



YEAR 6 ANCIENT GREECE KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

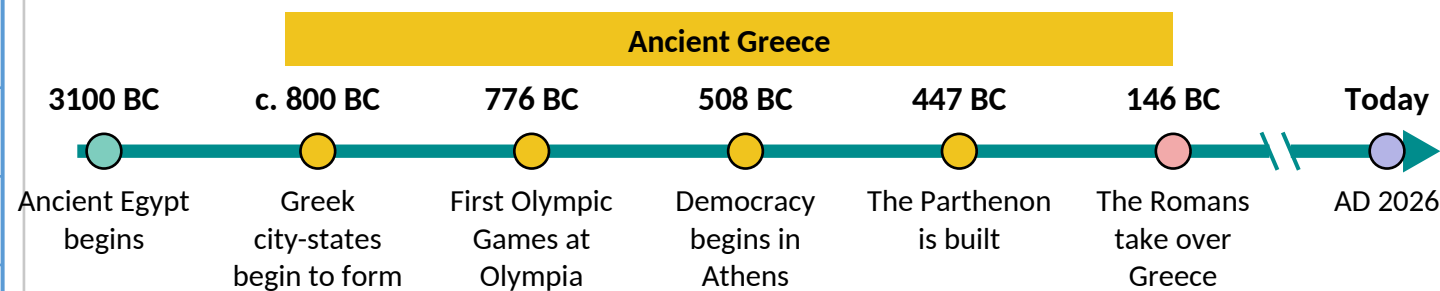


Key Vocabulary

civilisation	A large society with towns, rulers, laws and culture.
city-state (polis)	A city and the land around it, with its own rulers, laws and army.
trade	Buying, selling or swapping goods with other people.
culture	The ideas, beliefs, art and ways of life shared by a group of people.
government	The people who make decisions and run a place.
democracy	Rule by the people – citizens vote to make decisions.
monarchy	Rule by a king or queen.
citizen	A person who belongs to a city-state and has rights there.
philosophy	'Love of wisdom' – thinking about big questions.
architecture	The design of buildings.
theatre	Plays performed for an audience.
legacy	Something from the past that is still around and affects us today.
influence	The effect something has on people or things.
significance	How important something is.

Timeline – key dates

(not to scale)



Ancient Greek City-States

Ancient Greece was **not one country**. From about 800 BC, it was made up of hundreds of **city-states**. Each city-state, or **polis**, was a city and the land around it, with its own rulers, laws, army and even its own coins.

Mountains split the land, so the city-states grew up separately. The **sea** connected them – many Greeks travelled and traded by ship. City-states sometimes fought each other, but they shared the same **language, gods and culture**. Important city-states included **Athens, Sparta, Corinth** and **Thebes**.



Trade

Greeks traded goods such as **olive oil, wine, pottery, grain** and **iron** with each other and with lands far away. Trade brought new ideas as well as goods!

Gods and myths

The Greeks believed in many gods. **Zeus** was king of the gods and **Athena** protected Athens. **Myths** explained nature – Persephone's story explained the seasons.

Legacy: what did the Greeks do for us?

Ancient Greek ideas still influence the way we live, learn and govern today.



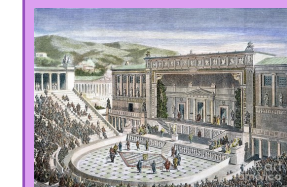
Olympic Games

First held at Olympia in 776 BC to honour Zeus. Athletes from around the world still meet every 4 years.



Democracy

Citizens in Athens voted on new laws. Today, people in many countries vote to choose their leaders.



Theatre

The Greeks gave us theatre. Comedies and tragedies are still performed today.



We speak Greek!

The word **alphabet** comes from the first two Greek letters: **alpha** and **beta**.

tele = far • **photo** = light • **micro** = small • **bio** = life • **graph** = write
→ telephone, photograph, microscope, biography
We also still see Greek **columns** on buildings and use **Pythagoras'** ideas in maths.

Athens vs Sparta

	 Athens – a democracy	 Sparta – ruled by two kings
Who ruled?	Citizens met on a hill called the Pnyx and voted on new laws by raising their hands.	Two kings from two royal families, helped by a council of 28 elders (all over 60).
Who had a say?	Only free men whose parents were Athenian. Women and slaves could not vote.	The kings and elders made the big decisions. The kings led the army into battle.
Children	Boys went to school. Girls learned at home to run a household.	Boys left home at 7 to train as soldiers. Girls ran races and wrestled to be strong.
Famous for...	Ideas, art, plays and thinkers. Built the Parthenon.	Its strong, well-trained army.

Ancient Greece's greatest achievements

Olympics

- First Games: 776 BC at Olympia
- Held every 4 years to honour Zeus
- Winners got an olive wreath

Theatre

- Plays in huge open-air theatres
- All actors were men
- Masks showed happy or sad characters

Architecture

- The Parthenon: a temple to Athena
- Built 447–432 BC on the Acropolis
- Famous for its tall columns

Maths & science

- **Pythagoras**: rules about triangles
- **Archimedes**: levers and water – "Eureka!"
- **Hippocrates**: the 'father of medicine'

Philosophy

- **Socrates** asked big questions
- **Plato** started a school: the Academy
- **Aristotle** taught Alexander the Great