

# Ancient Greeks

History

Knowledge Organiser



## Key Facts

## Chronology

- Ancient Greece was one of early major civilisations of Europe.
- Its culture has had a major impact on society, from art to architecture, systems of government and social organisation, to science and sports.
- The Ancient Greek city-state of Athens was one of the first to use a democratic system of government.
- When we consider the impact of Greek language, architecture, art and culture, it is possible to argue that Ancient Greece was the most influential ancient civilisation.
- Art and design can be seen everywhere in modern life, 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.
- In the sixth century BCE, an Athenian called Cleisthenes helped to introduce a new political structure of *demokratia* or 'rule by the people'. It was one of the earliest examples of democracy in history and is one of Ancient Greece's most lasting legacies. Nearly every nation in the world now includes some element of democracy in its government. Electing officials to represent us, voting on important decisions and helping to shape new laws are all ideas established almost 3000 years ago.

776BC	The first Olympic Games take place
750BC	Early Greek culture thrives. Homer writes the <i>Iliad</i> and <i>Odyssey</i>
600BC	The first Greek coins are introduced
570BC	Pythagoras is born. He made major breakthroughs in science and maths
508BC	Democracy begins in Athens, giving greater power to the people
490BC	Greek Persian wars
468BC	The theatre becomes a very popular form of entertainment
450BC	Athens becomes a powerful city and controls an empire
432BC	The Parthenon—the most famous building in Athens—is completed
336BC	Alexander the Great is king and helps the Greek empire expand further
146BC	The Romans conquer Greece making it part of the Roman Empire

## Vocabulary

Athens	The most powerful city state
Persia	An ancient region of Southern Iran
democracy	A form of government where citizens have a say in how they are ruled
literature	Written works, especially those considered of superior or lasting artistic merit
architecture	The art or practice of designing and constructing
Olympia	The birthplace of the Olympics

### Useful links and sources

<https://www.historyforkids.net/ancient-greece.html>

[https://www.ducksters.com/history/ancient\\_greece.php](https://www.ducksters.com/history/ancient_greece.php)

<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/history/greece/10-facts-about-the-ancient-greeks/>

<http://www.primaryhomeworkhelp.co.uk/Greece.html>

