

Ancient Greece | History | Years 5 & 6 | Spring Term 2025-26

2200 BC to 1450 BC	1600 BC to 1100 BC	1100 BC to 800 BC	776 BC	c.508 BC	c. 500BC to 300 BC	492 to 490 BC	480 BC to 479 BC	431 BC to 404 BC	336 BC	334 BC to 323 BC	146 BC
The Minoan Civilisation	The Mycenaean Civilisation	The Dark Age of Greece	First Olympic games held	Democracy begins in Athens	Greece's 'Golden Age'	First Persian invasion	Second Persian invasion	Peloponnesian Wars	Alexander takes control of Greece	Conquests of Alexander	Greece falls under the Roman Empire

National Curriculum History

Pupils should continue to develop a chronologically secure knowledge and understanding of British, local and world history, establishing clear narratives within and across the periods they study. They should note connections, contrasts and trends over time and develop the appropriate use of historical terms. They should regularly address and sometimes devise historically valid questions about change, cause, similarity and difference, and significance. They should construct informed responses that involve thoughtful selection and organisation of relevant historical information. They should understand how our knowledge of the past is constructed from a range of sources.

In planning to ensure the progression described above through teaching the British, local and world history outlined below, teachers should combine overview and depth studies to help pupils understand both the long arc of development and the complexity of specific aspects of the content.

Artefacts



The 'Bull-leaping Fresco'



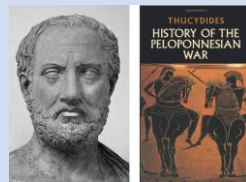
Linear A stone tablet



Pottery and coins



Herodotus 'The Histories'



Thucydides 'History of the Peloponnesian War'

Cause and Effect

How was Ancient Greece organised?

Due to its landscape, Ancient Greece was organised into city-states, each with their own laws, army and system of government.

What was the impact of Greece's expanding empire?

As Greece's empire grew, its culture was spread far and wide via trade, conquests and its influence on the Roman empire.

What were Ancient Greece's greatest achievements?

Ancient Greece made many advancements during its Golden Age including in maths, science, architecture, language, philosophy, inventions and drama. Our world today remains influenced by ideas which began in Ancient Greece.

Vocabulary

Archaeologist: a person who finds and studies objects from the past to learn about how people used to live.

Empire: an extensive group of states or countries ruled over by a single monarch, an oligarchy or sovereign state.

Democracy: a fair political system where people vote for an elected government.

Tyranny: one ruler seizes power with strength and force.

Oligarchy: rule by an elite few who make all decisions.

Monarchy: rule by a single head of state, especially a king, queen or emperor.

Expansion: becoming larger.

Dissolution: formally ending.

Conquest: control of a place or people by military force.

Diplomacy: the art of dealing with people in a sensitive and tactful way.

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Key Learning: When did this event happen? Beyond Living Memory (pre-history to classical era) 776BC to 146BC

1 **Where was Ancient Greece and how was it structured?**

Greece is located in south-east Europe. Its mountainous terrain (80%), composition of mainland plus over 1000 islands, and surrounding by three seas led to the formation of city-states, each with their own laws, armies and system of government.

2 **How do we know so much about Ancient Greece?**

Archaeologist, Sir Arthur Evans, made discoveries related to the Ancient Greek Minoans on Crete (2200-1450BC). Historians have analysed a range of artefacts to learn about language, events, people, sport, beliefs and gods of Ancient Greece, although sometimes they have differing interpretations.

3 **When was the Golden Age of Ancient Greece?**

The Ancient Greek civilisation occurred alongside the Ancient Romans, Ancient Egyptians and Celts (Iron Age). The Golden Age spanned from 500-300BC and was a time of remarkable cultural growth.

4 **What was Athenian democracy?**

Athenian democracy comprised three bodies: the Ekklesia (assembly), the Boule (council) and the Dikesteria (courts). Only Athenian citizens (wealthy men who had undertaken military training) could take part so it excluded: the poor, women, children and slaves.

5 **What were the causes and effects of the Peloponnesian wars?**

The city-states of Athens and Sparta, who had key differences in the ways they were organised and run, led to in-fighting within the Greek Empire, known as the Peloponnesian wars. Despite these differences, the city-states would unite to provide a stronger defense against external threats (e.g. the Persians). Sparta ultimately won due to their more powerful army and defeat of the Athenian fleet but refused to destroy Athens or enslave its people. Instead, they set up an oligarchy and tore down Athens's wall. However, only a year later the Athenians over-threw the oligarchy and restored democracy.

6 **Who Alexander and why was he so Great?**

Alexander became King of Macedonia (a city-state) in 336BC at the age of 20. After many years of fighting, he brought all the Greek city-states under his control and turned east, to the Persian Empire, for further conquests, defeating King Darius III in 331BC and becoming the King of Persia. Alexander died in 332BC, aged 32, however there is a lack of reliable evidence as to how he died. The Ancient Greek Empire expanded to its largest size under rule of Alexander the Great due to: military strategy and battle successes; diplomacy, friendships and popularity; following local customs and laws; and integration with local populations. However, because he did not name a clear successor, the Greek empire was divided into three parts upon his death, weakening it and leading to its dissolution.