

History Knowledge Organiser Y5/6 – Ancient Greece



Key Vocabulary	
Acropolis	Fortified city core located on a rocky outcrop above Athens
Polytheistic	Religious system where people believe in or worship more than one god.
Democracy	A system of government where eligible people elect representatives.
Oligarchy	A system of government where a small group of people control everything.
Mount Olympus	The highest mountain in Greece and mythological home of the Greek gods, primarily twelve Olympian gods.
Parthenon	Temple dedicated to Athena, located on the Athenian Acropolis.
City state	A city that had its own government and rules.
Olympics	Sporting event and sacrifice held every four years in honour of Zeus.



The term Ancient Greece refers to the years 700-480 B.C. known for its art, architecture and philosophy. Ancient Greece saw advances in art, poetry and technology, but is known as the age in which the city-state was invented. The city-state became the defining feature of Greek political life for hundreds of years.

Tier 2 vocabulary		
Year 5/6	assume	To think that something is probably true without proof.
	hypothesis	An idea that you think is true that you have some proof about.
	ambiguous	Something that is unclear or could have more than one meaning.
Year 3/4	interpret	To explain what you think something is or why you think something happened using evidence from the past.
	justify	To explain what you think with reasons.
	source	Something that comes from the past or can be used to explain about the past.
	contrast	Explaining how things are different to each other.
	evidence	An object, writing, photo, picture, film or sound recording that you can use to find out about a period of history.

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Timeline

Approximate dates for the main Ancient Greek periods and key events: *(Ancient Greek civilizations can be traced back to the Minoan civilization around 2700 BCE)*

Timeline not to scale.

	First coins introduced 600 BCE	Battle of Marathon (Athens vs Persia) 490 BCE	Peloponnesian Wars between two sides led by Athens and Sparta 431-404 BCE	Founding of the library at Alexandria 323 BCE	Roman rule of Greece begins with the sacking of Corinth 146 BCE
First Olympic Games 776 BCE	Athens introduces democracy 505 BCE	Sophocles writes his first tragedy 468 BCE	Plato founds the Academy 386 BCE	Alexander the Great dies not long after defeating Persians 323 BCE	
Archaic Period (800 – 480 BCE)		Classical Period (480 – 323 BCE)		Hellenistic Period (323 – 146 BCE)	



Key Knowledge

- To place the Ancient Greek civilisation accurately on a time line BCE
- To locate Ancient Greece on a map
- To compare life in the city states of Athens and Sparta
- To explain some Ancient Greek beliefs and why they were held
- To name the twelve Olympian gods and their characteristics
- To explore the importance of the Olympic games to Ancient Greeks

Key texts:

