

What is the legacy of the ancient Greek civilisation?

Overview

In this topic, the children will be investigating the city states of Athens and Sparta, they will identify the similarities and differences between them. Using different sources of evidence, they learn about democracy and compare this to the ways in which other civilisations are governed. Considering the legacy of the ancient Greeks, children learn about the Olympic games, architecture, art and theatre.

Essential Knowledge

- Describe the features of ancient Greece.
- Identify the key periods in the ancient Greek civilisation.
- Make inferences about Greek gods.
- Compare Athens and Sparta.
- Understand the different types of democracy.
- Explain how Athenian democracy worked.
- Explain what philosophy is.
- Identify the achievements of the ancient Greek philosophers.
- Identify the ancient Greeks' legacies and their impact.

Hook into a Book



Activate Prior Knowledge

EY

- Beginning to recognise similarities and differences between the past and today.
- Using photographs and stories to compare the past with the present day.
- Recognise significant dates for them (birthday).

KS1

- Look at the lives of significant individuals in the past who have contributed to national and international achievements.
- Compare aspects of life in different periods.

LKS2

- a study of an aspect or theme in British history that extends pupils' chronological knowledge beyond 1066

KS3

- understand historical concepts such as continuity and change, cause and consequence, similarity, difference and significance, and use them to make connections, draw contrasts, analyse trends, frame historically-valid questions and create their own structured accounts, including written narratives and analyses.

Who were the ancient Greeks and when did they live?

How was Ancient Greece governed?

Who lived on Mount Olympus?

Did the ancient Greeks give us democracy?

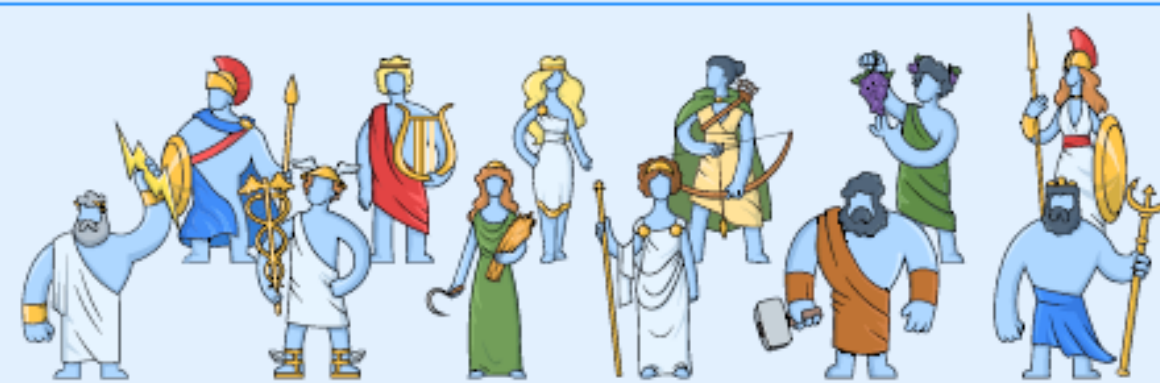
How do the ancient Greek philosophers influence us today?

What is the legacy of the ancient Greeks?

achievement	A significant accomplishment or contribution that had a lasting impact.
assembly	A democratic organisation in Ancient Athens where all men could vote on laws.
Athens	The largest and one of the most influential city-states in ancient Greece.
citizen*	A person who belongs to a country and has certain rights and responsibilities.
city-state	A city or town that, with the surrounding countryside, is an independent state.
Classical Golden Period	The period from 480 BC to 323 BC in which the Greeks built temples, created democracy and made scientific discoveries.
democracy*	A government elected by the citizens.
direct democracy	A system of government in Ancient Greece which gave all men the right to vote.
legacy*	Past events or actions which have had a lasting impact.
oligarchy	A system of government in Ancient Greece in which only a few people held power.
philosophy	The 'love of wisdom' in which people think and ask basic questions about human life.
Sparta	One of the most powerful city-states in Ancient Greece, known for its fierce army.
Zeus	In Greek mythology, the god of the sky and the supreme ruler of the Olympian gods.



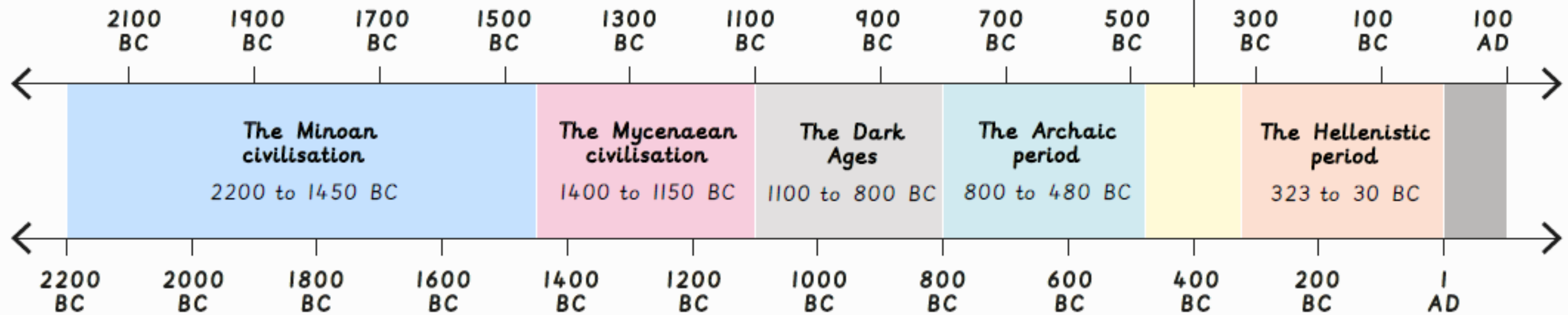
Athenian democracy was one of the first in the world. It was a direct democracy in which the citizens themselves voted for laws in the assembly. Modern Britain has a representative democracy where people elect a representative (Member of Parliament) to make decisions on their behalf. Citizens over 18 can vote in Britain; however, in ancient Athens, only adult males born in Athens could vote.



The ancient Greeks believed 12 gods and goddesses lived on Mount Olympus. The Greeks prayed to them at home and in temples and ran sporting events and festivals in their honour. They believed that if something went wrong, the gods were unhappy with them. The characters, images and abilities of the Greek gods and goddesses have influenced modern-day movies, animations, books, comics and video games.

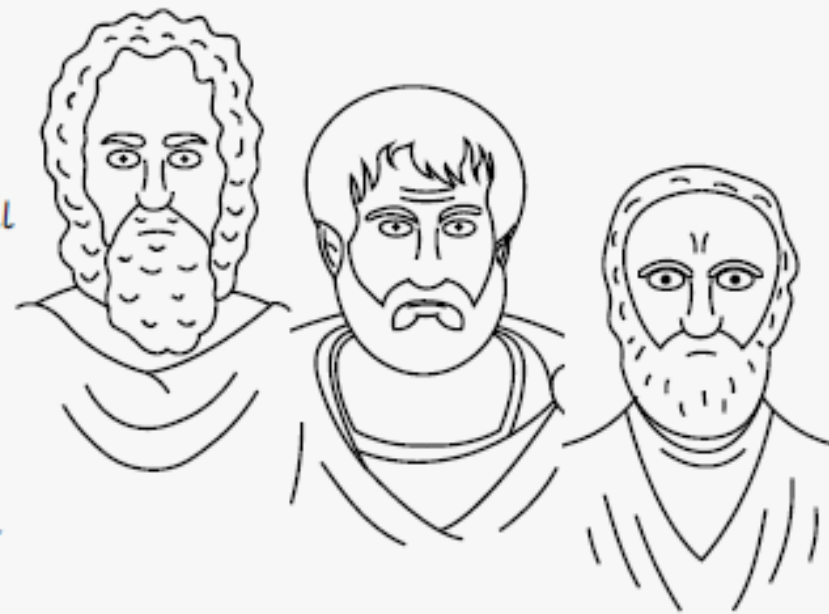
Timeline of Ancient Greece

The Classical Golden Age
480 to 323 BC



Philosophy

Philosophy (meaning 'love of wisdom') was developed by the ancient Greeks. Famous philosophers such as Pythagoras, Socrates, Plato and Aristotle still influence our thinking today: Pythagoras created the first maths formula, Socrates developed the Socratic method used to discuss ideas, Plato's ideas on ethics are still debated today, and Aristotle laid the foundations for modern science.



The English language

A B X Δ
E H Γ I
K Λ M N
Ω O Φ Π
Ψ P Σ T
Θ Y Ε Z

Many words in the English language (such as character, comedy, democracy, dinosaur, drama, planet, geography and technology) originated from Greek. The Greek alphabet (alphabetum) contributed ten letters to the English language. Moreover, the word alphabet comes from the Greek letters alpha and beta.

