KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

HISTORY YEAR 5

What was the legacy of the ancient Greek civilisation?

MY LEARNING JOURNEY

1	2	3	4	5	6
Who were ancient Greeks and when did they live?	Who lived on Mount Olympus?	How was ancient Greece governed?	Did Greeks give us democracy?	How do Greek philosophers influence us?	What is the legacy of ancient Greece?

Previously, I learnt to…

- Sequence ancient civilisations.
- Describe Maya beliefs and cities.
- Use evidence to justify interpretations.
- Consider a source's purpose and reliability.

In this unit, I am learning…

- ❑ Locate Greece and sequence its main periods.
- ❑ Use evidence to research and describe one god.
- ❑ Compare Athens and Sparta.
- ❑ Compare direct and representative democracy.
- ❑ Explain philosophy and philosophers' ideas.
- ❑ Judge Greek legacies and their impact.

Looking ahead: In Year 6, I will learn…

- Investigate local history using census records.
- Corroborate evidence across sources.
- Compare interpretations of WW2 experiences.

VOCABULARY

Word	Meaning
achievement	A significant accomplishment or contribution that had a lasting impact.
assembly	A meeting where adult male Athenian citizens discussed and voted.
citizen	A person who belongs to a country and has certain rights and responsibilities.
city-state	A city or town that, with the surrounding countryside, is an independent state.
Classical period	The period c.480–323 BC, known for Greek art, learning and achievements.
democracy	Government in which citizens take part directly or elect representatives.
legacy	Past events or actions which have had a lasting impact.
oligarchy	A system of government in Ancient Greece in which only a few people held power.
philosophy	Thinking carefully and asking big questions about human life.
Zeus	In Greek mythology, the god of the sky and the supreme ruler of the Olympian gods.

Greeks · Year 5

Greek periods in sequence: approximate dates (not to scale)

Minoan	Mycenaean	Dark Ages	Archaic	Classical	Hellenistic
c.2200–1450 BC	c.1600–1100 BC	c.1100–800 BC	c.800–480 BC	c.480–323 BC	323–30 BC

Place and beliefs

Mountains and seas helped separate Greek communities into city-states. Many Greeks worshipped gods such as Zeus and Athena. Myths, temples and objects reveal beliefs. Research one god and explain the evidence you used.



Athens and Sparta

Athens valued public debate, learning and the arts. Sparta emphasised military training. Their governments and expectations differed. Both societies relied on unequal rights. Avoid assuming everyone in either city lived the same life.

Who could take part?

Athenian direct democracy let adult male citizens vote in the assembly. Women, enslaved people and resident foreigners were excluded. Birthplace alone did not give citizenship. In representative democracy, voters elect people to make decisions.

Philosophy

Philosophers asked questions about knowledge, justice and life. Socrates encouraged questioning; Plato explored justice; Aristotle studied the natural world. Pythagoras is associated with an important rule about right-angled triangles.



Greek legacies

Ideas about democracy, philosophy, theatre, sport and science influenced later societies. Many English words have Greek roots, including biology and athlete. Later people adapted Greek ideas. Which legacy has had the greatest impact?



Evidence and significance

Compare objects, buildings and written accounts. Explain what each source can show and what it cannot. Justify your choice of the most significant legacy.