508 BC), who developed the first democratic system and Pericles (495-429 BC), who ordered the construction of the Acropolis and Parthenon. Hippocrates (c460-c375 BC) was also a significant doctor.

What was everyday life like and how do we know?

Ancient Greece had a warm, dry climate so most people lived by farming, fishing and trade. Men worked as politicians, landowners, artists, architects, sculptors, scientists and scholars. Women were expected to run the home, bring up children, supervise the slaves and make clothing. Greek cities had beautiful temples with stone columns and statues and open-air theatres where people watched plays.



Homes were built around a courtyard or garden and walls were made of wood and mud bricks. Rich people decorated the walls and floors with colourful tiles and paintings. Many homes didn't have bathrooms as long beds were stuffed with wool, feathers or dry

linen. Over this, she wore a cloak draped from her shoulders, called a himation. Young men wore short tunics, while older men preferred long ones. Enslaved men wore just a strip of cloth called a loincloth. Jewellery was popular as people were often buried with it in their tombs. Pictures of pottery vases and artefacts tell us about Greek toys and games that were played and what food they ate. Men and women ate separately. Rich people ate at home whereas enslaved people had to eat in public.

What is the lasting legacy of Ancient Greece?

The legacy of Ancient Greece can be seen today. The world's first democratic system was created in Athens in the fifth century BC, designed to give the Athenian people a say over how their city was run. Socrates, Plato and Aristotle were all great philosophers whose ideas are still influential today: such as the Socrates' method for questioning and discussion still being used in schools and universities and mathematicians, like Pythagoras, supporting significant advances in mathematics. Today's Olympic Games were also first invented in Ancient Greece and the core values of excellence, respect and friendship are still hugely important today. The theatre was also an important tradition in Ancient Greece, with over 40 plays having survived from the Classical period. Poetry was another source of entertainment and education and sculpture was an important part of Ancient Greek art and their methods were distinct and inspired many other civilisations.

