Groundbreaking Greeks

The Olympics

The Olympics were first held in ancient Greece in 776 BC. This is one of the legacies of ancient Greece.

Events included boxing, wrestling, running and chariot racing.

Women were not allowed to compete in the Olympics. This was because ancient Greek women were not treated as equals to men and had fewer freedoms.

The idea for the marathon also originates from this time.

Map showing ancient Greece around 750 BC

Can I compare and contrast the Olympics games now and then?

Can I use a timeline to sequence significant historical times?

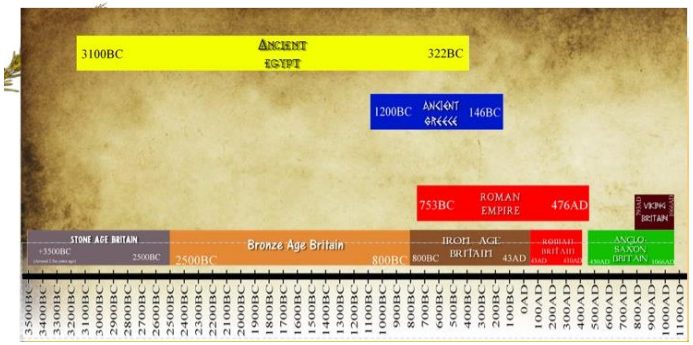
Can I explain how the Greeks have influenced the modern world?

Can research and present information? Greek Gods or Goddess?

Can I use reliable sources to describe ancient Greek life?

Can I explain how democracy began?

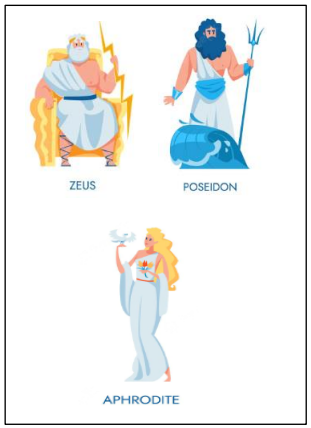
Ancient Greece in Time



Ancient Greek Gods and Goddesses

The ancient Greeks believed in many different gods and goddesses. Each god/goddess represented a certain aspect of humanity and each was responsible for certain parts of life too.

- Festivals were held to celebrate the gods and goddesses.
- It is believed that the 12 most powerful gods lived on Mount Olympus.
- Zeus was the most powerful of all the gods. He was god of the sky and the king of Mount Olympus.



Democracy

Ancient Athens is where democracy began in around 508 BC. Listening to the opinions of other people and debating issues was an important part of this system. After debating issues, the ancient Athenians would vote. At that time, the only people allowed to take part in democracy were adult males who were citizens of Athens. The legacy of democracy still exists today in many parts of the world.

Ancient Greece is important historically because many things in culture today, especially in modern Europe, have been influenced by the ideas of the ancient Greek **civilisation**.

Life in ancient Greece - Ancient Greece was a warm, dry country. Most people worked as farmers, fishermen or traders.

Homes- Ancient Greek homes were usually built around a central courtyard. The walls were built from wood and mud bricks, with small windows. Rich people decorated the walls with paintings and colourful tiles. There were no bathrooms so people washed in public baths or streams.

Family – Men made all the important decisions in ancient Greece. Women were expected to look after the home and were taught home-making skills, such as cooking and weaving.

Key Vocabulary

Olympics – games held every 4 years	ancient – something from a very long time ago	legacy – things that exist after something dies out
democracy - a form of government where people vote	myths – stories from ancient times that people believed	civilization – a society with well- developed rules and government