




Ancient Greece – Spring Term 1

Year 3 History

Key vocabulary	Explanation/definition	Key knowledge
Ancient	Of or in time long past.	
Empire	A group of countries ruled by one country.	The earliest Greek civilizations thrived nearly 4,000 years ago. The Ancient Greeks lived in Greece and the countries that we now call Bulgaria and Turkey. The Ancient Greece empire spread over Europe as far as France in the East. The Greek Empire was most powerful between 2000 BC and 146 BC The ancient Greeks developed new ideas for government, science, philosophy, religion, and art.
Olympics	A series of international sport contests held every four years in a different place in the world.	The first Olympic games was held in 776 BC. The ancient Olympic Games were primarily a part of a religious festival in honour of Zeus, the father of the Greek gods and goddesses. The festival and the games were held in Olympia.
Nobleman	A person of high social rank.	
Artefact	In archaeology, artefacts are the material remains of past human life and activities.	 The pottery of ancient Greece from 1000 to 400 BCE provides not only some of the most distinctive vase shapes from antiquity but also some of the oldest and most diverse representations of the cultural beliefs and practices of the ancient Greeks.
Parthenon	The temple of Athena Parthenos on the Acropolis at Athens.	The Parthenon is a temple in the middle of the Acropolis in Athens. It was a temple to Athena, the goddess of wisdom, and originally had a statue to her. It has now stood for nearly 2,500 years, a superb architectural achievement!
Democracy	A system of government, where the population gets to vote for representatives that will represent their area.	Democracy means 'rule by the people'. It comes from the Greek words 'dêmos', which means people, and 'krátos' which means rule or strength.
Myth	A traditional story, especially one explaining the early history of a people or explaining a natural or social phenomenon, and typically involving supernatural beings or events.	Ancient Greek myths are still read today. Monsters include Medusa and the minotaur. Heroes include Odysseus and Perseus.

Key People and places



Zeus

Zeus was the king of the Greek gods, who lived on the Mount Olympus. He was also the god of the sky and the god of thunder. He was married to the goddess Hera and his symbol was the lightning bolt. Zeus was believed to be able to control the weather, creating huge storms. It was thought that he could change people into animals as punishment. His two brothers were Hades and Poseidon.

Hades

Hades (brother of Zeus and Poseidon) was the God of the Underworld. He was normally depicted as having a pitchfork and his three-headed dog, Cerberus. He rode a chariot pulled by black horses. The Underworld was where dead people went in Greek Mythology. Hades originally wasn't happy about this, until Zeus reminded him that it meant that all people would eventually be his subjects!



Poseidon

Poseidon (brother of Zeus and Hades) was the God of the sea, earthquakes, and horses. Along with his brothers, he was one of the three most powerful gods. As god of the ocean, he was especially important to sailors and fisherman. He was usually pictured with a trident, curly hair, and a beard. It was thought that Poseidon could create sea storms to ruin ships, or clear weather to help them along.

Hera

As the wife of Zeus, Hera was considered as the queen of Mount Olympus. She was most often considered to be the goddess of women, marriage and childbirth. She was normally pictured wearing long flowing robes and a crown, and holding a scepter. The women of ancient Greece prayed to Hera during childbirth, and to aid them through their marriages. As wife of Zeus, she also had power over the skies.



Apollo

Apollo was the Greek God of music, poetry, light, prophecy and medicine. He was often pictured as a handsome athletic youth with curly hair. Items associated with him are his bow and arrow and his lyre. It was believed that he could see into the future, and heal people. As a punishment, he could bring people illness and disease.

Aphrodite

Aphrodite was the Greek God of love and beauty. She was famous for being the most beautiful of all of the Goddesses. She was often shown as being a beautiful young woman with an apple, scallop shell, dove or swan. It was said that Aphrodite had a belt, which made people fall in love with the wearer. Fighting couples would look to Aphrodite to help them fall in love again.



Mount Olympus

Mount Olympus is the highest mountain in Greece. It was believed in Ancient Greek times that when things needed to be decided in the mystical world, the 12 main Gods would gather at Mount Olympus, and that many lived there.



The Parthenon

The Parthenon is a temple in the middle of the Acropolis in Athens. It was a temple to Athena, the goddess of wisdom, and originally had a statue to her. It has now stood for nearly 2,500 years, a superb architectural achievement!



Ancient Greece Timeline

776 BC – The first Olympic games take place in honour of Greece

600 BC – The first Greek coins are used to buy and sell goods

570 BC – Pythagoras is born. He made major breakthroughs in science and maths

508 BC – Democracy begins in Athens, giving greater power to the people

432 BC – The Parthenon, the most famous building in Athens, is completed

400-300 BC – Socrates, Plato and Aristotle live, advancing learning

336 BC – Alexander the Great is King and completes many conquests

146 BC – Rome conquers Greece, making it a part of the Roman Empire.