



Map of Ancient Greece









Greece's position next to the sea (there are over 1400





islands) meant Ancient Greeks were a seafaring people. Trade between the islands led to the creation of 'city-states' (polis). Each city-state was ruled by a powerful city, led by a ruler or (later) government. Greece is a warm country, but winds from the Mediterranean, and rains from the north, kept temperatures liveable and created fertile farming conditions.







Ancient Greek Gods

| | |
|---|---|
|  <p>Zeus Zeus was the king of the Greek gods, who lived on Mount Olympus. He was also the god of the sky and the god of thunder. He was married to the goddess Hera and his symbol was the lightning bolt. His two brothers were Hades and Poseidon.</p> |  <p>Hades Hades was the god of the Underworld. He was normally depicted as having a pitchfork and his three-headed dog, Cerberus. He rode a chariot pulled by black horses. The Underworld was where dead people went in Greek Mythology.</p> |
|  <p>Poseidon Poseidon was the god of the sea, earthquakes, and horses. Along with his brothers, he was one of the three most powerful gods. He was usually pictured with a trident, curly hair, and a beard.</p> |  <p>Hera As the wife of Zeus, Hera was considered as the queen of Mount Olympus. She was most often considered to be the goddess of women, marriage and childbirth. She was normally pictured wearing long flowing robes and a crown and holding a sceptre.</p> |
|  <p>Apollo Apollo was the Greek god of music, poetry, light, prophecy and medicine. He was often pictured as a handsome athletic youth with curly hair. Items associated with him are his bow and arrow and his lyre.</p> |  <p>Aphrodite Aphrodite was the Greek goddess of love and beauty. She was famous for being the most beautiful of all of the goddesses. She was often shown as being a beautiful young woman with an apple, scallop shell, dove or swan.</p> |

People

| | | | | |
|---------------------|---|--|--|--|
| Socrates |  | Socrates was a famous philosopher, who taught others to question things. This led to his downfall, as he questioned the Gods and was arrested for influencing the young. | When? Socrates was born around 470BC | Key Fact: Socrates died when he drank poison in prison. |
| Plato |  | Plato, a philosopher, was a student of Socrates. Plato founded the first university, called the Academy. He believed a philosopher's job was to seek the truth. | When? Plato was born around 428BC | Key Fact: Plato was one of the first to argue that women should receive the same education as men. |
| Aristotle |  | Aristotle was a philosopher and scientist. At the age of 17, he travelled to Athens to attend Plato's university. He began to dissect animals to learn more about their anatomy. | When? Aristotle was born around 384BC | Key Fact: Aristotle was the private tutor of Alexander the Great! |
| Alexander the Great |  | Alexander the Great used his military genius to then win battle after battle, conquering eastern Europe and Egypt. | When? 356-323BC | Key Fact: He died aged 32. He accomplished a lot in his short life! |

Places

| | | | | |
|----------------|---|---|--|---|
| Athens | (See map) | Athens is famous for the Parthenon a huge temple built to the goddess Athena. Athens was the birthplace of democracy. | Key Fact: Athens had the strongest navy in the world at the time |  |
| Sparta | (See map) | Sparta is famous for its great warriors. Few buildings survive. | Key Fact: The city had two kings – one from each of the royal families | |
| Olympia | (see map) | Olympia was where the Olympic games were held. It had a temple dedicated to Zeus. About 170 miles from Mount Olympus | Key Fact: Much of the site was destroyed by an earthquake in 551CE | |
| Mount Olympus |  | Mount Olympus is the highest mountain in Greece. It was believed in Ancient Greek times that when things needed to be decided in the mystical world, the 12 main Gods would gather at Mount Olympus, and that many lived there. | Key Fact: Mount Olympus rises to 2,918m | |
| Knossos Palace |  | Knossos Palace is positioned in what was the capital of Minoan Crete. It is the site of a beautiful and expansive palace. | Key Fact: it is where King Minos built the fabled labyrinth in which the minotaur lived! |  |

Key vocabulary

- Acropolis** – An acropolis is a fortified citadel within a larger city.
- Assembly** – In Athens, the Assembly consisted of the group of citizens who showed up to vote.
- Chiton** – an item of clothing.
- Democracy** – A form of government where citizens have a say in how they are ruled including choosing their leaders and deciding on laws.
- Hellenes/Hellas** -The Greeks called themselves 'Hellenes' and their land was 'Hellas'.
- Hoplite** – the most common type of heavily armed foot-soldier in ancient Greece.
- Oligarchy** – A type of government where a few people hold the power.
- Olympics** – sporting and cultural event held every 4 years.
- Phalanx** – when all soldiers link arms to form a barrier.
- Stylus** – a wooden pen used to write on a wax board.



Timeline – ten most important events

| | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|--|--|-------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------------|---|--|--|
| 776 BCE | 600 BCE | 508BCE | 500BCE | 492 - 490BCE | 480 - 479BCE | 432BCE | 431 - 404 BCE | 336BCE | 146BCE |
| The First Olympic Games | The first Greek coins are used to buy and sell goods | Democracy begins in Athens - Male citizens of Athens given the vote. | Classical Period starts | 1 st Persian War Greeks defeat Persian invasion at the Battle of Marathon 490BCE | 2 nd Persian War The Greeks defeat the Persians for a second time. | The Parthenon in Athens is finished | War between Athens & Sparta (Sparta eventually defeats Athens) | Alexander the Great rules Greece aged 20 | Romans conquer Greece. End of the Greek empire |