

River View Primary School



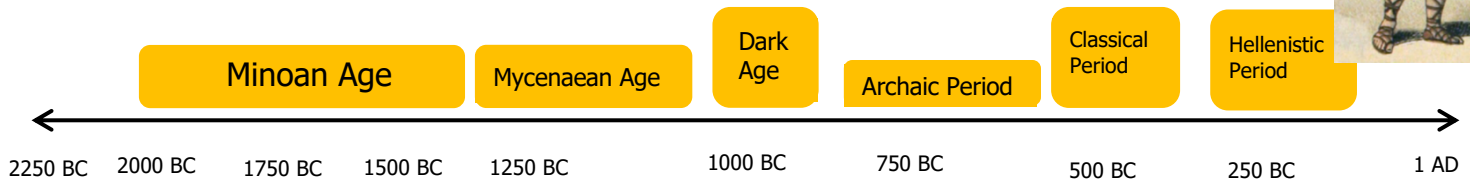
Year 5

Spring 1: The Ancient Greeks

Key question: what influence did the Ancient Greeks have on today's western world?

Vocabulary

Ancient civilisation	The first settled and stable communities that became the basis for later states, nations and empires.
BC	"Before Christ". Everything that happened before Jesus was born is known as the time period 'BC'.
AD	"Anno Domini". This means 'The year of our Lord' and refers to everything after Jesus' birth.
Minoan Age	C. 2000 BC – 1450 BC. This was when the first great Greek civilisation was flourishing on the island of Crete.
Mycenaean Age	C. 1450 BC – 1100 BC. This civilisation developed on mainland Greece. The Mycenaeans prided themselves on being successful warriors.
Dark Age	C. 1100 BC – 800 BC. After the fall of the Mycenaean civilisation, the country entered a Dark Age. There is little record, and it is thought that the population greatly declined.
Archaic Period	C. 800 BC – 480 BC. During this period, the first Olympic games took place.
Classical Period	C. 480 BC – 323 BC. Democracy was introduced in this period and two great Greek philosophers Socrates and Plato were teaching people their ideas in this time.
Hellenistic Period	C. 323 BC – 146 BC. After the death of Alexander the Great, city states were now ruled by kings.
Monarchy	A system of government which is ruled by a king.
Oligarchy	A system of government which is ruled by a small group of people.
Democracy	A system of government which is ruled by many people.



1. Different types of government in Ancient Greece	2. Greek Gods
Ancient Greece had no central government. People lived in city states. At the centre of each city state was a powerful city which ruled the area surrounding it. The three main forms of government in Ancient Greece were a monarchy (ruled by a king), an oligarchy (ruled by a small group of people) and a democracy (ruled by many people)	The Ancient Greeks had a polytheistic religion. This is a religion where its followers believe in not just one God, but many. The Ancient Greeks had a God for every aspect of their lives, from farming and fishing to love and war. The Ancient Greeks had special places at home where they set up an altar to pray and make daily offerings to their chosen Gods. Some of the most significant Gods and Goddesses include Zeus, Hermes, Aphrodite and Poseidon.
3. Comparing Athens and Sparta	4. How has modern life been influenced by the Ancient Greeks?
Athens was ruled by a democracy with a council of 500 people and Sparta had an oligarchy where two kings ruled the city state but a council of elders limited their powers. Athens had a strong culture which provided the best education and produced the best art and literature, whereas Sparta valued strength and fitness above all else. Both city states had their advantages and disadvantages.	The Ancient Greeks first introduced the Olympic Games in 776 BC as part of a religious festival. As well as this, they created their own alphabet which was developed around 800 BC. Greek myths have also influenced society today, including the Pandora's box and have also influenced modern day companies including Nike, who was the Greek God of victory.