

# | Autumn 1 Knowledge Organiser – History – Ancient Greece - 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.
- Information about the Egyptian **civilisation**.
- The Romans **invaded** Britain.
- The **chronology** of British history.

## 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                                                                                     |
| chronology    | the order of events in time                                                                                                                   |
| circa         | Latin meaning 'around'. c. 800 BC means around 800 BC.                                                                                        |
| 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 <b>culture</b> .                                                                  |
| climate       | the general weather conditions that are typical of a place                                                                                    |
| 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 <b>civilisation</b>                   |
| deity         | a god or goddess                                                                                                                              |
| democracy     | a fair political system where all adults vote for an elected government. This government then makes decisions on how to run the country.      |
| 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                                                                                        |
| invasion      | to try and take over a place by force                                                                                                         |
| merchant      | a person who buys or sells goods in large quantities                                                                                          |
| military      | relating to or belonging to the army                                                                                                          |
| mythology     | a group of myths, especially all the myths from a particular country, religion, or <b>culture</b> .                                           |
| 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 |
| 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                                                                                                                |

## Historical Skills and Enquiry

- Examine Greek **artefacts** (such as vases) and use these to make inferences about the past.
- Describe how Greek artefacts and ruins tell us about their **culture**, **military** and **religious beliefs**.
- Discuss the notion of **democracy** – compare the democratic process of ancient Greece with modern Britain.
- Describe how the Ancient Greek **society** has had an impact on modern society.
- Place the **chronology** of key events of the Greek civilisation on a timeline and compare to other periods of history.

## Timeline

776 BC: The first Olympic games take place.

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

c. 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.

c. 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**.