



Diagram – Map of Ancient Greece



Key Question:
What influences our lives today?

Map of Ancient Greece

Greece's position next to the sea (there are over 1400 islands) meant Ancient Greeks were 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.

How has Ancient Greece influenced our world today?

Alphabet
A huge number of our words come from the Greek language - 41,614 in fact!

Architecture
The Greeks built most of their temples and government buildings in three styles. These columns can still be found on many buildings today.

Arts
Famous for sculptures and pottery, Greek art styles influenced the Romans and are still used today!

Democracy
They introduced the idea of voting to decide on leaders and laws. This process is still used today. Women are allowed to vote nowadays though, it was only men in Ancient Greek times.

Olympics
The Greeks started the Olympic Games almost 3000 years ago in 776 BC. They were held every 4 years for over a thousand years. This inspired the Olympics today.

Philosophy
Greek philosophers were "seekers and lovers of wisdom". They studied the world around them using logic and reason. Famous philosophers included: Pythagoras, Aristotle, Herodotus, Socrates and Plato.

Places in Ancient Greece

The Acropolis		The Acropolis of Athens is the best known acropolis in Greece – an acropolis is a settlement built on high ground. It was built during the rules of Pericles, a golden age for Athens, as a monument to the city's greatness.	Where? Athens	Key Fact: The Acropolis is on a flat-topped rock that rises 150m above sea level
The Parthenon		The Parthenon is a temple in the middle of the Acropolis in Athens. It was a temple to Athena, the goddess of wisdom, and originally had a statue to her. It has now stood for nearly 2,500 years, a superb architectural achievement!	Where? Athens	Key Fact: The building used 22,000 tonnes of marble!
Mount Olympus		Mount Olympus is the highest mountain in Greece. It was believed in Ancient Greek times that when things needed to be decided in the mystical world, the 12 main Gods would gather at Mount Olympus, and that many lived there.	Where? 50 miles southwest of Thessaloniki	Key Fact: Mount Olympus rises to 2,918m
Knossos Palace		Knossos Palace is positioned in what was the capital of Minoan Crete. It is the site of a beautiful and expansive palace, which is supposed to be the same location as the fabled labyrinth in which the minotaur dwells!	Where? Northern Crete	Key Fact: The Knossos Palace was rumoured to originally hold 5000 rooms!

Home Learning Tasks

- Research the main philosophers of Ancient Greece and the discoveries that they made.
- Create a 3D model or sketch of a famous building from Ancient Greece.
- Find, name and label the different polis (city states) on a map.
- Create a Venn diagram to compare ancient and modern day Olympics.
- Write some phrases using the Greek alphabet.

Ancient Greece Timeline

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.
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