



# The Ancient Greeks - Year 4



## What I should already know



- The chronology of British history until the Normans.
- The **climate** of Greece is different to that of the UK.
- Information about the Ancient Egyptians.
- The Romans invaded Britain.

## Diagrams and Pictures



## Important Facts

- Greece was divided into city states (polis) that each had their own laws and way of life, but all spoke the same language. Two of the most well-known were Sparta and Athens.
- In Athens, Greek styles of art, architecture, philosophy and theatre were developed.
- Athens had a democratic government.
- In Sparta, life was different. All that was important was being able to defend Sparta in battle.
- The first Olympic games were held in 776 in the state of Olympia.
- Religion was very important. The Greeks were polytheists - they believed in many different gods and goddesses that were in charge of different parts of their lives. Temples were built in their honour.
- The gods featured heavily in the stories of Greek mythology.

## Vocabulary

word	definition
acropolis	The citadel of an ancient Greek city.
architecture	The art of designing, planning and constructing buildings.
circa	Latin meaning 'around'. c. 800BC means around 800BC.
citadel	A strong building in or near a city where people could shelter.
deity	A god or goddess
democracy	A fair political system where adults vote for an elected government.
empire	A number of individual nations that are controlled by the government or a ruler.
invasion	To try and take over a place by force.
mythology	A group of myths, especially all of the myths from a particular country.
philosophy	The study or creation of theories about life.
polis	An ancient Greek city state.
society	A large organised group of people.

**776BC** The first Olympic Games take place.

**c.750BC** Early Greek culture thrives. Homer writes the Iliad and The Odyssey.

**750BC** Pythagoras is born. He made major breakthroughs in science and maths.

**508BC** Democracy begins in Athens, giving greater power to the people.

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

**432BC** The Parthenon, the most famous building in Athens, is completed.

**336BC** Alexander the Great is king and helps the Greek Empire expand further.

**146BC** Rome conquers Greece, making it part of the Roman Empire.