

Ancient Greece Knowledge Organiser

Ancient Greece is often referred to as 'the birthplace of Western civilisation'. It is made up of three periods which produced many of the political ideas, art, architecture, sculpture, science, philosophy (thinking) and literature that influenced our lives today.

Key Vocabulary	
Civilisation	When people organise themselves to live peacefully together in communities.
City-states	Groups of villages that banded together to protect one another. Each had its own government and army. E.g. Athens, Sparta, Thebes, Corinth, Olympia,...
Democracy	A system of government by all eligible members of a state, typically through elected representatives, such as in Athens.
Oligarchy	Where power is held by a small privileged group, such as in Sparta.
Philosophy	An attitude that acts as a guiding principle for behaviour.
Empire	A group of states ruled by a single monarch.
Legacy	Something handed down by a predecessor.
Hoplite	A heavily armoured foot soldier.
Phalanx	A military formation used by Alexander the Great.
Trireme	An oar-powered warship as used in the Battle of Salamis.



Key Places	
Athens	The largest and most powerful city state. It was ruled as a democracy and produced many artists and writers whose works survive today.
Sparta	A military city state, surrounded by mountains to protect it from invaders.
Mount Olympus	Greece's highest mountain and, according to mythology, home of the 12 Olympian gods.
Persian Empire	The largest and most powerful empire in the world at the time of the Persian wars, controlling land from Egypt to India.
Macedonia	An area of Northern Greece and birthplace of Alexander the Great.



Important Dates	
~800BC – 500BC	The Archaic period.
~500BC – 323BC	The Classical Period
~323BC – 146BC	The Hellenistic period

Key Battles	
Thermopylae	Site of the battle (480BC) where an alliance of Greek states, led by Sparta, defeated the Persian army of Xerxes.
Marathon	Site of battle (490BC) between an alliance of Athens and Sparta against the Persian army.
Salamis	Site of navy battle (480BC) between an alliance of Greek states and the Persians.
Gaugamela	Site of the decisive battle of Alexander the Great's invasion of the Persian Empire in 331 BC

Key People	
King Alexander III of Macedon (Alexander the Great) 356BC - 323BC	Conqueror of the Persian Empire
King Darius I 550BC – 486BC	Ruler of Persia
King Xerxes I 519BC – 465BC	Son of Darius and commander of the Persian army at the Battle of Thermopylae.