

History - Greece

Key dates in Ancient Greece

Overview

Date	Remembered for:
800BC	Ancient Greece emerges as its own distinct civilisation
776BC	The first Olympics takes place in Olympia.
600BC	The first coins are introduced
505BC	Democracy is introduced in Athens.
468BC	Theatre becomes a popular feature of Ancient Greek entertainment.
323BC	Library at Alexandria is founded
146BC	Rome conquers Greece making it part of the Roman Empire.



The Ancient Greek Empire was a significant civilisation that lasted from around 800BC to 146BC when it was conquered by the Romans. During the Ancient Greek times there were many important changes in society, with many of them influencing life in Europe up until today. The Ancient Greeks are well known for developing an early democracy, having many philosophers who considered questions about life and the world and also for telling many myths and legends linked to their gods. Many of their influences can still be seen today in things such as buildings.

Additional vocabulary

Architecture - mythology - democracy - polytheistic - citizen - ancient - civilisation - chronology - sources - acropolis - city state - philosophy

Glossary and key terms

The Ancient Greeks took their religion very seriously. They worshipped many gods, each of whom took on a certain role. As they had more than one god this means they were **polytheistic**.

The Ancient Greeks told mythological stories about their gods, each of them trying to explain something that happens in the world or a human emotion. Zeus was considered the king of the gods, with all of the gods living on Mount Olympus.

Many temples were built by the Ancient Greeks, with many of them dedicated to a particular god or goddess. They were elaborate buildings, often built on a hill, with tall decorative pillars that retold mythical stories of the gods. One of the most famous is **The Parthenon**, dedicated to the goddess Athena.

The Ancient Greeks hosted the first ancient olympics in 776BC. The athletes were free men and citizens of Greece. Many of the events were very different to the modern day olympics, with a large focus on combat sports such as wrestling.

Democracy was introduced in Athens in 505BC. Although it sounds like a fair system, the Ancient Greek system of democracy was very chaotic. No one was elected, people just had to turn up to a public discussion and have a say about how they thought things should be run.

Despite introducing a democracy in Athens, not many people would have had a say in how things were run. Ancient Greeks had a lot of slaves and servants who were not paid for what they did, and they were also not considered citizens. Only free men were allowed to be full citizens.

Ancient Greek homes were often built with stone and clay and reflected Greek society with rooms specifically for men and women to use separately. There was often a central courtyard that was open and designed to keep the air flowing and let light in.

Before the Ancient Greeks became a formal civilisations, there were many other smaller societies living in modern-day Greece and the surrounding islands. These groups shared a similar language, culture and beliefs, and slowly became what we know as the Ancient Greek Empire.

