

### Ancient Greek Gods and Goddesses

The **ancient** Greeks believed in many different gods and goddesses. Each god/goddess represented a certain aspect of humanity and each was responsible for certain parts of life too.

- Festivals were held to celebrate the gods and goddesses.
- It is believed that the 12 most powerful gods lived on Mount Olympus.
- Zeus was the most powerful of all the gods. He was god of the sky and the king of Mount Olympus.



### Democracy

**Ancient Athens** is where **democracy** began in around 508 BC. Listening to the opinions of other people and debating issues was an important part of this system. After debating issues, the **ancient** Athenians would vote. At that time, the only people allowed to take part in **democracy** were adult males who were citizens of Athens. The **legacy** of **democracy** still exists today in many parts of the world.

## BIG QUESTION:

What can historians learn from Ancient Greek artefacts?

### Key Vocabulary

Triumph	a great victory or achievement
Defeat	win a victory over (someone) in a battle or other contest
Occupation	the action, state, or period of occupying or being occupied by military force
Exploration	the action of exploring an unfamiliar area
Civilisation	the society, culture, and way of life of a particular area.
Conflict	a serious disagreement or argument
Hostility	acts of warfare
Source	a place, person, or thing from which something originates or can be obtained
Archaeologist	a person who studies human history and prehistory through the excavation of sites and the analysis of artefacts and other physical remains
Citizen	an inhabitant of a particular town or city.
Eye-witness	a person who has seen something happen and can give a first-hand description of it

### The Spartans and the Athenians

Much of what we see of the Spartans on television and in films is based on **myth** and does not present the Spartans accurately. The Spartans were known for their strong army and ability to fight. In childhood, boys were trained to be warriors. Girls were taught academic subjects and how to fight. The Athenians were known for their cultural developments and learning. Girls did not go to school but many were taught how to look after the home and family.



## Ancient Greece

**700 BC**  
Homer writes the 'Odyssey' and the 'Iliad' poems around this date.

**650 BC**  
Around this date, the tyrant, Kypselos, takes over the city state of Corinth.

**500 BC**  
The Classical period starts around this date. There is a lot of interest in the arts, imagination and buildings.

**460 BC**  
Hippocrates 'Father of Medicine' is born in Kos. His ideas on the human body and medicine are still used and recognised today.

**338 BC**  
King Philip II takes control of Greece.

**336 BC**  
Alexander the Great takes over the rule of Greece, aged 20, after the death of his father, King Philip II.

**508 BC**  
Male citizens of Athens are given a chance to vote in order to decide how things should be run. This is called democracy and is thought to be one of the Greeks' greatest ideas.

**472 BC**  
Greek theatre becomes popular in Athens.

**432 BC**  
The Parthenon, a magnificent temple in Athens, is completed. It houses a huge statue of Athena, the goddess of the city.

**146 BC**  
The Romans conquer the Corinthians at the Battle of Corinth and Greece falls under the rule of the Roman Empire.

**700BC** **500BC** **300BC** **100BC**

### The Olympics

The Olympics were first held in **ancient Greece** in 776 BC. This is one of the **legacies** of **ancient Greece**.



Events included boxing, wrestling, running and chariot racing.

Women were not allowed to compete in the Olympics. This was because **ancient Greek** women were not treated as equals to men and had fewer freedoms.

The idea for the marathon also originates from this time.

### Myths

The Trojan War is a very famous **ancient Greek myth**.



- Many people believe that it is a **myth** but that there is some historical truth behind it.
- The Trojan War was between the Greek and the Trojan Armies.
- In the story, the Greeks pretended to surrender, leaving a gift of a giant horse for the Trojans. The gift was brought inside the city walls. During the night, Greek soldiers hiding inside the horse let the Greek army inside Troy's walls and the city was destroyed.