

Subject: History

Year 3

What did the Ancient Greeks bring to the world?

NC/PoS:

Prior Learning (what pupils already know and can do)

**End Points (What pupils should know by the end of the unit)**

By the end of the topic pupils should be able to:

1. Describe **where and when Ancient Greece existed**.
2. Explain how **Greek city-states were ruled and understand ideas of power and leadership**.
3. Identify important **Greek inventions and ideas** that still influence the world today.
4. Understand how the **Ancient Greeks travelled and traded**.
5. Explain the importance of **Greek entertainment such as theatre and the Olympic Games**.
6. Describe how Greek ideas influenced **modern democracy, sport, theatre and technology**.
7. Use historical vocabulary such as **civilisation, empire, democracy and trade**.

Key Vocabulary

Component 1 LO:

**Introduction to Ancient Greece**

**Learning Objective**

**To understand where Ancient Greece was located and why it became an important civilisation.**

**Prior Knowledge Evaluation**

Ask pupils:

- What is a civilisation?

- Have you heard of the **Ancient Greece** before?

Discuss previous learning about older civilisations and ask pupils what they think life might have been like thousands of years ago.

### **Starter**

Show a map of Europe and highlight **Greece**.

Ask pupils:

- What do they notice about the geography?
- Why might being near the sea be helpful?

### **Main Activity**

Teacher explains that Ancient Greece was made up of **independent city-states** rather than one country.

Children complete a **map activity**:

- Locate major areas such as **Athens, Sparta**, and the **Mediterranean Sea**.
- Colour the surrounding seas and mountains.

Discuss how geography affected trade, travel and defence.

Pupils then write 3 facts about Ancient Greece.

### **Alternative Activity Ideas**

- Create a **3D salt-dough map** of Greece.
- Group discussion: How might mountains affect travel and communication?

### **Adaptations for SEND**

- Provide pre-labelled maps.
- Use visual images and video clips.
- Provide sentence starters for writing tasks.

### Key Vocabulary

- Civilisation
- City-state
- Trade
- Geography

### Helpful Websites

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/z87tn39>
- <https://www.natgeokids.com>
- <https://www.twinkl.co.uk>

Component 2 LO:

### Royalty and Power in Ancient Greece

#### Learning Objective

**To understand how power and leadership worked in Ancient Greek city-states.**

#### Prior Knowledge Evaluation

Ask pupils:

- Who is in charge of countries today?
- Is power always held by one person?

#### Starter

Introduce the idea that some city-states had kings, while others created **democracy**.

Show images of the **Acropolis of Athens** and ask pupils what kind of activities might have taken place there.

### **Main Activity**

Explain that in **Athens** citizens voted on decisions, creating early **democracy**.

Explain that **Sparta** had kings and military leaders.

Children complete a **comparison chart**:

<b>Athens</b>	<b>Sparta</b>
Democracy	Kings and military rule
Citizens voted	Strong army
Focused on arts and learning	Focused on strength and discipline

Discuss how ideas from Athens influenced modern governments.

### **Alternative Activity Ideas**

- Class vote on a simple decision to demonstrate democracy.
- Role play a meeting of Athenian citizens.

### **Adaptations for SEND**

- Provide visual comparison charts.
- Simplify the number of facts required.

### **Key Vocabulary**

- Democracy
- Citizen
- Power
- Government

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Component 3: LO:

### **Greek Inventions and Ideas**

#### **Learning Objective**

**To understand how Ancient Greek inventions and ideas influenced the modern world.**

#### **Prior Knowledge Evaluation**

Ask pupils:

- What is an invention?
- Can you name any inventions that changed the world?

#### **Starter**

Show pictures of inventions linked to Ancient Greece:

- Early alarm clock
- Water mill
- Theatre masks

#### **Main Activity**

Explain how Ancient Greek thinkers made discoveries in science, maths and philosophy.

Introduce **Archimedes** and discuss some of his discoveries.

Children complete an **invention investigation worksheet**:

- What the invention was
- What problem it solved
- How it influences modern life today

### **Alternative Activity Ideas**

- Design a **modern invention inspired by Greek ideas**.
- STEM challenge building simple machines.

### **Adaptations for SEND**

- Provide simplified invention cards.
- Allow pupils to draw ideas instead of writing.

### **Key Vocabulary**

- Invention
- Discovery
- Technology
- Innovation

### **Helpful Websites**

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>
- <https://www.natgeokids.com>
- <https://www.twinkl.co.uk>

Component 4 LO:

**Greek Transport and Trade**

**Learning Objective**

**To understand how the Ancient Greeks travelled and traded.**

### **Prior Knowledge Evaluation**

Ask pupils:

- How do we travel today?
- How might people travel without cars or planes?

### **Starter**

Show images of **Greek sailing ships** and discuss why boats were important.

### **Main Activity**

Explain that the Greeks used ships to travel around the **Mediterranean Sea**.

Discuss how trade helped spread ideas and goods such as:

- Olive oil
- Pottery
- Metals

Children create a **trade map** showing routes between Greek city-states.

### **Alternative Activity Ideas**

- Build model Greek ships using craft materials.
- Role play traders exchanging goods.

### **Adaptations for SEND**

- Provide simplified maps.
- Use pictorial trade cards.

### **Key Vocabulary**

- Trade
- Merchant
- Route
- Transport

## Helpful Websites

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>
- <https://www.natgeokids.com>
- <https://www.twinkl.co.uk>

## Component 5 LO: Greek Entertainment

### Learning Objective

To understand how entertainment and sport were important in Ancient Greek culture.

### Prior Knowledge Evaluation

Ask pupils:

- What do people do for fun today?

### Starter

Show images of a Greek theatre and ask pupils what performances might have happened there.

### Main Activity

Explain that the Greeks invented theatre and organised the first Olympic Games.

Introduce:

- The Ancient Olympic Games
- Theatre festivals honouring Dionysus

Children design:

- A Greek theatre mask  
or
- A poster advertising an Olympic event.

### Alternative Activity Ideas

- Act out a short Greek play scene.
- Create a mini classroom Olympic event.

### Adaptations for SEND

- Provide mask templates.
- Allow collaborative group work.

### Key Vocabulary

- Theatre
- Olympic
- Drama
- Festival

### Helpful Websites

- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize>
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## What Did the Greeks Bring to the World?

### Learning Objective

To understand the lasting impact of Ancient Greek achievements on the modern world.

### Prior Knowledge Evaluation

Review previous lessons:

- Government
- Inventions
- Trade
- Entertainment

Ask pupils which ideas they think are still important today.

### Starter

Display images of modern items or systems influenced by Greek ideas:

- Democracy
- Olympic Games
- Theatre

### Main Activity

Children complete a **“Greek Legacy” project** explaining how Greek ideas influence modern life.

They create a poster including:

- Democracy and government
- Theatre and entertainment
- Olympic Games
- Inventions and learning

Pupils present their work to the class.

### Alternative Activity Ideas

- Class museum exhibition of Greek achievements.
- Quiz reviewing key facts from the unit.

### Adaptations for SEND

- Provide structured poster templates.
- Allow verbal presentations.

### **Key Vocabulary**

- Legacy
- Influence
- Achievement
- Civilisation

### **Helpful Websites**

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### **Assessment Opportunities**

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- Map work and timeline understanding
- Comparison charts
- Vocabulary recall
- Final legacy project explaining Greek contributions

### **Helpful Lesson Planning & Resource Tools**

#### **Chalkie AI (teacher planning tool)**

- <https://chalkie.ai>

Other helpful resources:

- <https://www.twinkl.co.uk>
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach>
- <https://www.natgeokids.com>