



History – Year 6 Summer 2 Ancient Greece

Vocabulary

Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Ancient	Empire	Democracy
Civilisation	Friezes	Legacies
City States	Tyrant	Polytheistic
Olympics	Architects	Oligarchy
Greece	Athenians	Parthenon
Myth	Spartans	Acropolis

● don't know
 ● I know this word
 ● I can use it in a sentence

Useful Resources

- <https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/discover/history/greece/greek-myths/>
- <https://www.britannica.com/place/ancient-Greece>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/z9swdp3>

Key Facts

Ancient Greeks lived **over 3000 years ago**. For the most part, Ancient Greece was divided into several small **city-states**, each with their own laws, customs, and rulers. However, in the 300s B.C., these small city-states were forced to unite under one ruler: **Alexander the Great**. He was the founder of the **Ancient Greek Empire**, which stretched into Europe, Egypt, and South-West Asia.

The Greeks had some strange superstitions about food – some wouldn't eat beans as they thought they contained the souls of the dead!

The Ancient Greeks were descended from the **Mycenaeans**, who were also the **first writers and speakers of 'Ancient Greek'**. A famous legend tells how, in 1180 B.C., the mighty Mycenaeans conquered the city of **Troy** – by hiding inside a **giant wooden horse!** The horse was left outside the city's walls and, thinking it a gift, the people of Troy wheeled it inside... only for the sneaky Mycenaean soldiers to creep out and seize the city!

The Ancient Greeks held many festivals in honour of their gods. To celebrate the god Zeus, for example, the first Greek Olympics were held in the city of Olympia in 776 B.C. and are thought to have inspired our own **Olympic Games!** The winners of each event were given a wreath of leaves, and when they returned home, they would be given free meals and the best seats in the theatre! Events at the Greek's Olympics included wrestling, boxing, long jump, javelin, discus and chariot racing. But those taking part in the **wrestling event** had to be the toughest, as there were hardly any rules – and they had to compete naked.

The Ancient Greeks had lots of stories to help them learn about their world. The gods featured heavily in these tales, and so did mythological monsters – like **Cerberus**, a three-headed dog that guarded the gates to the underworld; **Medusa**, a slithering sorceress whose look could turn people to stone; and the **Cyclops**, who had one eye in the middle of its forehead – yikes! These tales are known as **Greek mythology**.



Timeline

3500 BC

AD 1500

