

Grange Park Primary School Year 4 Spring 1 History

Glorious Greeks: Ancient Greece 800 BC - 323 BC

Timeline	
776 BC	The first Olympic games take place in the city state of Olympia.
743 BC	First Messenian war begins between Sparta and Messenia.
650 BC	Greek Tyrants come into power.
505 BC	Cleisthenes introduces democracy in Athens.
490 BC	Greek/Persian wars led by Xerxes.
461 BC	Peloponnesian wars begin between Sparta and Athens (to 446 BC).
431 BC	Second Peloponnesian wars.
430 BC	Outbreak of bubonic plague in Athens.
359 BC	Philip II becomes King of the Greeks.
356 BC	Alexander the Great is born.
331 BC	Alexander the Great defeats Persians at Issus and is given Egypt.
323 BC	Alexander the Great dies at Babylon.



Key People/Key Places	
Alexander the Great	King of the ancient Greek Kingdom of Macedonia.
Sparta	An important city state in ancient Greece.
Athens	The largest and most influential city state.
Zeus	The god of sky and thunder, who rules as King of the gods on Mount Olympus.
Athena	The Olympian goddess of wisdom and war and the patroness of the city of Athens.
Mount Olympics	The home of the gods and the site of the throne of Zeus.
Pnyx Hill	The place where Athenians gathered to hold their democratic meetings.

Who were the ancient Greeks?
Ancient Greece was a civilisation which dominated much of the Mediterranean over 3000 years ago. Under Alexander the Great's rule, ancient Greece ruled much of Europe and Western Asia. The Greeks came before the Romans and much of the Roman culture was influenced by the Greeks.
Ancient Greece was divided into three city states, each with their own customs, laws and rulers. Sparta and Athens were the two most well known city states.

What did the ancient Greeks do for us?
In Athens, Greek styles of art, architecture, philosophy and theatre were developed – these helped shape our modern society along with science, maths and language.
Athens had a democratic government, which means that people who lived there made decisions by voting. Due to this, our modern society is a democratic one.

Key Vocabulary	
warfare	Engagement in or the activities involved in war or conflict.
democracy	A fair political system where adults vote for an elected government.
society	People in general living together in a community.
city-state (polis)	An independent city and its surrounding land which has its own government.
pentathlon	An athletic event comprising of five different events for each competitor.
empire	A number of individual nations controlled by the government or ruler of one particular country.
province	A part of a country having a government of its own.
colony	A group of people from one economy who build a settlement in another territory or land.
territory	An area of land belonging to or under the rule of government.
conquer	Overcome or take control of a place or people by military force.
military	The armed forces of a country.

