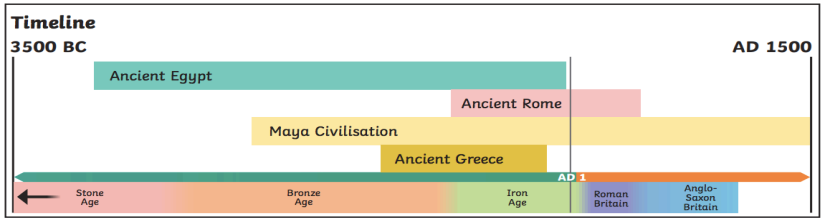
Year 5: Ground Breaking Greeks Knowledge Organiser

Time line



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.



Subject Specific Vocabulary

acropolis	The upper fortified area of a Greek city that is usually built on a hill.
citadel	A central fortified area of a city or town.
civilisation	A highly developed culture, including its social organisation, government, laws and arts.
city state	A city and the area surrounding it with independent government.
democracy	A political system, which allows people to have a say in the way their country is governed.
empire	A group of countries or states ruled by a single authority, such as an emperor or a monarch.
mythology	A collection of religious and cultural stories.
Parthenon	A temple on the Acropolis in Athens.
philosopher	Someone who studies basic ideas about knowledge and reasoning.

Significant periods of Greek history

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

Ancient Greek Gods and Goddesses

The ancient Greeks believed in many different gods and goddesses. Each god/goddess represented a certain aspect of humanity and each was responsible for certain parts of life too.

- Festivals were held to celebrate the gods and goddesses.
- It is believed that the 12 most powerful gods lived on Mount Olympus.
- Zeus was the most powerful of all the gods. He was god of the sky and the king of Mount Olympus.

Myths

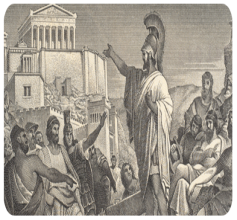
The Trojan War is a very famous ancient Greek myth.

- Many people believe that it is a myth but that there is some historical truth behind it.
- The Trojan War was between the Greek and the Trojan Armies.
- In the story, the Greeks pretended to surrender, leaving a gift of a giant horse for the Trojans. The gift was brought inside the city walls. During the night, Greek soldiers hiding inside the horse let the Greek army inside Troy's walls and the city was destroyed.

Lasting legacies

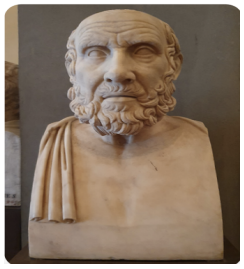
Democracy

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 civilisations.



Significant people

Ancient Greece is known for its many great thinkers, including philosophers, political leaders, scientists, mathematicians, historians and writers.

Pythagoras (c580–c500 BC) was a philosopher and mathematician. He developed a method to help people to calculate the longest side of a right-angled triangle.

Cleisthenes (c570–c508 BC) was a political leader in Athens. He developed the first democratic system.

Pericles (c495–429 BC) was a political leader in Athens. He ordered the construction of the Acropolis and Parthenon.

Socrates (c470–c399 BC) was a great philosopher. He used questions to help people to examine their knowledge and beliefs.

Hippocrates (c460–c375 BC) was a doctor. He carried out medical research and became known as the 'father of medicine'.

Plato (c427–c347 BC) was a philosopher and student of Socrates. He founded the first university in Athens.

Alexander the Great (356–323 BC) was a military leader. He expanded Greece's territory to create the ancient world's largest empire.

Family life and social class

In ancient Greece, class and gender determined the roles people could play in society and at home. Only male citizens were allowed to vote and make decisions. Below them in society came men called *metics*, who were not citizens and lastly, slaves. Men worked as politicians, landowners, artists, architects, sculptors, scientists and scholars. Women were expected to run the home, bring up the children, supervise the slaves and make clothing. They were not allowed to own land, vote or take part in politics.