

# The Ancient Greeks

(Intention) What we intend to cover in our learning

## Topic

- Early civilisations: Cycladaean, Minoan and Mycenaean, the age of heroes.
- The palace of Minos and his Minotaur- what truths lie behind the myth?
- The Battle of Troy and links with the Hittite Kingdom.
- Greece's Geography and its emergent city states.
- Greek pottery from Geometric to Red-Figure. Design your own vase.
- What did Greek temples really look like? Temple sculptures. Design your own temple.
- Athens vs Sparta, developing debating skills. Two contrasting ways of life.
- The Olympic Games How do they compare with our games?
- East vs West: The Persian Wars- the battles of Marathon and Thermopylae.
- Daily life for a child in Athens
- What have the Greeks done for us? Cultural legacies.

## Languages

Some basics of ancient Greek – a dead language?

- The Greek alphabet and transliteration of Greek words in English
- Write your name in Greek.
- Greek numbers and 3D shapes
- Declination of 'einaí' the verb to be. Simple sentences.
- Greek inscriptions from 5<sup>th</sup> century vases. Can you name the heroes?
- Greek (and English) prefixes and suffixes- etymologies for spelling.

## Science

Forces

- Working scientifically. How can we investigate Aristotle's theory of falling objects?
- Archimedes' inventions to battle the Romans: levers, pulleys and gears.
- Mechanical advantage, creating gear systems, using pulleys and levers
- Thales and Greek amber (Elektron) Investigating static electricity and magnetism
- Air resistance. Designing a parachute for Icarus
- Friction. Giving Sisyphus a hand.
- Greek Philosophers

## (Implementation) Key words I will use and need to know:

Greek Hellas Athens Sparta Olympia Aegean Cyclades Crete Minoan Mycenaean  
Chronology Bronze Age Dark Age Archaic Classical Sculpture Frieze Column City-  
state Democracy Hoplite Pankration Wreath Persia Oracle Inscription Krater Kylix  
Amphora Slip Theatre

## (Implementation) Key knowledge we will learn:

- Classical Greeks themselves looked back on an already vast history, dimly remembered in legends and myth.
- The earliest European civilisation began on Crete, followed by the Greek-speaking Mycenaans on the mainland. Their fusion led to the development of classical Greece
- Greek cities grew separated by water and mountains, becoming independent city states. Surrounded by water, Greeks became expert sailors, traders and settlers.
- Greek pots reveal lots of information about the lives and beliefs of ancient Greeks. Many depict Greek myths. Their styles are used as a dating tool.
- Greek temples were brightly painted and housed gigantic statues of the god. These architectural styles are found all over the world today.
- Athens and Sparta had different philosophies on how to govern, raise children and relate to other cities. They were such rivals they fought a long war.
- The Olympic games began nearly 3000 years ago but weren't the only games. Many cities held different games in honour of a variety of Gods or Goddesses.
- In the early 5<sup>th</sup> Century BC the Greek states united and used clever tactics against an invasion of 1 million Persians (alleged), surprisingly winning many battles and the war.
- This incredible victory led to an explosion of confidence and culture in Athens, giving rise to theatre, literature, philosophy, art, democracy in a very short space of time.
- Athens' desire to spread democracy to others by force was not always welcomed. Modern comparisons.

**(Implementation) Things to do and find out at home:**

**Explore some of the topics on these sites:**

<http://www.ancientgreece.co.uk/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z82hsbk>

[https://kids.kiddle.co/Minoan\\_civilization](https://kids.kiddle.co/Minoan_civilization)

[https://kids.kiddle.co/Mycenaean\\_culture](https://kids.kiddle.co/Mycenaean_culture)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z87tn39>

<https://greece.mrdonn.org/>

## (Implementation) Some key pictures and facts linked to Ancient Greece



Why were the Minoans fascinated by bulls? Did they really perform bull leaping?

What secrets does the palace of Knossos hold?



What Maths did they need to know to build the acropolis and the Parthenon?

Why was this built just after their victory over the Persians?

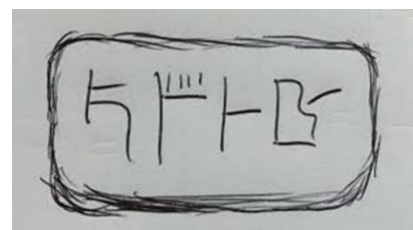
Which building is the temple to Athena Nike?



The earliest form of Greek - a Mycenaean Linear B tablet, made out of clay and preserved by the fires that destroyed the palace. They record goods coming and going from the palace.

Early Greek was syllabic, like Japanese.

These symbols read: Po-se-da-wo  
or - Poseidon.



### **(Impact) What we will aim to do at the end of our learning:**

The pupils will be able to understand the some of the defining characteristics of each epoch and the changes that happened between them. They will be able to describe some of the artifacts or monuments created and what they can tell us about the peoples of that time. The children will have an appreciation for a time vastly different than their own. They will build their own narratives by interpreting the evidence available.

### **(Impact) The children will be assessed against these National Curriculum Programmes of Study:**

#### **Ancient Greece – a study of Greek life and achievements and their influence on the western world**

- 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.