

Ancient Greeks



Curriculum Links:

A study of Greek life and achievements and their influence on the western world

Key Facts:

- The Ancient Greek empire spread over Europe - it was most powerful between 2000BC and 146BC
- Ancient Greece was not a united country: it was made up from a number of independent city states which each had their own laws and ways of life. Athens and Sparta were the most well-known. Athens had a democratic government where as Sparta the main focus was being able to defend the city.
- Greece eventually became part of the Roman Empire, the Romans conquered Athens in 146BC.
- Greek styles of architecture, philosophy and theatre have helped shape our modern society.
- The first Olympic games were held in the city state of Olympia in 776BC; they were held in honour of the god, Zeus.
- Religion was very important in Ancient Greece, they believed in a number of gods and goddesses who were in charge of different parts of their lives; these featured heavily in Greek mythology.

Possible trips/visits: We should already know:

- * Greek Workshop
- * Kent Life
- * Canterbury Museum
- * British Museum

- The Ancient Egyptians and Mayans worshipped many gods
- Hindus worship a number of gods
- The Romans invaded Britain
- The Romans ruled after the Greeks and adapted many ways of Greek life



Key Vocabulary

Acropolis	A fortified citadel within a larger city - usually located on top of a hill in the city centre
Aristotle	One of the most respected philosophers, he worked mainly on Science and animals
City State	An independent government where a large city rules the surrounding area
Democracy	A system of government where people choose who is in charge by voting in elections
Myth	A traditional story usually involving supernatural beings or events
Olympics	A sporting festival held every 4 years in the honour of Zeus
Philosopher	A person who studies ideas about knowledge
Sparta	A city state who fought a long war against Athens
Tyrant	The ruler of a city state, like a king but who seized power unfairly