

Who were the Ancient Greeks?

The Ancient Greek civilization was **over 4,000 years ago** and about 2,500 years ago, Greece was one of the most important places in the ancient world. The Greeks were great thinkers, warriors, writers, actors, athletes, artists, architects and politicians.

Where is Greece and what was the capital of Ancient Greece?

Greece is in **South East Europe** and the capital was and still is **Athens**.

Who were the ancient Greek gods and heroes?

The Greeks believed that **gods and goddesses** watched over them. They thought the gods lived high above **Mount Olympus**, in a palace in the clouds. Each god and goddess had a power over a different aspect of life or the world. The Greeks built **temples** to their gods and goddesses.

Were the ancient Greeks great architects and sculptors?

They were famous for building great temples and making life-like marble statues. The three main designs of columns in Greek architecture were **Doric, Ionic and Corinthian** which can still be spotted in buildings today.

**Enquiry Questions...**

- Archimedes was a famous Greek – what was he famous for?
- What was Zeus the god of?
- What was Athena the goddess of?
- What is the story in the ancient Greek myth 'Theseus and the Minotaur'?
- What did the Ancient Greeks invent and do for us?
- Did the Greeks have the same alphabet as us?

Vocabulary Dozen

archaeologist	Someone who studies the buildings, graves, tools and other objects that people who lived long ago have left behind.
empire	A group of nations/peoples ruled over by an emperor/empress.
myth	A story based on tradition or legend, which has a deep symbolic meaning.
gods/goddesses	A being believed to have more than human powers.
historical sources	Something that tells us about history e.g. a picture, book, document or an object.
chronological	Following the order in which they occurred.
ancient	Belonging to the very distant past and no longer in existence.
civilization	A large group of people who share certain advanced ways of living and working.
democracy	It literally means 'rule by the people'. It comes from the Greek words 'demos' (people) and 'kratos' (rule).
Doric	Earliest Greek style and used for most of their buildings and temples.
Ionic	Middle Greek style used for their buildings and temples.
Corinthian	Last Greek style invented by the Greeks.

Did you know?

- There was never one country called 'Ancient Greece'. Instead, Greece was divided up into small **city-states**, like Athens, Sparta, Corinth and Olympia.
- The Ancient Greeks invented the **Olympic Games (776 BC)**. Only men, boys and unmarried girls were allowed to attend the Olympic Games.
- The **most famous temple** in Greece was the **Parthenon** in Athens.