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Ancient Greece Timeline

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|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|--|
| 776 BC – The first Olympic games take place in honour of Greece | 600 BC – The first Greek coins are used to buy and sell goods | 570 BC – Pythagoras is born. He made major breakthroughs in science and maths | 508 BC – Democracy begins in Athens, giving greater power to the people | 432 BC – The Parthenon, the most famous building in Athens, is completed | 400-300 BC – Socrates, Plato and Aristotle live, advancing learning | 336 BC – Alexander the Great is King and completes many conquests | 146 BC – Rome conquers Greece, making it a part of the Roman Empire. |
|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|--|

ANCIENT GREEK CITY STATES

Ancient Greece was not a country. It was made up of **city states**. There were often battles between these **city states** but sometimes they would join together to defend themselves from a common enemy. Important **city states** of ancient Greece included Athens, Corinth and Sparta.



Ancient Greeks are famous for architecture. This is a temple called **Hephaistos in Athens**



ANCIENT GREEK GODS AND GODDESSES

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.

- Festivals were held to celebrate the gods and goddesses.
- It is believed that the 12 most powerful gods lived on Mount Olympus.
- Zeus was the most powerful of all the gods. He was god of the sky and the king of Mount Olympus.



KEY VOCABULARY

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| ancient | Something from a very long time ago. |
| civilisation | A human society with well-developed rules and government, often where technology and the arts are considered important. |
| city states | Small areas that ancient Greece was divided into, each with their own governments, laws and army. |
| empire | A group of countries or states that are ruled by one ruler or country. |
| legacies | Things that exist after someone dies or after a civilisation or event ends. |
| democracy | A system where the citizens of a country or state are involved in the way it is run. |
| myth | A story from ancient times about something that happened long ago that some people believed to be true. |

Diagram – Map of Ancient Greece

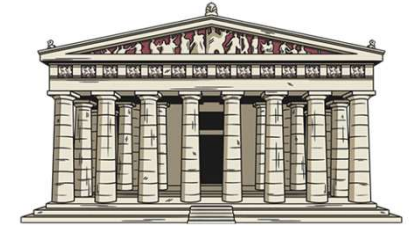
Map of Ancient Greece

Greece's position next to the sea (there are over 1400 islands) meant Ancient Greeks were a seafaring people. Trade between the islands led to the creation of 'city-states' (polis). Each city-state was ruled by a powerful city, led by a ruler or (later) government. Greece is a warm country, but winds from the Mediterranean, and rains from the north, kept temperatures livable and created fertile farming conditions.





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DEMOCRACY

Ancient Athens is where democracy began in around 508 BC. Listening to the opinions of other people and debating issues was an important part of this system. After debating issues, the ancient Athenians would vote. At that time, the only people allowed to take part in democracy were adult males who were citizens of Athens. The legacy of democracy still exists today in many parts of the world.



ENSLAVED PEOPLE IN ANCIENT GREECE

There were many enslaved people in ancient Greece. They made many objects and goods to be sold.

Many ancient Greek pots that survive today would have been made by enslaved people.



MYTHS

Thousands of years ago, Greek myths were epic stories about Greek gods, passed down over generations. They are often about heroic battles and terrible creatures, and taught the importance of bravery, intelligence, and right and wrong. They showed that even the gods, like mortal men, could be punished or rewarded for their actions. Details of these ancient tales have been found on everything from pottery to temples to stone statues! Greek myths were a huge part of the religion in Ancient Greece, and offer a glimpse into the lives of the ancient people who told them.

Greek Alphabet

| | | | |
|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|
| Α Alpha | Β Beta | Γ Gamma | Δ Delta |
| Ε Epsilon | Ζ Zeta | Η Eta | Θ Theta |
| Ι Iota | Κ Kappa | Λ Lambda | Μ Mu |
| Ν Nu | Ξ Xi | Ο Omicron | Π Pi |
| Ρ Rho | Σ Sigma | Τ Tau | Υ Upsilon |
| Φ Phi | Χ Chi | Ψ Psi | Ω Omega |