

Year 5 Meet the Greeks



We already know...

- Greece is a European country and a popular holiday destination.
- About the concept of democracy through our work on British Values.
- That other ancient civilisations such as Egypt and Rome believed in many Gods and Goddesses.

In Year 5, we need to understand...

- The life and achievements of the ancient Greek civilisation and their influence on the western world.
- Know some of the main characteristics of the Athenians and the Spartans.
- Know about the influence the Gods had on Ancient Greece.
- Know at least five sports from the Ancient Greek Olympics.

Vocabulary

Athens	One of the most powerful Greek city states. Birthplace of democracy.
Sparta	A powerful Greek city state and rival to Athens. Sparta's culture was based around warfare and preparing for battle.
Civilisation	A human society with well developed rules and government, often where technology and the arts are considered important.
Democracy	A system where the citizens of a country or state are involved in the way it is run.
City state	Small areas that ancient Greece was divided into, each with their own governments, laws and army.
Olympics	An athletic event held by the ancient Greeks every four years.
Titons	The first Greek gods. They were overthrown by their children, the Olympians.
Tyrant	A ruler who has unlimited power over other people, and uses it unfairly and cruelly.
Myth	A story from ancient times about something that happened long ago that people believed to be true.
Legacy	Things that exist after someone dies or after a civilisation or event ends.

Our sticky knowledge...

How did ancient Greek life influence aspects of the modern world?	Was life better as an Athenian or a Spartan?	Did the ancient Greeks introduce democracy?
The Olympics were first held in ancient Greece in 776 BC.	Ancient Greece was not a country. It was made up of city states.	Ancient Athens is where democracy began in around 508 BC.
Today, almost every government in the world uses some form of democracy where citizens choose which laws or leaders will guide their community.	There were often battles between these city states but sometimes they would join together to defend themselves from a common enemy.	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.
Ancient Greek theatre influenced famous playwrights like William Shakespeare and today influences television programs, movies, and productions around the world.	The Spartans were known for their strong army and ability to fight. In childhood, boys were trained to be warriors. Girls were taught academic subjects and how to fight.	Citizens gathered on the Pnyx. They would decide the city's laws and who should be on its ruling council.
Ancient Greek words are still used today in numerous languages around the world. The ancient Greek alphabet is seen in many equations used in maths, engineering, and science.	The Athenians were known for their cultural developments and learning. Girls did not go to school but many were taught how to look after the home and family.	The only people allowed to take part in democracy were adult males who were citizens of Athens. Women and enslaved people didn't get a say.
Aristotle carried out experiments to find out about the world we live in. Modern scientists do the same kind of thing.	The Peloponnesian War was fought between Athens and Sparta - 431 to 405 B.C.E.	Today, we also live in a democracy. Women got the right to vote in England in 1918.