

Year 6 Knowledge Organiser **Autumn**

The Greeks

TERMS Key Vocabulary

City-State (Polis)	An independent city and the surrounding area, such as Athens or Sparta
Democracy	A system of government where citizens vote on decisions..
Acropolis	A fortified hill in a Greek city, often containing important temple.
Parthenon	A famous temple in Athens dedicated to the goddess Athena.
Olympics	Sporting competitions held every four years in honour of Zeus.
Mythology	Stories about gods, goddesses, heroes, and monsters.
Hoplite	A heavily armed Greek foot soldier.
Empire	A group of lands and peoples controlled by one ruler or state.
Oracle	A person believed to give messages from the gods.
Alexander the Great	A king of Macedonia who conquered a vast empire.



COMPARE Similarities and Differences

- Athens vs Sparta: Both were powerful Greek city-states.
- Government: Athens had democracy; Sparta was ruled by kings and military leaders.
- Education: Athenian boys learned reading, writing, and arts; Spartan boys trained mainly as soldiers.
- Women: Spartan women had more freedom than Athenian women.
- Military: Both had armies, but Sparta was more focused on warfare.
- Culture: Athens became famous for learning, philosophy, and art.
- Religion: Both worshipped the same Greek gods and goddesses.
- Legacy: Both influenced the development of Western civilisation.

SOURCES How We Know About Ancient Greece?

- Ancient buildings and ruins
- Pottery decorated with scenes from daily life
- Coins and inscriptions
- Writings by Greek historians such as Herodotus
- Myths and legends passed down through generations
- Statues and artwork
- Archaeological discoveries

CHRONOLOGY Key Events

- Around 800 BC, Greek city-states began to develop.
- In 776 BC, the first Olympic Games were held.
- In 490 BC, the Greeks defeated the Persians at the Battle of Marathon.
- In 480 BC, the Battle of Thermopylae took place.
- Between 431–404 BC, Athens and Sparta fought the Peloponnesian War.
- In 338 BC, Macedonia gained control of Greece.
- In 336 BC, Alexander the Great became king.
- By 323 BC, Alexander had built one of the largest empires in history.

Extra Facts

- The Ancient Greeks worshipped many gods, including Zeus, Athena, and Poseidon.
- The first Olympic Games were held in 776 BC.
- Athens built the famous Parthenon.
- Greek myths included heroes such as Heracles and Odysseus.
- Ancient Greek ideas influenced modern government, science, and philosophy.
- Greek theatres performed plays that are still studied today.

Athens and its Influence

- Athens became one of the most powerful Greek city-states.
- Trade and a strong navy helped Athens grow rich.
- Citizens could vote in the world's first democracy.
- Athens became famous for art, architecture, and learning.
- Philosophers such as Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle taught important ideas.
- During the Golden Age of Athens, many great buildings were constructed.
- Athens remained an important centre of culture for centuries



THE BATTLE OF MARATHON

In 490 BC, the Athenians defeated a much larger Persian army at the Battle of Marathon. This important victory helped protect Greece from Persian invasion and became one of the most famous battles in Ancient Greek history.

