

Year 6 History

What is the legacy of the Ancient Greeks in modern Britain?

Ancient Greek civilisations can be traced back to the Minoan civilisation which began on the island of Crete around 3000 BCE.

Approximate dates for the main Ancient Greek periods and key events (timeline not to scale):

Archaic Period (800 – 480 BCE)	Classical Period (480 – 323 BCE)	Hellenistic Period (323 – 146 BCE)
First Olympic Games 776 BCE First coins introduced 600 BCE	Athens introduces democracy 500 BCE Battle of Marathon (Athens vs Persia) 490 BCE Peloponnesian Wars between Athens and Sparta 431-404 BCE	Sophocles writes his first tragedy 468 BCE Plato founds the Academy 386 BCE Alexander the Great dies soon after defeating the Persians 323 BCE Greece, defeated at the Battle of Corinth, becomes part of the Roman Empire 146 BCE



Key people linked to legacy of Ancient Greeks	
Sophocles	Influential playwright known for writing over 120 plays, mainly tragedies.
Aesop	Former slave and storyteller famous for writing Aesop's Fables.
Homer	The most famous of the Greek epic poets; wrote the epic poems the <i>Iliad</i> and the <i>Odyssey</i> .
Hippocrates	A scientist of medicine; he is called the Father of Western Medicine. Doctors still take the Hippocratic Oath today.
Pythagorus	Philosopher, mathematician and scientist. He came up with the Pythagorean Theorem still used today in much of geometry.
Archimedes	Considered one of the great mathematicians and scientists in history. He made many discoveries both in maths and physics including many inventions.
Socrates	First of the great Greek Philosophers. He is considered by many to be the founder of Western philosophy.
Plato	Philosopher and student of Socrates. Founded the Academy in Athens.
Aristotle	Philosopher and scientist; student of Plato. He was also teacher to Alexander the Great.
Alexander the Great	King of the ancient Greek kingdom of Macedonia. Often called the greatest military commander in history, Alexander united and expanded the Greek empire and fought against the Persian Empire. Died aged 32.

Vocabulary	Definition
Acropolis	A fortified citadel within a larger city. It is usually located on top of a hill and at the centre of the city. The most famous acropolis is the Acropolis of Athens.
Assembly	In Athens the Assembly consisted of the group of citizens who showed up to vote.
Democracy	A system of government where eligible people elect representatives.
Oligarchy	A system of government where a small group of people control everything.
Mount Olympus	The highest mountain in Greece and the mythological home of the Greek Gods, primarily twelve Olympian Gods.
Parthenon	Temple dedicated to Athena located on the Athenian Acropolis.
Titans	An older generation of Gods including Cronus and Rhea who were the children of earlier Gods and parents to the Olympian Gods (who later overthrew them).
City-state	A city that had its own government and rules the area around it e.g. Athens, Sparta, Corinth, Delphi & Thebes (In Greek = 'Polis')
Olympics	Sporting event and sacrifice held every four years in honour of Zeus.