



This study follows on from other Ancient civilisations, such as the Romans and Egyptians. The Ancient Greeks were an ancient civilisation situated in Europe. They have greatly influenced modern society through the introduction of democracy and the study of science, mathematics and philosophy.

### What you should already know

- Greece is a country in the continent of Europe.
- The climate of Greece is slightly different to that of the UK
- Human and physical geographical features of Greece.
- Information about the Egyptian civilisation.
- The Romans invaded Britain.
- The chronology of British history.



### Key knowledge—Greek Society

- Greece was divided into city-states that each had their own laws and way of life, but that all spoke the same language. Two of the most well-known city states are Athens and Sparta
- Modern day archaeologists, such as Arthur Evans, made lots of discoveries in their attempt to uncover the truth behind some famous Greek myths..
- In Athens, Greek styles of art, **architecture**, **philosophy** and theatre were developed—these helped to shape our modern society along with science, culture, philosophy and sport.
- Athens had a **democratic** government—this means that the people who lived there made decisions by voting, like we do in Britain.
- Greek theatre was a large part of society and reflected both the culture and beliefs from that time in history.
- The importance of Greek architecture was evident in the many temples and iconic buildings in Ancient Greece such as The Parthenon and The Elgin Marbles, many of which are evident in modern day buildings.
- The first Olympic games were held in 766 BC in the city-state Olympia.
- Greek philosophers and scientist such as Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Hippocrates and Archimedes were thinkers whose ideas are still important today.

### Historical Skills and Enquiry

- Examine Greek artefacts (such as vases) and use these to make inferences about the past.
- Describe how Greek artefacts and ruins tell us about their **culture**, **military**, **way of life** and **religious beliefs**.
- Describe how the Greek society has had an impact on modern society.
- Discuss the notion of **government** and understand the different forms of rule amongst the city-states
- Examine the timeline of the Greek **civilisation** and understand the main developments that made Greece so powerful in the Archaic, Classical and Hellenistic eras.
- Compare what was happening in the Greek **civilisation** on a timeline with a chronological history of Britain. Where are the overlaps?
- Describe the ideas, beliefs and philosophy of people in the Greek civilisation.



## Vocabulary

**Acropolis**—the citadel of an ancient Greek city

**Archaeologist**—someone who studies the past by exploring old remains

**Architecture**—the art of planning, designing and constructing buildings

**Circa**—Latin meaning ‘around’. c. 800 BC means around 800 BC.

**Civilisation**—a human society with its own social organisation and culture.

**Culture**—activities such as the arts and philosophy, which are considered to be important for the development of civilisation

**Deity**—a god or goddess

**Democracy**—a fair political system where all adults vote for an elected government. This government then makes decisions on how to run the country.

**Empire**—a number of individual nations that are all controlled by the government or ruler of one particular country

**Fertile**—rich in nutrients to support the growth of many plants

**Merchant**—a person who buys or sells goods in large quantities

**Military**—relating to or belonging to the army

**Mythology**—a group of myths, especially all the myths from a particular country, religion, or culture.

**Philosophy**—the study or creation of theories about basic things such as the nature of existence, knowledge, and thought, or about how people should live

**Polis**—an ancient Greek city state

**Polytheists**—the worship of or belief in more than one god

**Satire**—a type of drama that pokes fun at people and the world

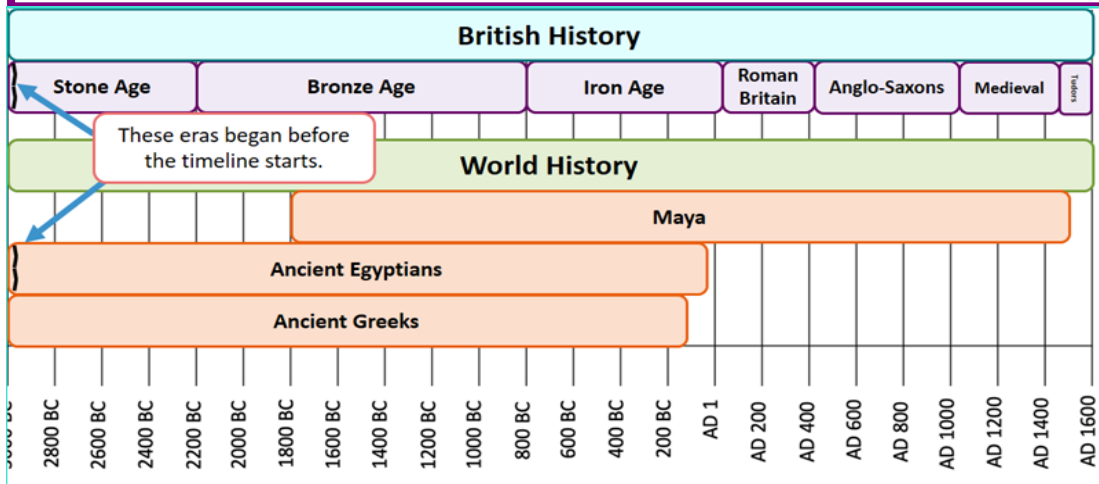
**Seafaring**—working as a sailor or travelling regularly on the sea

**Society**—people in general, thought of as a large organized group

**Trade**—the activity of buying, selling, or exchanging goods or services

**Tragedy**—a type of drama that deals in sadness and human difficulties

## Ancient Greek Timeline



## Diagrams

- Greece is made up of the mainland and many islands.
- Its position by the sea meant that the Greeks were a **seafaring** people.
- City-states (**polis**) were created and **trade** happened between each of the cities.
- Greece is a warm country, but winds from the Mediterranean, and rains from the north, kept temperatures liveable and created **fertile** farming conditions.

