



Year 4 Autumn 2: Ancient Greeks



Vocabulary

Civilisation	A group of people (society) which have their own culture.
Empire	A group of countries who are run by the government of another country.
Democracy	A way of many decisions by letting people vote.
Myth	A well-known story to explain things that happened. They were often made up.
City State	A large area of land owned by the city.
Council	A group of people chosen to be in charge of a town or city.
Citizen	Someone who lives in a particular town or city.
Hoplite	An armoured Greek soldier.
Dark Ages	Between 1200-800BC not much is known about the Greeks.
Polytheism	Believing in more than one god. The Gods were supposed to live on Mount Olympus.
Olympic Games	They happened every 4 years in place called Olympia. They were a religious festival to honour Zeus.
Truce	An agreement to stop fighting.

Need to know knowledge:

- 1) Know that the Ancient Greek period lasted from 3000BC to 146BC. From 800BC the Ancient Greeks were impressive.
- 2) Know that BC means Before Christ. AD means Anno Domini (in the year of our lord). BC and AD are part of the Common Era (CE). Before the Common Era is BCE.
- 3) Know the main cities were Sparta and Athens. Athens is the capital of Greece. Each city had a different culture, but they had the same language and beliefs.
- 4) Know that Athens developed a new system of government known as democracy.
- 5) Know that ancient Greeks founded the Olympic Games. They happened every 4 years in place called Olympia. They were a religious festival to honour Zeus.
- 6) Know that the Ancient Greeks were very religious and believed in many different Gods. The Gods were said to live on Mount Olympus.

Nice to know knowledge:

Year	Event
3000 BC	Greek civilisation begins
776 BC	First Olympic games are held
508 BC	Democracy is introduced in Athens
336 BC	Alexander the great becomes king.
146 BC	Invasion of Romans
479 AD	Athens and Sparta defeat the Persians.

BC stands for Before Christ.
AD stands for 'Anno Domini', which means 'the year of our Lord' in Latin. AD dates indicate the number of years or centuries that have passed since the year in which Jesus Christ is believed to have been born.



The Parthenon is an important Greek temple built in Athens in honour of the Goddess Athena.

Greek Gods and Goddess

Aphrodite	Goddess of Love and Beauty and protector of 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 to the Gods
Artemis	Goddess of the hunt and the moon
Hades	God of the Underworld
Hephaestus	God of Fire and the Forge
Hestia	Goddess of hearth/ family life

