History – The Ancient Greeks

Key Vocabulary

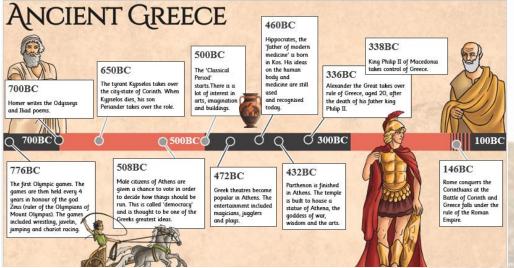|	
Athens	Capital city in Greece
Parthenon	A temple built for Athena (a Greek Goddess)
Slaves	Gardeners, cooks, cleaners. Slaves were considered to be normal in Ancient Greek times.
Olympics	The Olympic Games started in Ancient Greece.

ANCIENT GREEK OLYMPICS

Who were the Ancient Greeks?
About 2,500 years ago, Greece was one of the most important places in the ancient world. The Greeks were great thinkers, warriors, writers, actors, athletes, artists, architects and politicians.

Where is Greece?

Greek flag

Can you find anything out about the similarities in the way Ancient Greeks lived compared to us today?

The Greeks called themselves Hellenes and their land was Hellas. The name 'Greeks' was given to the people of Greece later by the Romans. They lived in mainland Greece and the Greek islands, but also in colonies scattered around the Mediterranean Sea.

They sailed the sea to trade and find new lands. The Greeks took their ideas with them and they started a way of life that's similar to the one we have today.

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Key Dates

ANCIENT GREECE

700BC
Homer writes the Odysseys and Iliad poems.

650BC
The tyrant Kypselos takes over the city-state of Corinth. When Kypselos dies, his son Periander takes over the role.

500BC
The 'Classical Period' starts. There is a lot of interest in arts, imagination and buildings.

460BC
Hippocrates, the 'father of modern medicine' is born in Kos. His ideas on the human body and medicine are still used and recognised today.

338BC
King Philip II of Macedonia takes control of Greece.

336BC
Alexander the Great takes over rule of Greece, aged 20, after the death of his father king Philip II.

700BC — 500BC — 300BC — 100BC

776BC
The first Olympic games. The games are then held every 4 years in honour of the god Zeus (ruler of the Olympians of Mount Olympus). The games included wrestling, javelin, jumping and chariot racing.

508BC
Male citizens of Athens are given a chance to vote in order to decide how things should be run. This is called 'democracy' and is thought to be one of the Greeks greatest ideas.

472BC
Greek theatres become popular in Athens. The entertainment included magicians, jugglers and plays.

432BC
Parthenon is finished in Athens. The temple is built to house a statue of Athena, the goddess of war, wisdom and the arts.

146BC
Rome conquers the Corinthians at the Battle of Corinth and Greece falls under the rule of the Roman Empire.

Greeks were famous for their myths. Have you read 'Pandora's Box'?

Did you know the Greeks had their own alphabet?

Greek Alphabet

A Alpha	B Beta	Γ Gamma	Δ Delta
E Epsilon	Z Zeta	H Eta	Θ Theta
I Iota	K Kappa	Λ Lambda	M Mu
N Nu	Ξ Xi	O Omicron	Π Pi
P Rho	Σ Sigma	T Tau	Y Upsilon
Φ Phi	X Chi	Ψ Psi	Ω Omega

The Greeks worshipped many gods. One of the most famous gods was Zeus.

Zeus was the most powerful of all the gods. He was the god of the sky and Olympus. His temper affected the weather and he threw thunderbolts when he was unhappy.
Did you know…?
Zeus' father was worried his children would betray him, so he ate his children (but not Zeus).

Aphrodite was the goddess of love and beauty and the protector of sailors. She may have been the daughter of Zeus or she may have risen from the sea on a shell.
Did you know…?
Aphrodite had a chariot pulled by swans to glide through the air.

ZEUS

APHRODITE

Can you find out about the first Olympic Games held in Greece? Can you name any of the events? Do we still hold any of these events today?