



## Topic: Ancient Greeks

Year: 5

## Strand: Civilisation

## What should I already know?

Greece is a country in the **continent** of Europe.

The **climate** of Greece is slightly different to that of the UK.

**Human** and **physical geographical** features of Greece

Another **civilisation** includes the Egyptians.

## Diagrams



Greece is made up of the mainland and many islands. Its position by the sea meant that the Greeks were a **seafaring** people. City-states (**polis**) were created and **trade** happened between each of the cities. Greece is a warm country, but winds from the Mediterranean, and rains from the north, kept temperatures liveable and created **fertile** farming conditions.

## Greek Society

Greece was divided into city-states (**polis**) that each had their own laws and way of life, but that all spoke the same language. Two of the most well-known city states are Athens and Sparta.

In Athens, Greek styles of art, **architecture**, **philosophy** and theatre were developed - these helped shaped our modern society along with science, language and maths.

Athens had a **democratic** government - this means that the people who lived there made decisions by voting, like we do in Britain.

In Sparta, life was very different; all that was important was being able to defend Sparta in battle.

The first Olympic games were held in 776 in the city-state Olympia.

Religion was very important in Ancient Greece. They were **polytheists** - they believed in different gods and goddesses that were in charge of different parts of their lives, such as a god of the sea and a goddess of wisdom. Temples were built in their honour and they featured heavily in the stories of Greek **mythology**.

A **polis** consisted of an **urban** centre, often fortified and with a sacred centre built on a natural **acropolis** (**citadel**) or harbour.

## Vocabulary

|                    |                                                                                                                                               |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| acropolis          | the <b>citadel</b> of an ancient Greek city                                                                                                   |
| archaeologist      | someone who studies the past by exploring old remains                                                                                         |
| architecture       | the art of planning, designing and constructing buildings                                                                                     |
| citadel            | a strong building in or near a city, where people could shelter for safety                                                                    |
| civilisation       | a human <b>society</b> with its own social organisation and culture.                                                                          |
| climate            | the general weather conditions that are typical of it.                                                                                        |
| continent          | a very large area of land that consists of many <b>countries</b> . Europe is a <b>continent</b> .                                             |
| culture            | activities such as the arts and philosophy, which are considered to be important for the development of civilisation                          |
| deities            | a god or goddess                                                                                                                              |
| democracy          | a fair political system where all adults vote for an elected government. This government then make decisions on how to run the country.       |
| human geography    | features of land that have been impacted by human activity                                                                                    |
| empire             | a number of individual nations that are all controlled by the government or ruler of one particular country                                   |
| fertile            | rich in nutrients to support the growth of many plants                                                                                        |
| merchant           | a person who buys or sells goods in large quantities                                                                                          |
| mythology          | a group of myths, especially all the myths from a particular country, religion, or culture                                                    |
| philosophy         | the study or creation of theories about basic things such as the nature of existence, knowledge, and thought, or about how people should live |
| physical geography | natural features of land                                                                                                                      |
| polis              | an ancient Greek city-state                                                                                                                   |
| polytheists        | the worship of or belief in more than one god                                                                                                 |
| seafaring          | working as a sailor or travelling regularly on the sea                                                                                        |
| society            | people in general, thought of as a large organized group                                                                                      |
| trade              | the activity of buying, selling, or exchanging goods or services                                                                              |
| urban              | belonging to, or relating to, a town or city                                                                                                  |
| warfare            | the activity of fighting a war                                                                                                                |

## Timeline

776 BC: The first Olympic games take place.

570 BC: Pythagoras is born. He made major breakthroughs in science and maths.

450 BC: Athens becomes a powerful city and controls an **empire**.

336 BC: Alexander the Great is King and helps the Greek **empire** expand further.

750 BC: Early Greek **culture** thrives.

Homer writes The Iliad and The Odyssey.

508 BC: Democracy begins in Athens, giving greater power to the people.

432 BC: The **Parthenon**, the most famous building in Athens, is completed.

146 BC: Rome conquers Greece, making it part of the Roman **Empire**.



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|                                                                |                |              |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Question 1: Ancient Greeks believed in many gods. They were... | Start of unit: | End of unit: |
| Christians                                                     |                |              |
| polytheists                                                    |                |              |
| atheists                                                       |                |              |
| agnostics                                                      |                |              |

|                                                                                                                             |                |              |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Question 2: The Greeks were considered influential to modern society. They contributed ideas about....(tick all that apply) | Start of unit: | End of unit: |
| philosophy                                                                                                                  |                |              |
| theatre                                                                                                                     |                |              |
| language                                                                                                                    |                |              |
| art                                                                                                                         |                |              |
| science                                                                                                                     |                |              |
| maths                                                                                                                       |                |              |

|                                                                          |                |              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Question 3: The Greeks exchanged goods between cities. This is called... | Start of unit: | End of unit: |
| buying                                                                   |                |              |
| trade                                                                    |                |              |
| selling                                                                  |                |              |
| stealing                                                                 |                |              |

|                                                                                       |                |              |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Question 4: We know how the Ancient Greeks lived because of.... (tick all that apply) | Start of unit: | End of unit: |
| ruins                                                                                 |                |              |
| written accounts from historians                                                      |                |              |
| artefacts                                                                             |                |              |

|                                                                      |                |              |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Question 5: The Greeks invented democracy. This is when...           | Start of unit: | End of unit: |
| everybody is allowed to vote on the decisions made by the government |                |              |
| the ruler dictates what should happen in a society                   |                |              |
| priests were in charge                                               |                |              |

|                                                                                                              |                |              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Question 6: Greece is made up of many islands and is located by the sea. This meant that the Greeks were.... | Start of unit: | End of unit: |
| pirates                                                                                                      |                |              |
| tourists                                                                                                     |                |              |
| seafaring                                                                                                    |                |              |
| sunbathers                                                                                                   |                |              |

|                                                                        |                |              |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Question 7: Greek vases are important to us today because they:        | Start of unit: | End of unit: |
| can inspire artists                                                    |                |              |
| keep flowers alive for longer                                          |                |              |
| tell us about Ancient Greek life because of the pictures drawn on them |                |              |
| tell us how we can make our own vases                                  |                |              |

|                                                              |                |              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Question 8: The Olympics were invented by the Greeks as a... | Start of unit: | End of unit: |
| contest for land                                             |                |              |
| religious festival                                           |                |              |
| ritual for sacrifice                                         |                |              |
| method to see who could win the most gold medals             |                |              |

|                                                                  |                |              |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Question 9: The Greek empire expanded further under the rule of: | Start of unit: | End of unit: |
| Homer                                                            |                |              |
| Socrates                                                         |                |              |
| Alexander the Great                                              |                |              |
| Plato                                                            |                |              |

|                                                                              |                |              |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Question 10: The Greeks were good at warfare. They used this to...(tick two) | Start of unit: | End of unit: |
| invade other places not under their control                                  |                |              |
| defend their land                                                            |                |              |
| trade                                                                        |                |              |
| take part in philosophical discussions                                       |                |              |