

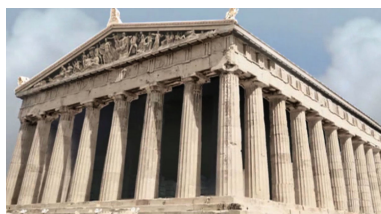
Y6 HISTORY KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER: **WHY SHOULD WE THANK THE ANCIENT GREEKS?**

Key Vocabulary

democracy	a system of government in which people choose who is in charge by voting in elections.	democratic	based on the idea that everyone has equal rights and is involved in making decisions.
philosophy	study of how people live and think.	citizens	people who belong to a place.

Key Ideas

- **Ancient Greece was one of the earliest major civilisations of Europe, and its culture has had a significant impact on modern society. From art to architecture, systems of government and social organisations, to philosophy, science and sports, the Ancient Greek way of life can be seen everywhere today. The Ancient Greek city-state of Athens was one of the first to use a democratic system of government. It is possible to argue that the Ancient Greeks were the most influential ancient civilisation in history.**
- Ancient Greece was not a single nation, but a group of hundreds of city-states, 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. It was one of the earliest examples of democracy in history and is one of Ancient Greece's most lasting legacies.
- The Greek city-states shared many traditions, stories and festivals. Famous myths and legends told stories about gods, heroes and how the universe was created. The amphitheatre was a central part of life for Ancient Greeks. Today's modern ideas of beauty can be traced back to Ancient Greek artworks.
- The Greeks admired physical perfection in their art but also in daily life; physical education and competitive sports were a significant part of their culture. The religious festival held every four years, called the Olympics, demonstrated their enthusiasm for physical fitness. We also have the Ancient Greeks and people like Pythagoras, Archimedes and Hippocrates, to thank for some of the most significant discoveries in maths, science and medicine.
- The influence of Ancient Greek architecture and design can be seen everywhere in modern life, particularly in the Western world. The best known feature, the Greek column comes in three styles: Doric, Ionic and Corinthian.



How do we know about the Ancient Greeks?

-There are many primary sources of historical evidence that tell us about Ancient Greece. One example are stories, like the Iliad, by Homer. They inform us about the beliefs, culture and pastimes of the Ancient Greeks. By comparing stories with artefacts, we can build a detailed picture of Ancient Greek life. Large amounts of pottery, which have survived thousands of years, are significant historical sources from Ancient Greek times.

4,000 BC Earliest Greek Civilisations	2,000 BC - 1,100 BC Bronze Period	850 BC - 600 BC Archaic Period	500 BC - 400 BC Classical Golden Age	146 BC Rome conquers Greece
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