



Year 4 History Knowledge Organiser: Ancient Greeks



Subject Specific Skills:

Use evidence to describe what was important to people from the past.
Use evidence to show how the lives of rich and poor people from the past differed.
Describe similarities and differences between people, events and artefacts studied.
Describe how some of the things I have studied from the past affect/influence life today
Understand that a timeline can be divided into BC (Before Christ) and AD (Anno Domini)
Order significant events and dates on a timeline.
Describe the main changes in a period in history
Use a variety of sources to collect evidence about the past

Prior Learning

Order events on a time line.
Use a variety of sources to collect evidence about events during other areas of History studied such as Anglo Saxons.
Explore the idea that there are different accounts of History.
Use evidence to describe clothes, people and buildings from the past.

Key Individuals:

Archimedes	Scientist & mathematician; famous for reportedly yelling 'Eureka!' after realizing the link between volume, density & displacement.
Sophocles	Influential playwright known for writing over 120 plays, mainly tragedies. Most famous plays include: Oedipus & Antigone.
Socrates	Credited as the Father of Western philosophy. Known for dialogues over writing.
Aesop	Former slave and storyteller famous for writing Aesop's Fables.
Plato	Philosopher and student of Socrates; best known for writing 'Republic'.
Homer	Legendary author famous for writing the Iliad & Odyssey.
Aristotle	Philosopher and student of Plato; pulled together existing philosophies resulting in his ideas influencing Western civilization for centuries to come.
Pythagoras	Philosopher & mathematician most known for his right angle proof.
Alexander the Great	King of the ancient Greek kingdom of Macedonia; united and secured the whole of Greece and fought against the Persian Empire to the East. Died aged 32.

Key Vocabulary

Parthenon: Temple dedicated to Athena located on the Athenian Acropolis.
Mount Olympus: The highest mountain in Greece and the mythological home of the Greek Gods, primarily twelve Olympian Gods.
Olympics: Sporting event and sacrifice held every four years in honour of Zeus.
Acropolis: Fortified city core located on a rocky outcrop above Athens.
Democracy: A system of government where eligible people elect representatives.
Polytheistic: Religious system where people believe in or worship more than one god.
Oligarchy: A system of government where a small group of people control everything.
Titans: An older generation of Gods including Cronus & Rhea who were the children of earlier Gods and parents to the Olympian Gods (who later overthrew them).
City State: A city that had its own government and rules the area around it e.g. Athens, Sparta, Corinth, Delphi & Thebes (Greek = Polis)

Timeline:

Date	Key Event
2900 - 2000 BC	The Bronze Age when Early Aegean cultures start to emerge
2500 BC	The great Minoan civilisation
1200 BC	The Trojan War and the destruction of Troy
1050 - 750 BC	The Dark Ages of Greece
850 - 700 BC	Development of the first Greek Alphabet
776 BC	The First Olympic Games are staged
650 BC	The Rise of the Greek tyrants
600 BC	Greek Coin currency introduced
500 - 323 BC	The Greek Classical Period
490 BC	Greek/ Persian Wars led by Xerxes
333 BC	Alexander the Great defeats the Persians at Issus and is given Egypt by the Persian Satrap
86 BC	The Roman General Sulla captures Athens

Key Knowledge:

The Ancient Greeks were one of the most influential civilisations in history. Their legacy can be seen everywhere today, particularly in Western Europe. The English language has many words that come from Ancient Greek and our political system was first seen in the Ancient Greek city of Athens. Ancient Greece was made up of separate city-states and conflict between them was frequent. At times, these individual city-states came together to fight a common enemy, as they did when fighting the Persian army from the north. Although the Romans eventually conquered the Greeks, Greek culture and language spread far and wide. The army commander Alexander the Great and famous Roman thinkers were all influenced by this great civilisation.

Education:

In Sparta, reading and writing was unimportant; boys learnt to be good fighters. In Athens, citizens had to be educated to take part in voting in The Assembly. Schools were not free so only the wealthy could afford to go. Greek girls were not allowed to go to school. Athenian boys started school at 7 and stayed until they were about 14. They learned reading, writing and maths in the mornings and went to wrestling school in the afternoons. Children wrote on wooden boards covered with layers of wax. They used a wooden pen called a stylus. Boys were educated to become good citizens. Girls were educated in housekeeping.

Gods: Aphrodite Goddess of Love and Beauty and Protector of the sailors. Hera Goddess of Marriage and Queen of Olympus, Zeus God of the Sky and King of Olympus, Poseidon God of the Sea, Apollo God of Light and Music, Athena Goddess of Wisdom, Hermes Messenger of the Gods.