

Year 3/4 Knowledge Organiser History – Ancient Greece

Vocabulary

1	ancient	extremely old; existing for many years
2	civilisation	a large group of people who share certain ways of living and working, developing their own language and culture
3	city state	a small area of a country, with its own government, laws and culture e.g. Athens and Sparta
4	democracy	a form of government where people have power to vote and participate in decision-making
5	BCE	Before Common Era – before the birth of Jesus in the Christian religion
6	myth	a traditional story often involving gods, goddesses, heroes and magical elements
7	Olympics	a world-wide sporting event that started in Ancient Greece
8	solider	a person who serves in an army and fights for their country; another word for a soldier is a warrior
9	legacy	something important that is past down from generation to generation
10	philosopher	someone who studies and thinks deeply about the world
11	column	a post, usually made of stone or wood, that helps to support a building

Key Learning

1	The Olympic Games began in 776 BCE. Every four years, around 50,000 people came from all over Greece to watch and take part. These ancient games were a religious festival, held in honour of Zeus, the King of the Gods. At first, only men could take part and they wore no clothes!
2	The people of Ancient Greece believed that Gods and Goddesses watched over them. These gods looked like humans, lived on Mount Olympus and were immortal. Greek Gods and Goddesses include: Zeus (King of Olympus), Athena (Goddess of wisdom), Poseidon (God of the sea), Hades (God of the underworld) and Apollo (God of the sun).
3	Ancient Greece is one of the great civilisations of history, beginning around 2,500 years ago. The Ancient Greeks were great thinkers, warriors, writers, actors, athletes and artists. As the country was made up of rocky mountains, seas and islands, the people across Greece did not work together as one country. Instead, they had lots of city states.
4	Ancient Greece has shaped the modern world. To this day buildings use designs from Ancient Greece, such as Doric, Ionic and Corinthian columns. Modern British democracy is also similar to ancient Athenian democracy because both elect representatives.

Greek Gods

Zeus	Zeus was the most powerful of all the gods. He was God of the sky and the King of Mount Olympus. He was married to the queen of the gods, Hera. His temper changed the weather, and when he was angry, he threw thunderbolts. Thunderbolts and eagles are symbols of Zeus.
Poseidon	Poseidon was the God of the sea. He was the most powerful god except for his brother, Zeus. He lived in a beautiful palace under the sea and caused earthquakes when he was angry. Sailors prayed to Poseidon that they would travel on the seas in safety.
Hermes	Hermes was Zeus' youngest son. Hermes was very fast on his feet, very loyal and very clever, so Zeus decided to make him a messenger. Hermes always knew everything that was going on in the mythical world. The other gods trusted Hermes.
Hades	Hades was the brother of Zeus and Poseidon. Hades was the God of the dead. He ruled the underworld where the ancient Greeks believed people went when they died. Ancient Greeks were terrified of him and many did not dare even say his name.
Athena	Athena was the goddess of war, intelligence, art and literature. Athena was the daughter of Zeus. She was Zeus' favourite child. Athena's symbol was an owl. The city of Athens is named after Athena.