

Additional Subject Knowledge Notes

Ancient Greece: Who Were the Ancient Greeks?

These optional notes are provided to give more information but the curriculum aim is covered without using these. These notes are also included in speaker notes on the Lesson Presentation.



What Do We Know about Ancient Greece?

What do you already know about ancient Greece?

The dates we will be learning about regarding ancient Greece all end in the letters BC.

Do you know what BC stands for?

BC stands for **Before Christ** and refers to any date before the year Christians believe Jesus was born. The Romans who introduced this calendar had no symbol for zero and the year that Jesus was born was called 'Year 1'.

Some dates use BC and some use AD.

AD stands for **Anno Domini** and is a medieval Latin phrase that means, 'in the year of our Lord'. AD is used for dates after the point Christians believe Jesus was born.

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Sometimes you will see BC called BCE (Before Common Era) and sometimes AD is called CE (Common Era). Common Era' means the time from Year 1 onwards or 'a year in our time', e.g. 2021 CE or AD 2021 which we would just say is the year 2021. These can be used as non-religious alternatives. BC and AD have been used in the throughout this unit to be in line with the national curriculum.



What Do We Know about Ancient Greece?

You will notice that many of the settlements in Greece - in modern times and in ancient times - are near the sea. Why do you think this might be?


Settlements developed along the coast as the sea provided a good source of food and allowed them to trade with people from other countries and city states.

To trade means to exchange (or to buy and sell) objects or services with others.

Can you explain what 'trade' means?

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The sea was a means for people to travel and **trade** with other city states and countries. The mountains in Greece made it very difficult to move around and **trade** with other settlements by land.



Ancient Greece in Time

Where does ancient Greece fit in with some of the other periods in history that you may have learnt about? What do you notice about ancient Greece in comparison to other periods?

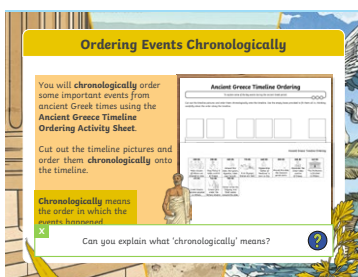
Timeline

3500 BC	AD 1	AD 1500
Ancient Egypt		
	Ancient Rome	
	Maya Civilisation	
	Ancient Greece	
	Celtic Britain	
	Anglo-Saxon Britain	

Can you discuss when ancient Greece was in relation to other periods in history?

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Evidence has been found of people living in Greece before 7000 BC but we will be focussing on ancient Greece in around the 1000 years before the Year 1. Some historians consider the ancient Greek period to have ended around 146 BC when the Romans took control of Greece and this timeline indicates around 146 BC as being the end of this period. However, some historians think of the end of the ancient Greek period as being when Alexander the Great died in 323 BC.



Ordering Events Chronologically

You will **chronologically** order some important events from ancient Greek times using the **Ancient Greece Timeline Ordering Activity Sheet**.

Cut out the timeline pictures and order them **chronologically** onto the timeline.

Chronologically means the order in which the events happened.

Can you explain what 'chronologically' means?

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Children may be interested to know that the origin of the word 'chronologically' comes from the ancient Greek word 'khronos' meaning time. The Timeline Events Sheet includes some information about the Parthenon. The controversy around the Parthenon marbles, which were taken from the Parthenon by Lord Elgin and sold to the British Museum and still remain there, may be something the class wishes to explore further as part of this lesson.



Ancient Greece's Influence

Ancient Greece is important because many things in culture today, especially in modern Europe, have been influenced by the ideas of the ancient Greek civilisation.

In the following lessons, we will be learning about ancient Greek culture.

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The sculptures, architecture, philosophy, politics and the scientific and mathematical ideas of ancient Greece are just some of the things that have had a significant impact on culture today.