

## The Greeks :

What was it like to live in Ancient Greece?

## History

### Knowledge Organiser

**Teaching focus:** Ancient Greece—a study of Greek life and achievements and their influence on the Western world

**Learning Lens:** Cultures and Pastimes

**Class:** Year 4

### Previous Knowledge

What was the impact of bronze and iron on Celtic culture?

### Project Hook or 'Wow' memory

Greek Feast, Pottery making

### Learning Steps

### Key Knowledge (answers)

**Who were the ancient Greeks and when was the period known as the 'Ancient Greeks'?**

About **2,500 years ago**, Greece was one of the most important places in the ancient world. The Greeks were great thinkers, warriors, writers, actors, athletes, artists, architects and politicians. **Ancient Greece** was a civilization belonging to a **period of Greek history** from the **Greek Dark Ages** of the 12th–9th centuries BC to the end of antiquity ( c. AD 600)

**How did the Olympic games begin?**

The Olympic Games began over 2,700 years ago in Olympia, in south west Greece. Every **four years**, around 50,000 people came from all over the Greek world to watch and take part. The ancient games were also a religious festival, held in honour of **Zeus**, the king of the gods.

**What was it like to live in an ancient Greek family?**

Ancient Greece had a warm, dry climate, as Greece does today. Most people lived by farming, fishing and trade. Others were soldiers, scholars, scientists and artists. Ancient Greek homes were built around a courtyard or garden. The walls were often made from wood and mud bricks. They had small windows with no glass, but wooden shutters to keep out the hot

**Who were the ancient Greek gods and heroes?**

Ancient Greeks believed gods were a bit like humans, but they lived forever and were much more powerful. They felt human emotions, like love, anger and jealousy, and they did not always behave themselves. Everyone's favourite hero was **Heracles (the Romans called him Hercules)**. Heracles was Zeus's son. He was so strong he could kill a lion with his bare hands.

**What do we know about ancient Greek culture?**

The Greeks had style! Their trademark red and black **pottery** was very fashionable, and it was bought and sold all over the Mediterranean and even parts of Asia. They were great builders too. The Greeks built grand **temples** to their gods and superb sculptures of brave heroes. They pretty much invented the **theatre** as well. The Greeks also celebrated the arts with big **festivals**. There was always music, dancing and feasting in honour of their gods.

**How did the ancient Greeks change the world?**

Even after 3,000 years, we're still using ancient Greek ideas in maths, science and art. Our alphabet is based on the Greek one. Alexander, the young king of Macedon. He led his army to take over Greece, Persia, Egypt and even part of India. He ruled so much of the world they called him 'Alexander the Great'. Wherever he went, Alexander took Greek ideas. When he died in 323BC, the Romans took over. They admired the Greeks' way of life and carried Greek ideas to even more countries - including ours!

### The key skills we want pupils to use during this topic:

To **ORGANISE, EVALUATE AND COMMUNICATE** information by presenting findings about the past using speaking, writing, ICT, drama and drawing skills.

**KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING** — describe how some of the past events affect lives today. Show knowledge and understanding by describing features of past societies and periods.

To develop understanding of **CHRONOLOGY** by using words, phrases and topic related vocabulary which denotes the period. Place events on a timeline covering AD and BCE dates.

### Key vocabulary

**empire**

A group of territories or peoples under one ruler / a country whose ruler is called an emperor.

**civilisation**

A **civilization** is something more than a town. It is an advanced stage of organisation. That means it has laws, culture, a regular way of getting food and protecting the people.

**BC AD**

The terms **anno Domini (AD)** and **before Christ (BC)**

**chiton, himation, tunic, loin cloth**

types of clothing

**chariot**

a two-wheeled vehicle drawn by horses, used in ancient racing and warfare

**democracy**

a state governed under a system of democracy

### Final Written Outcome

Non Chronological Report about Greek pastimes.

**Alternative Outcome:**

A poster including key facts about Greek pastimes .

