



Society

Ancient Greece was not one single nation, but a group of hundreds of city-states. Some cities were small, some much larger, like Athens and Sparta. Often at war with each other, they developed different forms of government. The Athenians invented democracy, a system that allows citizens to vote on important matters. However, women, children and slaves were not allowed to vote.



Culture and pastimes

The Greek city-states shared many traditions, stories and festivals. Famous myths and legends (like Theseus and the Minotaur) told stories about gods, heroes and how the universe was created. Scenes from these stories were often painted on beautiful pottery. The Ancient Greeks held athletic competitions near Mount Olympus. The Ancient Greeks' love of athletics inspires the modern Olympic Games. The city-state Athens was famous for its great thinkers, art, architecture and philosophy. The ideas developed there have been very influential in many of today's societies.



Location



Vocabulary:

Historical vocabulary:

empire	Many countries that were ruled by one leader
civilisation	A human society with its own social organisation and culture
conquer	Take control of another land
invasion	When a foreign army enters a country by force
B.C	'Before Christ' -The system labels years based on a traditional notion of when Jesus was born

Topic related vocabulary:

citadel	A strong building in or near a city, where people could shelter for safety.
democracy	A fair political system where all adults vote for an elected government, who then make decisions.
Mount Olympus	It is the highest peak in Greece. In Greek mythology Olympus is the home of the Greek gods, on Mytikas peak.

850—700 BC: Development of the first Greek Alphabet

C. 750 BC: Early Greek culture thrives. Homer writes *The Odyssey*.

C. 450 BC: Athens becomes a powerful city and controls an empire.

336 BC: Alexander the Great helps to further expand the Greek empire.

776 BC: The first Olympic games takes place.

508 BC: Democracy begins in Athens, giving greater power to the people living there.

432 BC: The Parthenon, the most famous building in Athens, is completed.

146 BC: Rome conquers Greece, making it part of the Roman Empire.

