

# Year 3 & 4 History – Ancient Greece Knowledge Organiser

## Key Vocabulary

**BC:** BC is used to show dates before the birth of Jesus.

**acropolis:** a fortified citadel (fortress) within a larger city.

**architecture:** the art of designing and constructing buildings.

**assembly:** in Athens (one of the city states), the assembly consisted of a group of citizens who came to vote.

**Athens:** one of the most powerful city-states and the birthplace of democracy.

**city-state:** a large city and the surrounding areas (polis). Greece had five city states.

**democracy:** a system where citizens have a say in how they are ruled, including choosing leaders and deciding laws.

**mythology:** a collection of stories, usually relating to gods, heroes or rituals of that religion.

**Olympics:** an athletic event held by the Ancient Greeks every four years.

**Sparta:** a powerful Greek city-state and rival to Athens, with a culture based around warfare and preparing for battle.

The timeline shows where Ancient Greece fits in history. History can be split into two parts, BC and AD – BC means Before Christ, AD means Anno Domini (the year of our Lord) and refers to the period after Jesus Christ was born.

Prehistory is used to describe the time before written records of history began. Prehistoric Britain includes the Stone Age, Bronze Age and Iron Age. Across the world, around the time of Bronze Age Britain (~2000BC), ancient civilisations began to emerge. Ancient Greece was one of the later civilisations.

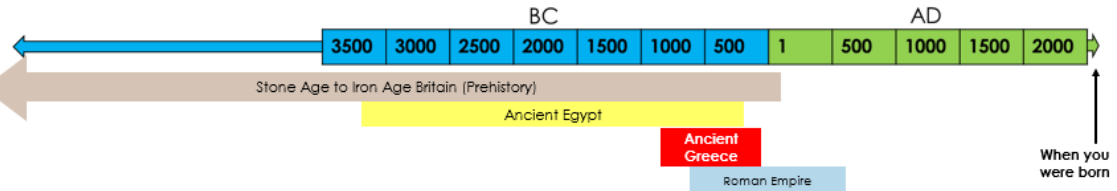
### What is an ancient civilisation?

Ancient refers to a period of time long ago. Civilisation is the word used to describe people who live in large, organised groups. Organised means that they have their own laws, culture and way of life.

Like most ancient civilisations, the ancient Greeks had a system of government (such as kings and queens or elections where they chose their leaders). Ancient Greece was split into five city-states which had their own separate governments. Ancient Greece also has a written record of history using their own alphabet.



This map shows the five city-states of Ancient Greece.



### How did religion impact upon the lives of Ancient Greeks?

The Ancient Greeks believed in many gods and goddesses who controlled everything in their lives. They also believed the gods would take care of them when they died so it was important to please them. They would construct amazing buildings for them, pray regularly and give offerings to keep them happy.



^ Acropolis



V Theatre

### How did the Greeks influence the modern world?

The Ancient Greek civilisation were one of the most influential civilisations. This means lots of the things we see in our world come from their achievements.

#### These include:

- Democracy
- Olympics
- The alphabet
- Architecture (pillars/columns)
- Literature and language
- Theatre