

Year 4: Ancient Greece

Key Vocabulary

ancient	Something from a very long time ago.
civilisation	A 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.
democracy	Democracy is a system where the citizens of a country or state are involved in the way it is run.
empire	A group of countries or states that is ruled by one ruler or country.
legacies	Things that live on after someone dies or after a civilisation or event ends.
oligarchy	A group of people who rule
polis	A city state.

What was it like in the two most powerful

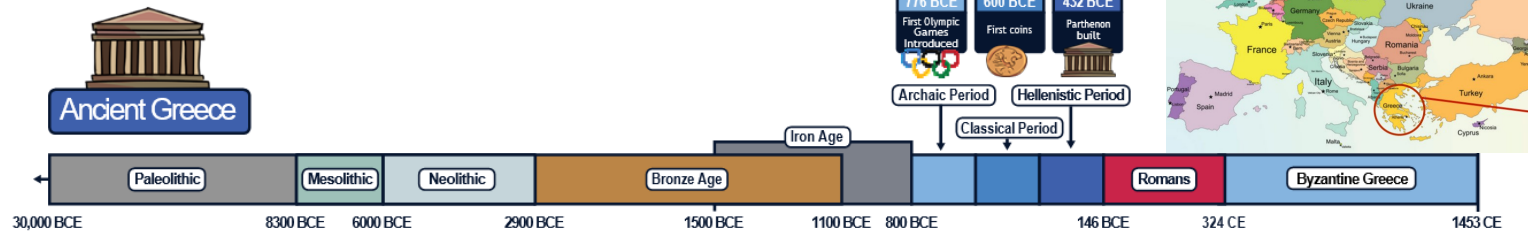
Athens

- largest city state and the richest
- Near to the sea for trade
- Slave labour so people had time for reading, writing and arts.
- Boys were educated in school whilst girls did jobs in the home
- First state to have a democracy where citizens could vote

Sparta

- Wasn't by the sea—no trade. They took what they needed from neighbours.
- Ruled by an oligarchy—a group of men who made the decisions
- Believed in war and trained their children to be warriors.
- Women and girls were given more rights and were educated.

When and where did the Ancient Greeks live?



What do excavations tell us?

- **Archaeological studies** suggest that people have lived in the Hellenic (Greek) region for hundreds of thousands of years. There is evidence of **Palaeolithic life** found in a cave **near Thessaloniki** – Petralona.
- Hundreds of thousands of years later, one of the earliest and most advanced civilisations of the time flourished from **3000 BCE – 1450 BCE**, the **Minoans** on the Greek island of Crete.
- We know about the Minoans because, in the early 1900s, an archaeologist called **Sir Arthur Evans** discovered the ruins of a large complex on the island of Crete.
- Historians believe that the Minoans were the first advanced European civilisation



What was life like in Ancient Greece?

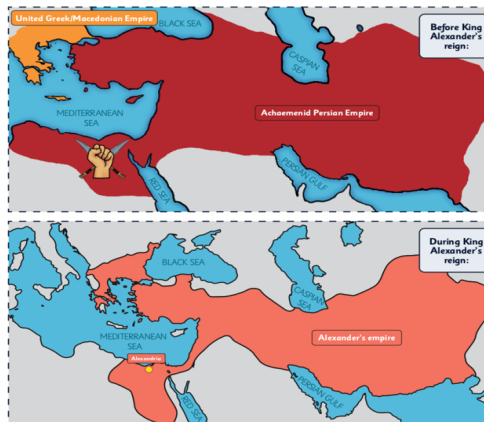
- The **Minoans** lived on the island of Crete and built huge palaces linked by roads to villages.
- The **Minoans** created beautiful paintings (frescoes), crafted impressive tools, and invented writing systems for their own language.
- They imported materials such as tin and copper (used to make bronze) and crafted them into objects to export.
- Ancient Greeks believed in many different gods and goddesses. It is believed that the 12 most powerful gods lived on Mount Olympus. Zeus was the king of the gods.



Who was Alexander the Great?

Greece wasn't a single country in ancient times. It was made up of lots of small city-states who fought each other.

King Alexander the Great succeeded his father, **King Philip II**. He was keen to expand his empire so built a



- Only boys went to school in most of Ancient Greece and school was not free.
- Only men could become full citizens and vote. Women were expected to take care of the house and look after the children.

What were the achievements of the Ancient Greeks?

- **Olympic Games** – The first recorded Games was in 776 BC, in Olympia.
- **Universities** – the Ancient Greek civilisation was the birthplace of philosophy. Socrates and Plato were famous thinkers. Plato founded the first university.
- **Theatres** – there was a strong culture of the theatre in ancient Greece, especially in Athens. It was there that the comedy and tragedy genres emerged.
- **Language** – many words in our language came from Ancient Greece.