


# Upper Key Stage Two Forest Academy: Knowledge Organiser: Greeks.

- I am learning to.....
- to identify the most important achievements of the ancient Greeks and their civilisation.
- understand the physical geography of Greece and the importance of tourism to their country.



## Key Vocabulary and information - Ancient Greece.

The Acropolis		The Acropolis of Athens is the best known acropolis in Greece – an acropolis is a settlement built on high ground. It was built during the rules of Pericles, a golden age for Athens, as a monument to the city's greatness.	<b>Where?</b> Athens	<b>Key Fact:</b> The Acropolis is on a flat-topped rock that rises 150m above sea level
The Parthenon		The Parthenon is a temple in the middle of the Acropolis in Athens. It was a temple to Athena, the goddess of wisdom, and originally had a statue to her. It has now stood for nearly 2,500 years, a superb architectural achievement!	<b>Where?</b> Athens	<b>Key Fact:</b> The building used 22,000 tonnes of marble!
Mount Olympus		Mount Olympus is the highest mountain in Greece. It was believed in Ancient Greek times that when things needed to be decided in the mystical world, the 12 main Gods would gather at Mount Olympus, and that many lived there.	<b>Where?</b> 50 miles southwest of Thessaloniki	<b>Key Fact:</b> Mount Olympus rises to 2,918m
Alexander the Great		Alexander the Great gained a strong and united Greece when he became King. He used his military genius to then win battle after battle, conquering eastern Europe and Egypt.	<b>When?</b> 356-323BC	<b>Key Fact:</b> He died aged only 32. He accomplished a lot in his short life!
Greek Homes		Ancient Greek homes were built around a courtyard, which was the centre of activity. Around the courtyard were the rooms of the house, including work rooms and bedrooms.	<b>How?</b> Homes were made of sun-dried bricks.	<b>Key Fact:</b> Most houses had an 'andron' – a room just for men.
Food		The Ancient Greeks mostly ate bread dipped in wine, cheeses, fish, olives, and vegetables. Meat was eaten on rare occasions, such as festivals. Watered down wine was the main drink.	<b>How?</b> Foods/wines were traded between cities.	<b>Key Fact:</b> Many food festivals were for men only!
Clothes		The Ancient Greeks wore a tunic called a 'chitin' – worn by both men and women. These were fastened together at different places, and a belt was also normally worn at the waist. Chitins came in many sizes and colours.	<b>How?</b> Chitins were generally made out of a thin wool material	<b>Key Fact:</b> The rich could afford linen and silk chitins.

## Ancient Greek Olympics:

In 776 B.C.E, about three thousand years ago, the first Olympic Games took place in Greece.

The ancient long jump was very different from the one we have today. There was no runup and jumpers propelled themselves by swinging weights called halteres in their arms.

The athletes would be accompanied by a man playing the flute. They would use the rhythm of the music to time their jump and the swinging of the weights.



Running was the first event to be included in the Olympic Games. Athletes ran up and down a 192 metre track in the stadium.

Before the race, the competitors lined up along a stone starting block. If anyone tried to get a head start, they were disqualified and beaten for cheating.

The toughest running race was called the Hoplitodromos. In this event, runners competed wearing armour and carrying a shield. These could weigh up to 25kg!



The Olympic Games were held in **Olympia**. They were held there because the gods lived on Mount Olympus and the games were in honour of the king of the gods, Zeus. Athletes would travel to Olympia from many different Greek city-states to compete.

At the first Olympics there was only a single event. It was called the **Stadion** and was a running race that went the length of the stadium, around 200m.

There were horse races and chariot races in the ancient Olympic Games.

These events took place on a race track called a hippodrome. There were no seats, so spectators watched from the sides of the surrounding hills.

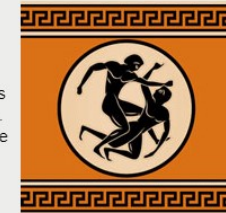
Competitors raced around 12 laps of the track. The most dangerous places were the turning posts at either end, because riders wanted to get the best line for the corner.



Like today's games, the ancient Olympics included boxing and wrestling. However, they were a lot more violent!

The toughest event was the pankration. This was a wrestling match with hardly any rules. The only things competitors couldn't do were bite or poke people in the eye. Some wrestlers were even killed!

Boxing was tough too. The fighters wore leather gloves and a boxer was allowed to keep hitting his opponent even after he'd knocked him to the ground!



There were no medals like the gold, silver, and bronze medals we have today. There was only one winner and he was given a wreath of olive leaves as a prize. But these weren't just any olive leaves. These olive leaves were taken from a sacred tree that was located at Olympia behind the temple dedicated to Zeus.

## Ancient Greek Timeline



## Greece - Location Information.

- \* Greece is a country in south-eastern Europe, shown in red on the map.
- \* It borders a number of countries, including Albania, Turkey, Bulgaria and Macedonia.
- \* It also has a large coastline on the Mediterranean Sea.
- \* Greece covers an area of 131,957 sq. km. It is the 15<sup>th</sup> largest European country by area.
- \* About 10.8 million people live in Greece. The capital city is Athens.
- \* Greece has around 6,000 islands, although only around 227 of these are inhabited.



## Greece - Human Geography.

Greece has a long and rich history, and a culture which has developed over thousands of years from the time of the Ancient Greeks. Its warm climate also makes it a popular holiday destination for people from across the world and this tourism provides valuable income and jobs for the people of Greece today.

<p><b>Population</b></p>		<p>The population of Greece is around 10.8 million people. This makes it the fourteenth most populous country in Europe. Greek is the language spoken by most of the population.</p>
<p><b>Settlements</b></p>		<p>The most populous and capital city of Greece is Athens. It has a population of over 3 million people. Other large settlements include Thessaloniki, Patra, Piraeus and Larisa. Most settlements were founded around the coast, as Greeks historically were seafaring people.</p>
<p><b>Economic Activity</b></p>		<p>Greece is a part of the European Union and its currency is the Euro. Greece has suffered many financial problems in recent years, and have had to be helped by other countries. Tourism is a large source of income for Greece.</p>
<p><b>Resources/ Trade</b></p>		<p>Greece has many natural resources and is a large trader of petroleum products. In terms of food, Greece exports high quantities of fresh fish, olive oil, tomato-based products and wine which are all grown there in their sunny climate.</p>

## Greece - Physical Geography.



- \* Greece is one of the most mountainous countries in Europe. The northern mainland region is the most mountainous. The highest peak is Mt Olympus, which is 2,917m high.
- \* Greece also contains thousands of islands in the Aegan, Ionian and Mediterranean Seas. The largest island is Crete.
- \* Greece has a warm and sunny climate. The temperature averages around 33°C in summer and 14°C in winter.

## Greece: Comparisons with the United Kingdom.

- \* Both countries are in Europe: the UK is in northern Europe & Greece in southern Europe.
- \* Due to its more southerly position (closer to the Equator) Greece is warmer than the UK. On average, Athens is 9°C hotter than London.
- \* Greece is smaller than the UK – 131,957 sq. km compared to 243,610sq km.
- \* Significantly more people live in the UK – 66 million compared to 10.8 million.
- \* London has a much larger population than Athens: 8.4 million compared to 3.1 million.
- \* Greece has higher mountains than the UK. Mt. Olympus is 2,917m high. The highest in the UK is Ben Nevis, at 1,345m.
- \* Greece is made up of many more islands than the UK. It has a much longer coastline.



Greece

UK

