



# Ancient Greeks



There was never one country called Ancient Greece'. Instead, Greece was divided up into small city states. Each city state ruled itself. They had their own governments, laws and armies.

Greece is situated in South Eastern Europe. It consists of a mainland and 6000 islands, although only 227 of these are inhabited.

The Minoans lived on the island of Crete, between 2200BC and 1450BC. They were known as the Minoans after their legendary king, Minos.

**2200BC**

**MINOAN CIVILISATION**

The Trojan War was waged against the city of Troy by the Greeks after Paris (the prince of Troy) took Menelaus' (the king of Sparta's) wife, Helen.

**1260BC**

**THE TROJAN WARS**

Ancient Greek civilisation slowly emerges again.

**800BC**

**THE END OF THE 'DARK AGE'**

They took place in Olympia and were part of religious festival held in honour of Zeus, King of the Gods.

**776BC**

**THE FIRST OLYMPIC GAMES**

Started by Cleisthenes, an ancient lawgiver.

**508BC**

**DEMOCRACY BEGINS IN ATHENS**

He wins many conquests and unites the Greek city-states, which leads to the League of Corinth.

**336BC**

**ALEXANDER THE GREAT IS KING**

The Romans didn't destroy Greek life, though. They respected the Greeks and copied many things about their culture, including their buildings, beliefs and clothes.

**30BC**

**ROME CONQUERS GREECE**

**1600BC**

**MYCENAEAN CIVILISATION**

The Mycenaean lived on mainland Greece. They were fine builders and traders, but they were also great soldiers. They famously fought in the battle of Troy.

**1100BC**

**THE 'DARK AGE'**

This time was known as a 'dark age' because nobody knows much about what happened - all written language and art disappeared.

**770-750BC**

**THE GREEK ALPHABET IS INVENTED**

Most specialists believe this happened around this time, perhaps in Euboea, which is the second largest island in Greece, after Crete.

**600BC**

**THE FIRST COINS ARE INTRODUCED**

Exactly where coins were invented is still a mystery! Some believe they were first minted (which means manufactured) in Lydia, while others say that King Midas' wife minted them first!

**480BC**

**THE 'CLASSICAL GREECE' ERA BEGINS**

This 'golden age' lasts for 200 years. People build temples, make scientific discoveries and write plays. Historians named this Classical Greece.

**323BC**

**THE HELLENISTIC PERIOD BEGINS**

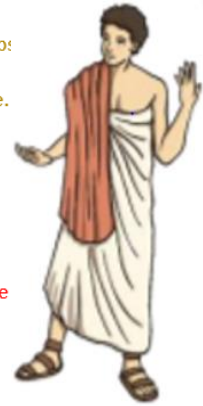
This is the final 'Ancient Greek' period, which starts when Alexander The Great dies. The Greeks referred to themselves as 'Hellenes', the term 'Greeks' was invented by the Romans.

## Key Vocabulary

<b>acropolis</b>	Fortified city core located on a rocky outcrop above Athens.
<b>ancient</b>	Belonging to the very distant past and no longer in existence.
<b>architecture</b>	The art or science of designing and creating buildings
<b>artefact</b>	The material remains of past human life and activities.
<b>assembly</b>	A group of people gathered together in one place for a common purpose
<b>city state</b>	A city that had its own government and rules the area around it.
<b>civilisation</b>	Ancient civilization refers specifically to the first settled and stable communities that became the basis for states and empires.
<b>democracy</b>	A system of government where eligible people elect representatives.
<b>empire</b>	A group of countries that are run by the government or another country
<b>legacy</b>	This or ideas that are passed down from one generation to another
<b>literature</b>	Written works, especially those considered superior or lasting
<b>oligarchy</b>	A system of government where a small group of people control everything.
<b>Parthenon</b>	Temple dedicated to Athena located on the Athenian Acropolis.
<b>philosophy</b>	The study of the basic ideas about knowledge, right and wrong, reasoning and the value of things

Democracy began in Ancient Greece.

**demos= people      kratos= rule**



Key People	
<b>Homer</b> Unknown	Legendary author (or authors) famous for writing the Iliad & Odyssey. Some historians believe that 'Homer' was a term for multiple people!
<b>Pythagoras</b> 570-495BC	Philosopher & mathematician most known for his right angle proof.
<b>Plato</b> 429-327 BC	Founded the first ever university in 428/427BC called The Platonic Academy of Athens
<b>Sophocles</b> 429-327 BC	Influential playwright known for writing over 120 plays, mainly tragedies
<b>Aristotle</b> 385-323BC	Philosopher and student of Plato; pulled together existing philosophies resulting in his ideas influencing Western civilization for centuries to come.
<b>Alexander The Great</b> 356-323BC	King of the ancient Greek kingdom of Macedonia; united and secured the whole of Greece and fought against the Persian Empire to the East. Died aged 32.