

Ancient Greece

Y6 Autumn Term 2021

Key periods & dates

Neolithic (Stone Age) c.7000 BC Bronze Age 3000-1000 BC

Dark Ages 1100-700 BC Archaic 700-500 BC

Classical 500-336 BC Hellenistic 336 -146 BC

The first Olympic games were held in honour of Zeus in 776BC

The Battle of Marathon was in 490BC

The era ended in 146BC when the Romans conquered Greece



City States:

Athens: Largest city state in Greece. Birthplace of **democracy** with citizens voting on change. Known for theatre, arts, philosophy and literature.

Sparta: Unlike Athens, it did not study philosophy, art or theatre. Instead, the people studied war and the Spartans were widely considered to have the strongest army. Sparta was ruled by two kings of equal power.

Key Vocabulary

Government: the group of people who make the decisions about the running of a country or state.

Democracy: a system of government where the people choose their rulers by voting for them. The word democracy comes from the Greek 'demos' meaning people and 'kratia' meaning power. People power is the basis of democracy today.

Hoplite: a heavily armed foot soldier of Ancient Greece.

Siege: where enemy forces surround a town or building, cutting off essential supplies, with the aim of making those inside surrender.

City states: were like very small countries with just one city. Each had their own government. Famous city states include Athens, Sparta, Thebes and Corinth.

Aesop: a Greek storyteller who created many fables such as 'The Tortoise and the Hare' and 'The Wind and the Sun'.

Mount Olympus: home of the 12 major gods and goddesses (the Olympians).



Key Figures in the Trojan War

Helen: the most beautiful woman in the world and wife of Menelaus

Menelaus: King of Sparta and husband of Helen

Agamemnon: brother of Menelaus and commander of the Greek army

Achilles: strong, courageous and loyal Greek warrior

Hector: Prince of Troy and leader of the Trojan army

Paris: younger Prince of Troy who falls in love with Helen