



LKS2 History Knowledge and Skills Organiser

Lights, Camera, Active

Key Knowledge and Skills

Who were the Ancient Greeks?

Ancient Greeks were a civilisation of people who lived over 3000 years ago. They lived in mainland Greece and the Greek islands, but also in colonies scattered around the Mediterranean Sea. There were Greeks in Italy, Sicily, Turkey, North Africa, and as far west as France.

Who ruled Ancient Greece?

There wasn't one country called 'Ancient Greece'. Greece was divided up into small **city-states** and each city state ruled itself. They had their own governments, laws and army. For example, Athens, Sparta, Corinth and Olympia.

Athens vs Sparta

Athens and **Sparta** were the two main cities that ruled much of ancient Greece. They were often rivals and fought each other but at other times they united together to protect the Greek lands from invaders. The two cities were very different. Sparta was almost entirely focused on war and how to fight but Athens focused on the arts and learning.

However, in the 300s B.C., these small city-states were forced to unite under one ruler: Alexander the Great. He was the founder of the Ancient Greek Empire, which stretched into Europe, Egypt, and South-West Asia.

Gods and Goddesses

The Greeks believed that gods and goddesses watched over them. They believed that the gods were a bit like humans but were more powerful and lived forever. Each god and goddess had power over a different aspect of life and the Greeks believed that they lived high above Mount Olympus in a palace in the clouds.

Olympics Games

The Olympic Games began over 2,700 years ago in Olympia, in south west Greece. Every **four years**, around 50,000 people came from all over the Greek world to watch and take part. The ancient games were also a religious festival, held in honour of **Zeus**, the king of the gods.

There were no gold, silver and bronze medals. Winners were given a **wreath of leaves** and a **hero's welcome** back home. Athletes competed for the glory of their city and winners were seen as being touched by the gods.

Clothes and Fashion

The Greeks wore clothes made out of light materials because the weather was hot for most of the year. Men usually wore a big, square piece of material that was held with pins at the shoulders and had a belt around the waist. They called this a chiton. Women wore these too but their chiton needed to go all the way down to her ankles.

Key Vocabulary

Word

Definition

Ancient history

This is the history of people who lived thousands of years ago in places where writing was being developed (3000BC to 500AD).

BC

An abbreviation for 'before Christ'. The letters are placed after a date that is earlier than the birth of Christ.

AD

An abbreviation for 'anno domini' which means 'in the year of the Lord'. The letters are placed after a date, after the birth of Christ.

Civilisation

The society, culture and way of life of a particular area.

City states

A city state is a city which has its own ruler and government that rules the city and the surrounding countryside.

Athens

The capital city of Greece, in modern and ancient times.

Sparta

A dominant city in the southern part of ancient Greece

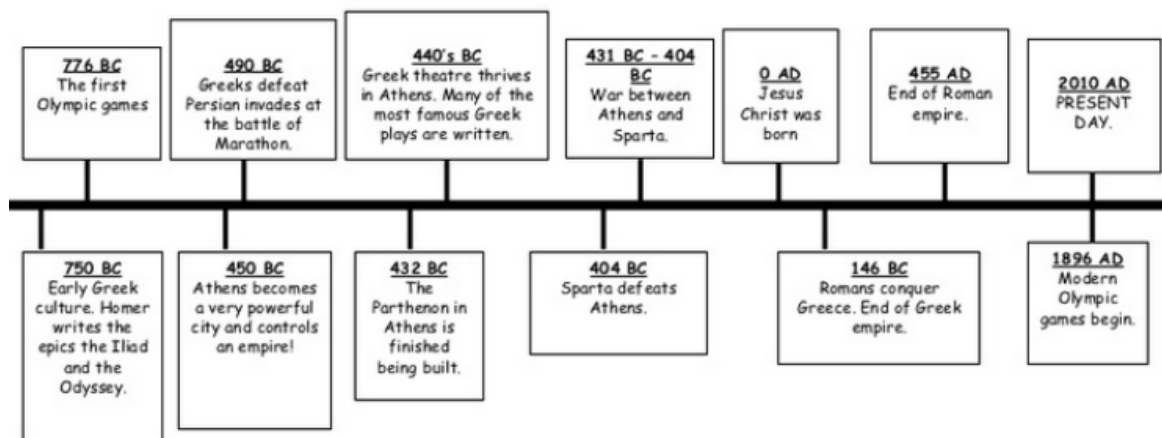
Olympic Games

A sporting event that began in Olympia, Greece.

Chiton

A piece of clothing worn by the ancient Greeks.

Ancient Greek Timeline



A timeline showing some key events that happened in Ancient Greece.

