

Ideas Organiser: The Athlete

Historical Enquiry Questions:

How long ago did the Ancient Greeks live?	The civilization of Ancient Greece emerged into the light of history in the 8th century BC. Normally it is regarded as coming to an end when Greece fell to the Romans, in 146 BC.
What was life like in the times of the Ancient Greeks?	Men had a much better life than women. Only men were involved in government and permitted to take part in the Olympic Games. Women were expected to look after the home, make clothes and bear children.
What influence have the Ancient Greeks had on society today?	Ancient Greece is often referred to as 'the birthplace of western civilisation'. It is made up of three periods which produced many political ideas, art, architecture, sculpture, science, philosophy and literature that influence our lives today.



Key Vocabulary	
ancient	Something from a very long time ago.
civilisation	In this context, the word 'civilisation' is used to describe 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 is ruled by one ruler or country.
legacies	Things that live on after someone dies or after a civilisation or event ends.
democracy	Democracy is a system where the citizens of a country or state are involved in the way it is run.
primary source	Information and objects that come from the time being studied.
secondary source	Interpretations of information and objects which are produced after the time being studied.



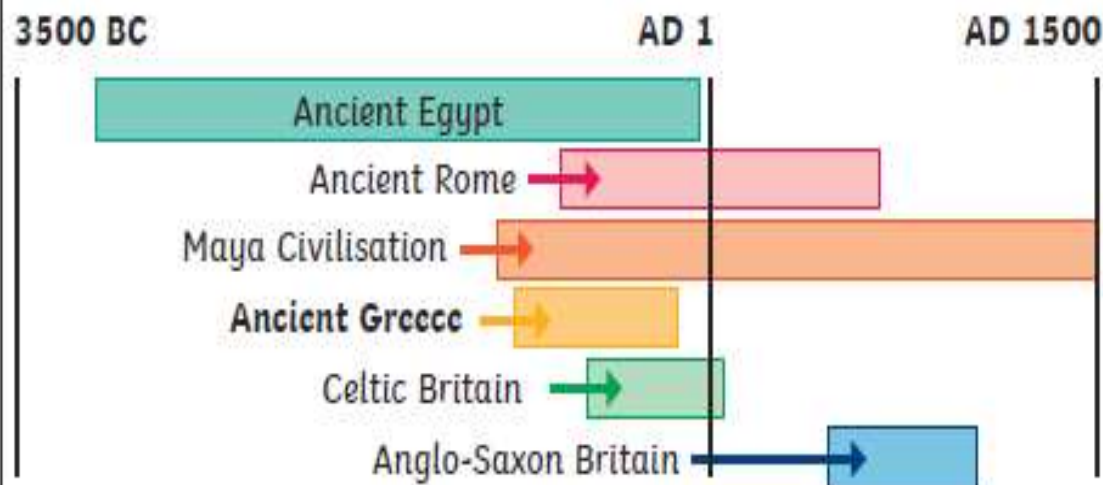
Key Timeline of Events:

776BC	750BC	570BC	508BC	450BC	432BC	336BC	146BC
The first Olympic Games takes place	Early Greek culture thrives Homer writes The Iliad and The Odyssey.	Pythagoras is born He makes major breakthroughs in science and maths	Democracy begins in Athens, giving greater power to the people	Athens becomes a powerful city and controls an empire	The Parthenon, the most famous building in Athens, is completed.	Alexander the Great is king and helps the Greek Empire expand further	Rome conquers Greece, making it part of the Roman Empire

Recommended Reads:



Timeline



What Was Ancient Greece Famous For?

Ancient Greece is important historically because many things in culture today, especially in modern Europe, have been influenced by the ideas of the **ancient** Greek civilisation.

The sculptures, architecture, philosophy, arts, politics and the scientific and mathematical ideas of **ancient** Greece are just some of the things that have had a significant impact on culture today. These things can be referred to as 'legacies' of **ancient** Greece.

Democracy

Around 508 BC, **democracy** was introduced to **ancient** Athens. 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 Olympic Games

- The first recorded Games was in 776 BC, in Olympia.
- The event was part of a festival to honour the Greek god, Zeus.
- Women were not allowed to compete in the Olympics. This was because **ancient** Greek women were not treated as equals to men and had fewer freedoms.
- Events included boxing, wrestling, running and chariot racing.
- Some of the evidence about the Games comes from paintings discovered on pottery.



The Trojan War

- The Trojan War is a very famous **ancient** Greek myth.
- Many people believe that it is a myth but that there is some historical truth behind it.
- The Trojan War (which is believed to have lasted for ten years) was between the Greek and the Trojan Armies.
- In the story, the Greeks pretended to surrender, leaving a gift of a giant horse for the Trojans. The gift was brought inside the city walls. In the night, Greek soldiers hiding inside the horse let the Greek army inside Troy's walls and the city was destroyed.



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.
- Animal sacrifice was an important part of **ancient** Greek worship.
- It is believed that the 12 most powerful gods lived on Mount Olympus.
- The **ancient** Greek gods and goddesses were included in many of the myths that the **ancient** Greeks told one another.
- Zeus was the most powerful of all the gods. He was god of the sky and the king of Mount Olympus.

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 against a common enemy. Important **city states** of **ancient** Greece included Athens, Corinth and Sparta.

Alexander the Great's Empire

Independent **city states** existed for most of the **ancient** Greek period. However, near the end of this period, King Philip II of Macedonia ruled over all of **ancient** Greece. Later, his son - Alexander the Great - took over the **empire** along with other lands that he conquered.

