

Uplands Junior School Knowledge Organiser

Subject: History

Topic: Ancient Greeks

Year: 3

Historical knowledge

- *Greece was divided into City-states (Polis) that each had their own laws and way of life. Two of the most well-known city states are Athens and Sparta.
- *In Athens, Greek art, architecture, philosophy and theatre were developed- these helped shape our modern society, along with science, language and math.
- *The first Olympic games were held in 776 in the city-state Olympia.
- *Religion was very important. Ancient Greeks were polytheists- they believed in different gods and goddesses.
- *Athens had a democratic government- this means that the people who lived there made decisions by voting.
- *In Sparta, life was very different; all that was important was being able to defend Sparta in battle.
- *Greek philosophers were "seekers and lovers of wisdom". They studied and analyzed the world around them using logic and reason. Famous Greek philosophers include: Socrates, Plato, Homer and Aristotle.

Key vocabulary

Acropolis	the citadel of an ancient Greek city
Architecture	the art of planning, designing and constructing buildings
Chronology	the order of events in time circa Latin meaning 'around'. c. 800 BC means around 800 BC
Citadel	a strong building in or near a city, where people could shelter for safety
Civilisation	a human society with its own social organisation and culture.
Continent	a very large area of land that consists of many countries. Europe is a continent.
culture	activities such as the arts and philosophy, which are considered to be important for the development of civilization
democracy	a fair political system where all adults vote for an elected government.
empire	a number of individual nations that are all controlled by the government or ruler of one particular country
invasion	to try and take over a place by force
military	relating to or belonging to the army
mythology	a group of myths, especially all the myths from a particular country, religion, or culture.
philosophy	the study or creation of theories about basic things such as the nature of existence, knowledge, and thought, or about how people should live
polis	an ancient Greek city-state
trade	the activity of buying, selling, or exchanging goods or services urban belonging to, or relating to, a town or city
Warfare	warfare the activity of fighting a war

Diagrams



- *Greece is made up of the mainland and many islands.
- *Its position by the sea meant that the Greeks were seafaring people.
- *City-states (Polis) were created and trade happened between each of the cities.
- *Greece is a warm country, but winds from the Mediterranean, and rains from the north, kept temperatures liveable and created fertile farming conditions.

Timeline

776 BC: The first Olympic Games take place.

508 BC: Democracy begins.

336 BC: Alexander the Great is king.

570 BC: Pythagoras is born. He made breakthroughs in science and maths.

450 BC: Athens becomes a powerful city and controls an empire.

146 BC: Rome conquers Greece.

Historical skills

- *Examine Greek Artefacts (such as vases) and use these to make inferences about the past.
- *Describe how Greek artefacts and ruins tell us about their culture, military and religious beliefs including gods and goddesses.
- *Identify and give reasons for different ways in which the past is represented.
- *Discuss the notion of democracy- compare the democratic process of Ancient Greece with that of modern Britain.
- *Study Greece using maps and globes.
- *Place the chronology of key events of the Greek civilization on a timeline including BC/AD.
- *Describe the ideas, beliefs and attitudes of all groups of people in the Greek civilization and to understand why someone may have wanted to do something.