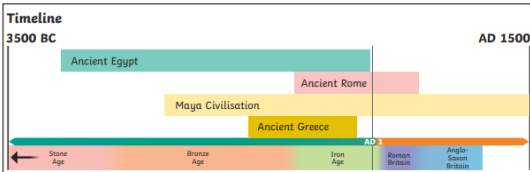


### Key questions:

- Who were the Ancient Greeks?
- How does Ancient Greece and Modern Greece compare?
- What impact have the Ancient Greeks had on modern day society?
- What were Ancient Greek city states? How were these divided up and run?
- Who were the Greek Gods and Goddesses?
- When were the first Olympic Games held? What were they like? How do they compare to the modern-day Olympics?

### Key facts and figures

#### The Ancient Greeks



About **2,500 years ago** Greece was one of the most important places in the ancient world. Ancient Greece was a civilization that dominated much of the Mediterranean thousands of years ago. At its peak under Alexander the Great, ancient Greece ruled much of Europe and western Asia. The Greeks were great **thinkers, warriors, writers, actors, athletes, artists, architects and politicians**. The Greeks called themselves **Hellenes** and their land was **Hellas**. The name 'Greeks' was given to the people of Greece later by the Romans. the Roman culture was influenced by the Greeks.

#### Ancient Greece and Modern-Day Life



Ancient Greece formed the foundation of much of Western culture today. Everything from government, philosophy, science, mathematics, art, literature, and even sports was impacted by the ancient Greeks.

#### Greek City States



Ancient Greece was not a country. It was made up of city states. There were often battles between these city states but sometimes they would join together to defend themselves from a common enemy. Important city states of ancient Greece included Athens, Corinth and Sparta.

Independent city states existed for most of the ancient Greek period. However, towards the end of this period, King Philip II of Macedonia ruled over all of ancient Greece. Following his death, his son, Alexander the Great, took over the empire along with other lands that he conquered. After Alexander the Great died, the Romans slowly took over parts of the empire.

#### Democracy



Ancient Athens is where democracy began in around 508 BC. Listening to the opinions of other people and debating issues was an important part of this system. After debating issues, the ancient Athenians would vote. At that time, the only people allowed to take part in democracy were adult males who were citizens of Athens. The legacy of democracy still exists today in many parts of the world.

#### Greek Gods and Goddesses



The ancient Greeks believed in many different gods and goddesses. Each god/goddess represented a certain aspect of humanity and each was responsible for certain parts of life too. Festivals were held to celebrate the gods and goddesses. It is believed that the 12 most powerful gods lived on Mount Olympus. Zeus was the most powerful of all the gods. He was God of the sky and the king of Mount Olympus

#### The Olympic Games



The Olympics were first held in ancient Greece in 776 BC. This is one of the legacies of ancient Greece. Events included boxing, wrestling, running and chariot racing. Women were not allowed to compete in the Olympics. This was because ancient Greek women were not treated as equals to men and had fewer freedoms. The idea for the marathon also originates from this time.

### Key vocabulary

- |   |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ancient Greece</li> <li>• Modern-Day Greece</li> <li>• Civilisation</li> <li>• The Greeks</li> <li>• Empire</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City States</li> <li>• Democracy</li> <li>• Athens</li> <li>• Sparta</li> <li>• Myth</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Olympics</li> <li>• Legacy</li> </ul> |
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# Knowledge Organiser for Year 3 & 4

## Topic: The Greeks