

## Knowledge Organiser

Year: 4      Subject: History      Unit: Ancient Greeks – how did their life and achievements influence the Western World?

### Overview:

During this sequence of learning, pupils will look at what life was like in Ancient Greece and why Athens was so strong at the time. They will also look at what we can tell about the Ancient Greeks from their interest in the theatre and festivals and the ways the Ancient Greeks have influenced our lives today.

### What should I already know?

- Ancient civilisations were the first stable and settled communities.
- Ancient Egypt was an example of an ancient civilisation. There was a social hierarchy with the Pharaoh at the top and the farmers and slaves at the bottom.
- There were many ancient civilisations running at the same time.
- Evidence and artefacts have been vital in telling us what daily life was like during these times.

### Historical Skills:

- Use a range of sources to find out about the past.
- Explain how people and events in the past have influenced life today.
- Identify key features, aspects and events of the time studied.

### What will I know by the end of the unit?

- The physical geography of Greece had a significant impact on Ancient Greece. There was very little flat land which meant that it was difficult to farm and grow crops on. There is a long coastline surrounding Greece meaning they made their own boats and travelled on them.
- The numerous mountains in Greece made it difficult for people to travel over land and, as a result of this, each area became very independent and formed their own city states.
- Athens and Sparta became rival city states. Sparta had a powerful army and had battles against Athens.
- We know about Ancient Greece from the evidence that has remained. We have evidence from buildings, coins, outdoor theatres, pots and carvings/pictures.
- Athens was very strong during this time because its location meant that, not only was it positioned on a flat area of land, it was also close to the sea allowing for trade with other countries.
- Athens also had a large amount of silver that was mined, this along with the lead and marble which provided much wealth for Athens.
- The Greeks loved sport and the Olympic Games were the biggest sporting event in the ancient calendar. Every four years 50,000 people came from all over the Greek world to watch it.

### Vocabulary:

Government	A group of people with the authority to govern a country or state.
Democracy	When decisions are made by the majority of the people.
City State	Areas of Ancient Greece were split into these. They were very independent of each other.



Architecture	The art and science of designing and creating buildings.
Legacy	Things or ideas that are passed down from one generation to another.
Olympics	A series of athletic challenges that take place every four years.
Athens	The largest and most powerful city state.

The Olympics were also a religious festival held in honour of Zeus, the king of gods. Only men were allowed to participate.

- Similar to the Olympic Stadiums, the Greeks built outdoor theatres everywhere. The first plays had a religious theme with dancing and music. Then came a chorus which had a leader who was the first actor in the history of drama. The actors always wore masks.



- The concept of democracy was founded in Athens. However there was still a social hierarchy with landowners at the top and slaves at the bottom.
- Only men were involved in government. Women were expected to look after the home and the children.
- The Greeks were known for their myths which were stories, usually about gods and goddesses. These stories were told orally and are still well known today.
- Ancient Greece has influenced life today and is often referred to as the birthplace of Western Civilisation. It has influenced our lives by its language, architecture, science and philosophy.

## Myth

A traditional story, especially concerning the early history of people and often containing supernatural events.

