



# History – Ancient Greece (Year 3)

## Key Vocabulary

**Ancient** - Something which is very old and existed many years ago.

**Civilization** - A group of people with their own language, laws and way of life.

**Culture** - The language, art and ideas of a group of people.

**Olympics** - A festival to honour Zeus where Greeks competed against each other.

**Democracy** - A fair political system where adults vote for their government who then make decisions on how to run the country.

**Architecture** – the art and practice of designing and constructing buildings

**Myths** – a story often describing the adventures of beings with more than human powers.

**Empire** – A set of land ruled by an emperor (one person).

**Artefact** – an object made by a human being that is of historical and cultural interest.



A Journey Through History at Christ Church



## Who were the Ancient Greeks?

About 2,500 years ago, 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 name 'Greeks' was given to the people of Greece by the Romans. Ancient Greeks lived in mainland Greece and the Greek islands, but also in colonies scattered around the Mediterranean Sea. There were Greeks in Italy, Turkey, North Africa and as far west as France.



## Greek Olympics

Greece is the home country of the Olympic Games. These were held there every four years and were so important in Greek life that they were used as the basis for the Greek calendar.

The first recorded Olympic Games were in **776 BCE**. The Olympics were part of a religious event. They were held in honour of Zeus, the father of the gods and were a big celebration.

Olympic events included:

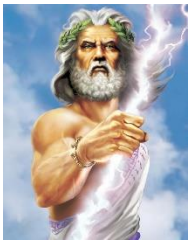
- Javelin - ancient javelins were sharpened wooden sticks, sometimes with a metal point on the end.
- Discus - athletes would compete to throw a stone or metal discus as far as they could
- Wrestling and boxing - like today's games, the ancient Olympics included boxing and wrestling, but, they were a lot more violent! The only things competitors couldn't do were bite or poke people in the eye. Some wrestlers were even killed!
- Horse Racing – there were horse races and chariot races, which took place on a race track called a hippodrome. The horse owner was considered to be the winner, not the rider!



## Greek Gods/Goddesses

The Greeks believed that gods and goddesses watched over them. These gods were a bit like humans, but they lived forever and were much more powerful. They felt human emotions, like love, anger and jealousy, and they did not always behave themselves. The Greeks thought the gods lived high above Mount Olympus, in a palace in the clouds. There are many stories about the Greek Gods.

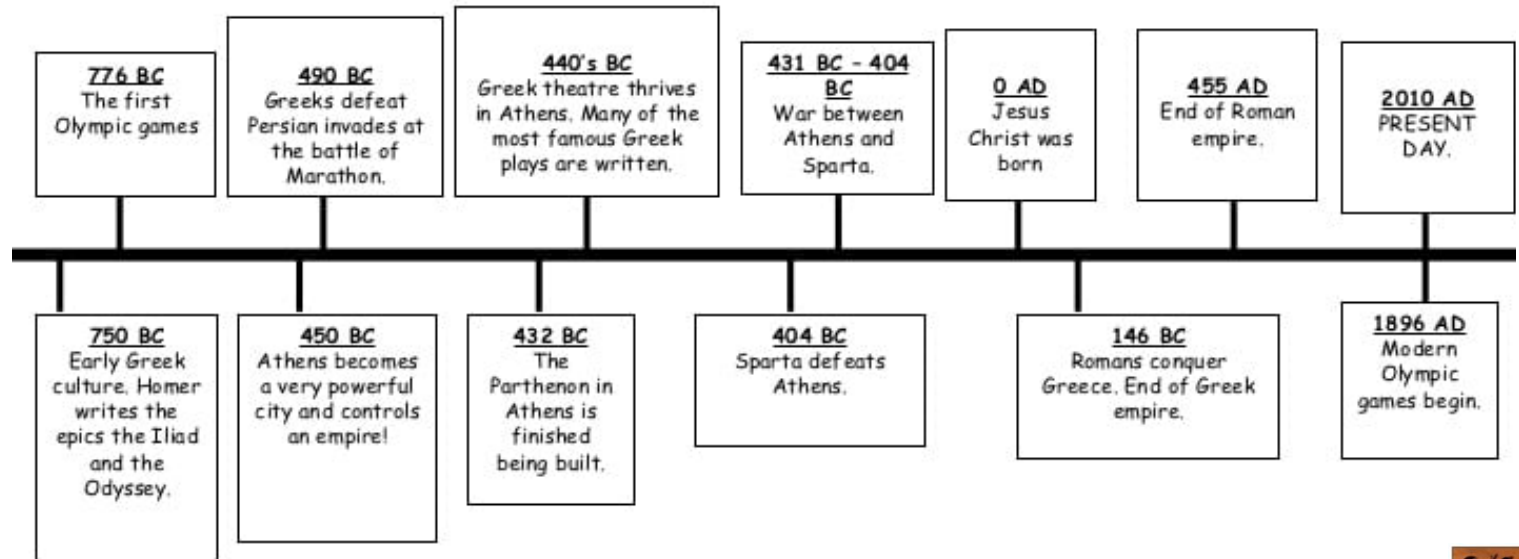
Zeus was the king of the gods.



We can learn about the Greek life using a range of artefacts including pottery – sports, wars, farming and daily life.



## Key Events



## Impacts



The modern Olympic games was influenced by the Ancient Greeks.

The Greek alphabet is still used today. Our emergency services often use them to check spellings or details.

Architecture (building design) has Greek influences especially column designs – Doric, Ionic and Corinthian.

Democracy – the Greeks introduced the idea of government allowing citizens to have a say in decisions that were made.

The Greeks developed the relationship between the audience and the actors. This influenced the setup of modern day performances.

## The Battle of Marathon – 490BC

The Athenians were being invaded by the Persians and needed more soldiers to help them fight. Pheidippides was sent to run to Sparta to ask them to join forces with the Athenians - a distance of 26 miles. It took him two days. The Spartans said they would help but only after they had finished celebrating a festival. Pheidippides ran all the way back to Athens to tell them they would have to wait. The Athenian army couldn't wait. Although the Athenians were heavily outnumbered by the Persians, their clever battle plan meant the Athenians were victorious. Pheidippides ran all the way back to Athens to tell them of the army's victory. He exclaimed, 'Nike!' (victory) but after delivering the message, he died.



Today, running races which are 26 miles long are called Marathons.