



KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

HISTORY: ANCIENT GREEKS

Y6 SPRING TERM

TIMELINE OF KEY EVENTS:	
DATE	WHAT HAPPENED
776 BC	First Olympic Games. The games would take place every 4 years in honour of the Greek god Zeus.
621 BC	Draconian laws are introduced – punishable by death
600 BC	First coins are introduced
508 BC	Democracy is introduced in Athens
490 BC	The Persian Wars
431 BC	The wars between Sparta and Athens begin
336 BC	Alexander the Great becomes king and begins to expand the empire
146 BC	Rome conquers Greece making it part of the Roman Empire

KEY VOCABULARY:	
WORDS	MEANING
Acropolis	an ancient citadel usually on a hill
Comedy, satire, tragedy	types of theatre plays
Corinthian, Doric and Ionic	types of architecture
Democracy	ruled by the people
Dictatorship	ruled by one person
Hellenistic	the period of history dominated by Macedonia, of which the most famous ruler was Alexander the Great
Hoplite	the main type of soldier who fought on foot in Ancient Greece
Olympic Games	a games event that brings people from different city states together in peace for sports
Pankration	a vicious sport played in Ancient Greece
Spartans	tough warriors living in Greek city of Sparta
Triremes	a Greek warship
Tyrants	people who seized control of a place and ruled as they wished

KEY KNOWLEDGE:
QUESTION 1: Why and how did Ancient Greece become important?
ANSWER Greece is important as it was the first country to create a form of government via democracy. Western culture today is formed on the basis of Ancient Greek government, philosophy, science, maths, art, literature and even sports.
QUESTION 2: What are the differences between the Spartans and the Athenians?
ANSWER Athens was a city state. It was the birthplace of democracy and was known for theatre, arts and literature. Sparta was also a city state. Unlike Sparta it did not study philosophy, art or theatre the people studied war and the Spartans were widely considered to have the strongest army. Sparta was ruled by two kings of equal power.



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QUESTION 3: What were the major achievements of the Ancient Greeks?

ANSWER

The Greeks development of democracy is still the main form of government today, meaning that we get the chance to vote for our government. The Greeks invented the theatre, they developed maths theories which we still use today and they developed the Olympic Games.

QUESTION 4: How did the Ancient Greeks fighting contribute to their achievements?

ANSWER

As a result of the Persian Wars the Greeks benefitted as Greek culture spread as did their empire until the 12th century.

KEY PEOPLE:

NAME	WHAT THEY DID
Alexander the Great	King born in 356 BC. Conquered the Persian Empire
Homer	Known for the poem Odyssey
Socrates, Plato, Aristotle	Philosophers
Archimedes	Mathematician known as the greatest Mathematician. Engineer, inventor and astronomer of the ancient world
Pythagoras	Scientist and philosopher who came up with Pythagoras Theorem (still used today)

KEY PLACES:

NAME	WHAT HAPPENED THERE
Sparta	A city state led by two kings. They loved to fight wars and had slaves to run their farms while away fighting.
Athens	Largest city in Greece. Rich because of silver, lead and marble. Was a democracy with citizens voting on change.

SUGGESTED WEBSITES TO FIND OUT MORE:

www.bbc.co.uk/education/topics/287th39

www.historyforkids.net/ancient-greece