



Ancient Greeks



Greece
(Europe)

Timeline

| 3000 B.C. | 1200 B.C. | 750 B.C. | 770 B.C. | 776 B.C. | 600 B.C. | 500 B.C. | 431 B.C. | 334 B.C. | 146 B.C. |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Minoan Civilization begins on Crete | The Trojan Wars | Greeks set sail to set up colonies | First Greek alphabet created | First Olympic Games | First Greek coins are used | Democracy used in Athens | The Peloponnesian Wars begin | Alexander the Great conquests | Greece becomes part of the Roman Empire |

Key Vocabulary

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| acropolis | A large hill where city residents sought shelter and safety in times of war. Also, a meeting place for discussing issues. |
| amphitheatre | Outdoor theatre with seats on all sides where singing, dancing and even sacrificing took place. |
| chiton | The chiton was a single sheet used as clothing wrapped around the body. |
| democracy | A system of government in which citizens are able to vote in order to make decisions. |
| Olympics | Athletes competing against each other. Began in Olympia and included religious festivals in honour of Zeus. |
| Parthenon | A former temple on the Athenian Acropolis dedicated to the goddess Athena. |
| philosophy | The practice of asking big questions with no clear/single answer. It means the 'love of wisdom'. |
| pyxis | A cylindrical box with a separate lid used to store trinkets, ornaments or cosmetics. |
| Trojan Horse | Wooden horse constructed by Greeks to obtain entry into the city of Troy. Soldiers hid inside and then sprang out! |
| vase | Pots made on a potters' wheel often painted with aspects of daily life from which historians have learned from. |

Ancient Greece is often referred to as 'the birthplace of Western civilisation'. It is made up of three periods which produced many of the political ideas, art, architecture, sculpture, science, philosophy (thinking) and literature that influenced our lives today.

Government, Democracy and Slavery

Men were classed as the only citizens and they could democratically vote. Women and slaves were not allowed. A jury of 500 citizens acted as jury and decided if anyone was guilty of law-breaking (punishments included death). They could also vote on who they disliked and could get others banished from their city.

Famous Figures

Archimedes (287-212 B.C.)

Mathematician and philosopher who found a way of measuring water by placing an object in it and seeing how far it rose (hydrostatics). He jumped out of the bath and shouted 'Eureka!' meaning 'I found it!'

Alexander the Great (356-332 B.C.)

King of Macedonia who conquered Greece, Persia, Egypt, and the Indus Valley, extending the empire as far away as India.

Hippocrates (460-370 B.C.)

A famous doctor known as the 'father of Western medicine'. Doctors today still take the 'Hippocratic Oath' promising to be good at their job and do their best for patients.

Pericles (494-429 B.C.)

Athenian general who led Athens during the war with Sparta. He made sure that the poor as well as the rich citizens could take part in government and valued art and education.

THE ALPHABET: The word alphabet comes from the first two Greek letters 'alpha' and 'beta'.
The first five letters of the Greek alphabet were - Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta, Epsilon.