

History Subject Knowledge Bank

Year 4: Ancient Greece

<u>Vocabulary</u>	<u>Definition</u>
Conquest	Taking control of a place
Decade/Century	A period of 10/100 years
Interpretation	A way of explaining
Kingdom	A territory ruled by a monarch
Polymath	A person of wide knowledge or learning
Society	How people are organised as a community
Citizen	Someone who belongs to society

Where were the earliest civilisations?

- The Greeks were great thinkers, warriors, writers, actors, athletes, artists, architects and politicians.
- Most people lived in villages in the countryside. Many Greeks were poor and life was hard.
- Ancient Greek homes were built around a courtyard or garden.
- They believed that gods and goddesses watched over them.
- The most famous temple in Greece is the Parthenon in Athens, dedicated to the goddess Athena.
- Ancient Greece was not a single country, it was made up of a number of city-states. At the centre of each city-state was a powerful city. The city ruled the lands and area around it.
- The two most powerful and famous city-states were Athena and Sparta.

What did the Ancient Egyptians do?

- The Greeks invented the theatre. They also celebrated the arts with big festivals (music, dancing and feasting in honour of their gods).
- The Greeks built temples to their gods and heroes. Their temples were held up with stone columns and decorated carvings of famous battles from Greek myths.
- Ancient Greece had a warm, dry climate. Most people lived by farming, fishing and trading. Others were soldiers, scholars, scientists and artists. Greek cities had open-air theatres where people sat to watch plays.
- Homes were built around a courtyard or garden. The walls were made from wood and mud bricks. They had small windows with wooden shutters to keep out the sun.
- Rich people decorated their homes with colourful tiles and paintings. Many homes did not have a bathroom. There were public baths, but most people washed using a bucket or in a stream. Only rich people enjoyed baths at home. Greeks slept on beds stuffed with wool, feathers or dry grass.
- Most people went to bed as soon as it got dark. The only light came from oil lamps and candles.

What happened to the Ancient Egyptians?

- The Ancient Greeks sailed the sea to trade and find new lands.
- When Alexander the Great died and the Romans took over, they didn't destroy Greek life.
- They respected the Greeks and copied many things about their culture, including their buildings, beliefs and clothes.
- The legacy of ancient Greece has left a lasting footprint on modern society.

Who were the Ancient Egyptians?

- Democracy was introduced in Athens. Citizens met regularly to vote on laws that changed their daily lives (women, slaves and foreigners were banned from voting).
- They also created the Olympic Games.
- Athens became the centrepiece for advanced art and philosophy during this time. Socrates and Plato were philosophers.
- Sappho was a famous Greek poet, her work is still read today.
- Herodotus wrote a history of the Greeks. He used eyewitness reports to write it, something today's historians also try to do.
- Hippocrates was famous for his ideas about medicine, doctors still take a Hippocratic Oath, swearing they will be honest and truthful.
- They invented modern mathematics, sculpture, philosophy, science and medicine, using this knowledge to make inventions like the water wheel, the alarm clock and the catapult.
- The English Language has roots in Ancient Greece.

Who was Alexander the Great?

- He was a king of the ancient Greek kingdom of Macedon. He was an intelligent warrior and began a strong military campaign, conquering much of Asia and northeast Africa. He created one of the largest empires of the ancient world, stretching from Greece to north western India.
- He founded about twenty cities that bore his name. He became legendary as a classical hero and he is well-known in the history and mythic traditions of both Greek and non-Greek cultures.
- Military leaders compared themselves to him and military academies throughout the world still teach his tactics. He was undefeated in battle and is widely considered one of history's most successful military commanders.