



The Ancient Greeks

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Ancient Greece covered an area dominated by sea, mountain ranges and many islands, meaning that they were a seafaring people. City states were created, they traded with each other, and often fought too.



Who were they?

Ancient Greece is a long period of history. It began with the Minoan civilisation around 2700 BCE and finished with the collapse of the Hellenistic period in 150 BCE. The Ancient Greeks did not think of themselves as part of one country, but were Greek if they shared a language and culture. Their citizenship of a town or city was more important.

Legacy

There are many things we can thank the Ancient Greeks for, such as written history, philosophy and important scientific and mathematical knowledge. Two important ones are **democracy** and the **Olympic Games**.

Athens was the first place to have a **democratic** government, which means that the people who lived there made decisions by voting.

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

Useful Vocabulary

Archaeological—the study of ancient objects and remains

Classical— relating to ancient Greek or Roman society, usually literature, art or culture

Civilisation—a human **society** (large organised group) with its own social organisation and **culture**

Democracy—a fair political system where all adults vote or an elected government, which then makes decisions about how to run the country.

Culture—activities like the arts and philosophy which are important for developing civilisation

Justice—the idea of fairness and the punishment of wrongdoing

Myth—a story used to teach something meaningful or explain the world around us

Legend— a partly true story which has been passed down over time and had an important meaning

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