

Year 2/3 Knowledge Organiser History – Ancient Greece

Vocabulary

1	Hellas / Hellenes	What Ancient Greece and its people used to call themselves.
2	legacy	Something that someone leaves behind when they die.
3	BCE	“Before the Common Era” The number of years before Jesus was born.
4	Golden Age	Period of great architecture, trade, theatre, literature and philosophy.
5	Aristotle	Student of Plato and tutor to Alexander the Great.
6	Alexander the Great	King of Macedonia who conquered many lands.
7	God	The name God is given to the spirit or being who is worshipped.
8	Goddess	The name Goddess is given to a female who is worshipped.
9	immortal	Someone or something that is immortal lives forever.
10	myth	A myth is a well-known story which was made up in the past to explain events.

Key Learning

- The Olympic Games began in the Golden Age of Greece (776 BC). Every four years, around 50,000 people came from all over Greece to watch and take part. These ancient games were also a religious festival, held in honour of Zeus, the King of the Gods. To start, only men could take part and they wore no clothes!
- 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), Apollo (God of the sun).
- 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. It was not one big country like it is now.
- Alexander the Great is also sometimes known as the ‘ruler of the world’. Alexander was a prince during Ancient Greece. He was born in Macedonia. He died young, at age 32. Some people believe he was poisoned but others think he died of an illness.

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.