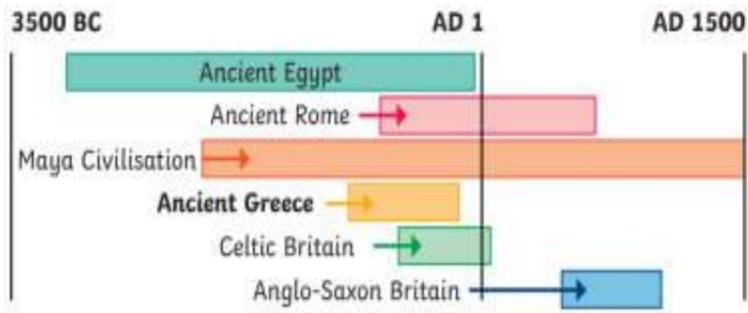


THE ANCIENT GREEKS KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER



Zeus

Key Figures

Alexander the Great
(July 356 BC – June 323 BC)

Independent city states existed for most of the ancient Greek period. However, near the end of this period, King Philip II of Macedonia ruled over all of ancient Greece. Later, his son - Alexander the Great - took over the empire along with other lands that he conquered.



Goddess Athena

Athena is the Olympian goddess of wisdom and war and the adored patroness of the city of Athens. She was also – somewhat paradoxically – associated with peace and handicrafts, especially spinning and weaving. Majestic and stern, Athena surpassed everybody in both of her main domains.



Arachne

Arachne, (Greek: “Spider”) was a weaver who acquired such skill in her art that she ventured to challenge Athena, goddess of war, handicraft, and practical reason. Arachne won the contest and Athena was angry. Enraged, Athena turned Arachne into a spider. If she was so great at weaving, then she could spend eternity weaving her webs. It is said that her and her children are forever cursed and remain in the form of a spider.



Ancient Greek Timeline

776BC – The first Olympic games | 700BC – Homer write the Odyssey and Iliad poems | 650BC – The tyrant Kypselos takes over city-state of Corinth | 508BC – the first vote happens (democracy) | 500BC – The ‘Classical Period’ starts | 472BC – Greek theatres become popular | 460BC – Hippocrates, the ‘father of medicine’ is born in Kos | 432BC – Parthenon is finished in Athens | 338BC – King Philip II of Macedonia take control of Greece | 336BC – Alexander the Great takes over the rule of Greece | 146BC – Rome conquers the Corinthinas at the battle of Corinth. Greece falls under the rule of the Roman Empire

What Was Ancient Greece Famous For?

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. The sculptures, architecture, philosophy, arts, politics and the scientific and mathematical ideas of ancient Greece are just some of the things that have had a significant impact on culture today. These things can be referred to as ‘legacies’ of ancient Greece.

The Olympic Games

The first recorded Games was in 776 BC, in Olympia. The event was part of a festival to honour the Greek god, Zeus. 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. Events included boxing, wrestling, running and chariot racing. Some of the evidence about the Games comes from paintings discovered on pottery.

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. Animal sacrifice was an important part of ancient Greek worship. It is believed that the 12 most powerful gods lived on Mount Olympus. The ancient Greek gods and goddesses were included in many of the myths that the ancient Greeks told one another. Zeus was the most powerful of all the gods. He was god of the sky and the king of Mount Olympus.

The Trojan War

The Trojan War is a very famous ancient Greek myth. Many people believe that it is a myth but that there is some historical truth behind it. The Trojan War (which is believed to have lasted for ten years) was between the Greek and the Trojan Armies. In the story, the Greeks pretended to surrender, leaving a gift of a giant horse for the Trojans. The gift was brought inside the city walls. In the night, Greek soldiers hiding inside the horse let the Greek army inside Troy’s walls and the city was destroyed. Many poems were written about the Trojan War during the ancient Greek period. The most famous poems were written by a poet called Homer.

City States

Ancient Greece was not a country. It was made up of city states. There were often battles between these city states but sometimes they would join together against a common enemy. Important city states of ancient Greece included Athens, Corinth and Sparta.

Democracy

Around 508 BC, democracy was introduced to ancient Athens. 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.

Key Vocabulary

ancient	Something from a very long time ago.	democracy	Democracy is a system where the citizens of a country or state are involved in the way it is run.
civilisation	In this context, the word ‘civilisation’ is used to describe a human society with well-developed rules and government, often where technology and the arts are considered important.	city states	Small areas that ancient Greece was divided into, each with their own governments, laws and army.
empire	A group of countries or states that is ruled by one ruler or country.	legacies	Things that live on after someone dies or after a civilisation or event ends.