



Olympus Odyssey



Between 800BC – 146BC, Greece was one of the most important places in the ancient world. The Greeks were great thinkers, warriors, writers, actors, athletes, artists, architects and politicians. The Greeks called themselves 'Hellenes' and their land was Hellas. The name 'Greeks' was given to the people of Greece later by the Romans.

776 BC: The first Olympic Games was held in Olympia.

508 BC: Democracy is introduced in Athens by Cleisthenes.

472 BC: Greek Theatre becomes popular entertainment.

432 BC: The temple to Athena, the Parthenon, is completed in Athens on the Acropolis.

336 BC: Alexander The Great takes control of Greece.

Key Dates in Ancient Greek History (800 BC – 146 BC)

750 BC: Homer begins to write the Iliad and Odyssey poems.

490 BC: The Greeks fight the Persians in the Battle of Marathon.

431 BC: The wars between Sparta and Athens begin.

404 BC: Sparta eventually conquers Athens.

146 BC: The Greeks fall under the Roman Empire.

Delphi
Delphi is believed to be one of the holiest places in Ancient Greece. Many travelling here to receive prophecies from Pythia a priestess.

Corinth
Corinth was located right in the centre of Ancient Greece, making it a good place to trade. Starter (silver coins) were used as currency.

Athens
Between 500BC and 400BC Athens was the most important city in the world. This is where the world's first democracy was believed to begin.

Knossos
the oldest city in Greece, located on the island of Crete. At the heart of the city stood the Palace of Knossos. This vast building had over 1,000 rooms!

Olympia
Home of the Ancient Olympic Games which occurred every 4 years. The games were considered by many as a religious festival dedicated to Zeus. Originally, the games consisted of five events:
Pentathlon, Chariot Racing, Boxing, Wrestling, Running

Sparta
Sparta was unusually ruled by two kings, who were supposedly descendants of Heracles. At the age of seven, boys would leave their homes to begin their 23 years of training to become a Spartan soldier.

Daily Life

- Men had a much better life in Ancient Greece than women.
- Women weren't allowed to take part in politics or vote.
- The father decided whether to keep a new born child or not.
- When boys became seven years old, they started school. However, girls did not go to school.
- Men and women lived in different parts of the house.



- They wore a tunic called a chiton generally made out of a thin wool material.
- Jobs for men included farmer, fisherman, soldier, teacher, government worker, and craftsman.
- Women were generally homemakers.
- As Greece is surrounded by the sea, this meant that the Greeks were seafarers.

Greece was divided into city-states (polis) that each has their own laws and way of life. However, they all spoke the same language and would trade with one another.

Similarly today, Greece is made up of the mainland and many islands. It's warm weather, with wind from the Mediterranean, and rains from the north, create liveable and fertile farming conditions



Homes in Ancient Greece were typically made of dried mud-bricks with pottery roof tiles. Usually, they were built around a courtyard or garden.

Religion

Religion was very important in Ancient Greece. They were polytheists – they believed in different gods and goddesses that were in charge of different parts of their lives. Temples were built in honour and they featured heavily in the stories of Greek mythology. These myths formed a huge part of the religion found in Ancient Greece.

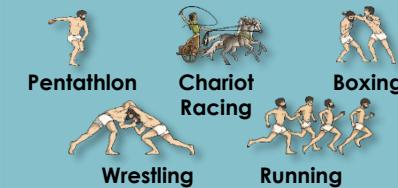
Famous Greek myths include:

- Perseus and Medusa
- Theseus and The Minotaur
- The Labours of Hercules
- The Trojan Horse
- King Midas



Cities in Ancient Greece

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Minotaur's Memo:

Did you know, we have the Ancient Greeks to thank for:

- Philosophy
- Democracy
- Olympics
- Trade
- Theatre
- Alarm clocks



The Twelve Olympians (Greek Gods and Goddesses):

Zeus

King of the gods. God of the sky and justice. Married to Hera, his sister.

Hera

Queen of the gods. Goddess of women and marriage. Married to Zeus, her brother.

Poseidon

God of the sea, earthquakes and horses. Brother to Zeus and Hades.

Athena

Goddess of wisdom, courage and war. Daughter of Zeus.

Apollo

God of poetry, music, light and medicine. Son of Zeus and twin to Artemis.

Artemis

Goddess of hunting, the moon. Daughter of Zeus and twin to Apollo.

Hades

King of the underworld. Brother to Zeus and Poseidon. He does not live on Mount Olympus with the other 12.

Hephaestus

God of invention, fire and volcanoes. Craftsman for gods. Son of Zeus.

Aphrodite

God of love and beauty. Daughter of Zeus.

Ares

God of war and violence. Son of Zeus.

Demeter

Goddess of agriculture seasons and fertility.

Hermes

God of travel, sports and thieves. Messenger between gods. Son of Zeus.

Dionysus

God of wine and theatre. Son of Zeus. Youngest Olympian.

Key Vocabulary (A-Z)

archaeologist	someone who studies the past by exploring old remains and artefacts
architecture	the art of planning, designing and constructing buildings
circa	Latin meaning 'around'. 'c.800 BC' means around the time of 800 BC
civilisation	a human society with its own social organisation and culture.
continent	a very large area of land that consists of many countries. Europe is a continent.
culture	activities that are considered important for the development of civilisation
democracy	a political system where a government is voted and elected to make decisions.
empire	a number of individual nations that are all controlled by a government or ruler
invasion	to try to take over a place using force or war efforts
Philosophy	study or theories about the nature of existence; how people should live
mythology	a group of myths, especially from a particular country, religion or culture
polytheists	the worship of or belief in more than one god