

HISTORY—Ancient Greece—Year 5—Advent Term 1

What was life like in Ancient Greece and how did it influence the Western World 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.

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.

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.

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.

