



# All Saints CE Aided Primary School and Nursery Knowledge Organiser

Year: 5

History: Ancient Greek

History Key question: How did the Ancient Greeks influence western civilization?

Curriculum Strand: A study of Greek life and achievements and their influence on the western world

## Groundbreaking Greeks

Ancient Greek lands were made up of the Greek mainland, surrounding islands and Greek colonies across the Mediterranean Sea. Ancient Greece was almost entirely surrounded by sea, and the mountains on the mainland made travelling by land difficult.



## Significant periods of Greek history

Ancient Greek history can be divided into seven main periods or civilizations: Neolithic, Minoan civilization, Mycenaean civilization, Dark Age, Archaic period, Classical period and Hellenistic period. Greece is often referred to as the birthplace of Western civilization because of the advances that its people made in politics, science, mathematics, philosophy, literature and art.

## Timeline

c6000–c3000 BC	People start to farm and make produce in Neolithic Greece.
c3000–c1100 BC	The Minoan civilisation exists on the island of Crete.
c1600–c1100 BC	The Mycenaean civilisation exists on the Greek mainland.
c1450 BC	The Mycenaean take control of Crete.
c1100–c800 BC	Greek cities are destroyed or abandoned during the Greek Dark Age.
c800–c500 BC	Greece develops quickly and city states are founded in the Archaic period.
776 BC	The first Olympic Games are held in Olympia.
c507 BC	Cleisthenes introduces the world's first known democratic system to Athens.
c500	The Classical period begins.
356 BC	Alexander the Great is born.
323 BC	Alexander the Great dies and the Classical period ends.
323–30 BC	Greece becomes divided during the Hellenistic period.
30 BC	Ancient Greece is conquered by the Romans.

## Lasting legacies

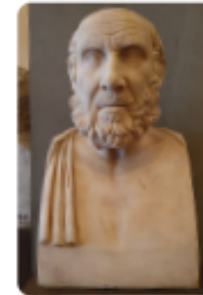
### Democracy

The world's first democratic system was created in Athens in the fifth century BC. The system was designed to give the Athenian people a say over how their city was run. Today's democratic systems, although different from Athens', follow the same principles and allow ordinary citizens to have a say in how their country is governed.



### Philosophy and mathematics

Socrates, Plato and Aristotle were some of the greatest philosophers of their time, and their ideas are still influential today. Socrates' method of questioning and discussion, known as the 'Socratic method', is still used in schools and universities. The ancient Greeks also made hugely significant advances in mathematics and the ideas of mathematicians, such as Pythagoras and Archimedes, are still relevant today.



### Olympic Games

The Olympic Games were invented in ancient Greece. It was one of the greatest sporting and religious festivals of its time and drew in competitors and spectators from all parts of Greece. Today's Olympic Games share some of the same core values of excellence, respect and friendship that underpinned the original Olympic Games.



### Arts and culture

Theatre was an important tradition in ancient Greece. Over 40 plays have survived from the Classical period. Poetry was another source of entertainment and education. Epic Greek poems have provided information about historical and mythological events. Sculpture was an important part of ancient Greek art and their method of painting designs onto pottery was also distinct and inspired many other civilizations.



## Glossary

<b>acropolis</b>	The upper fortified area of a Greek city that is usually built on a hill.
<b>architect</b>	Someone who designs buildings and makes sure that they are built correctly.
<b>Athenian</b>	A person from Athens.
<b>citadel</b>	A central fortified area of a city or town.
<b>city state</b>	A city and the area surrounding it with an independent government.
<b>civilisation</b>	A highly developed culture, including its social organisation, government, laws and arts.
<b>democracy</b>	A political system, which allows people to have a say in the way their country is governed.
<b>empire</b>	A group of countries or states ruled by a single authority, such as an emperor or monarch.
<b>mathematician</b>	Someone who studies, teaches or is an expert in mathematics.
<b>mythology</b>	A collection of religious and cultural stories.
<b>Parthenon</b>	A temple on the Acropolis in Athens.
<b>philosopher</b>	Someone who studies basic ideas about knowledge and reasoning.
<b>warrior</b>	A soldier with skill and experience in fighting.