Pinner Wood School

Knowledge Organiser - History - Year 5 - Spring 1 2025

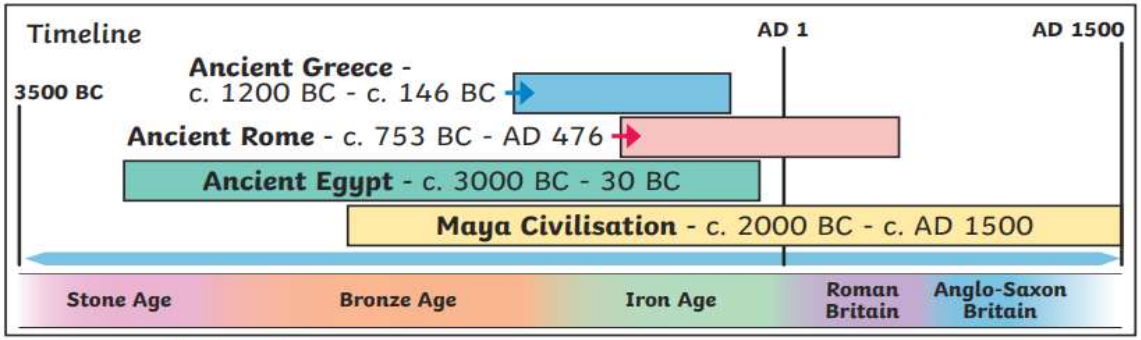
Ancient Greece - What is the lasting influence of the Greeks on the modern world?

STICKY KNOWLEDGE

• Ancient Greece included a number of different countries in the Mediterranean (not just Greece).	• Alexander the Great created a huge Greek empire.	• Sparta was an oligarchy and Athens was a democracy.
• The Olympics originated in Athens.	• They worshipped many different gods who were thought to rule over different aspects of life.	• The Ancient Greeks recorded stories on pottery.

KEY VOCABULARY

ancient	Something from a very long time ago.
civilisation	human society with well developed rules and government, often where technology and the arts are considered important.
city states	Small areas that ancient Greece was divided into, each with their own governments, laws and army
empire	A group of countries or states that are ruled by one ruler or country.
legacies	Things that exist after someone dies or after a civilisation or event ends
democracy	A system where the citizens of a country or state are involved in the way it is run.



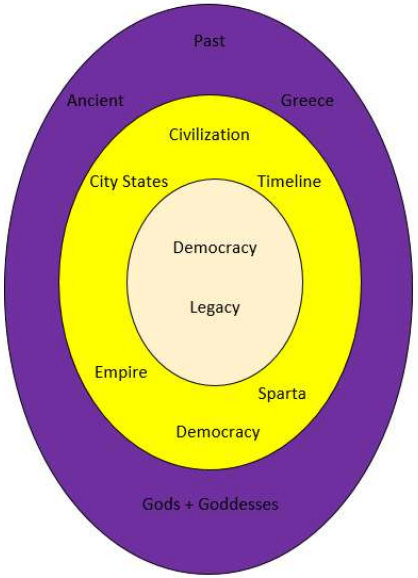
Ancient Greek City States

Ancient Greece was not a country. It was made up of city states. There were often battles between these city states but sometimes they would join together to defend themselves from a common enemy. Important city states of ancient Greece included Athens, Corinth and Sparta.

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.